

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...

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, OCTOBER 3, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Justice of the Supreme Court—J. HAY BROWN, of Lancaster.

County. Commissioners—JOHN COURIER MORRIS, of Scranton; JOHN PENMAN, oflyphant.

The thoughtfulness of the president in arranging that Admiral Dewey should ride with him up the avenue to the capital this morning was characteristic. It will be two of a kind.

Our Guests.

BRAVERY in all forms commands generous admiration, although the bravery of the soldier who does a heroic feat in battle seems to elicit the readiest and the most enthusiastic response.

But there are heroes of peace who deserve equally our plaudits and our kindly attentions, and of these certain names are more meritorious than the man who volunteers his services, freely and without expectation of profit or reward, to do battle with the insidious bacillus when they threaten the property or the life of his fellow-man.

The visit of the firemen of Pennsylvania is an honor which we trust will bring our fellow citizens to appreciate justly and reciprocate after the rich traditions of Scranton hospitality.

All seem to agree that General Otis is paved with good intentions.

That Park Loop Decision.

JUDGE GUNSTER'S decision in the matter of the New York park loop accords with common sense and the public desire, and incidentally calls attention to the smallness of the man now occupying the office of mayor.

Had the city through the mayor, introduced its objection to the building of the traction company's attempt to build this loop, it would have compelled not only a legal but also a difficult position and the law questions at issue would have been decided promptly without interference to either party.

But not! The man in the mayor's office apparently had a campaign strategy to pay and so he waited until the company had expended thousands of dollars without sign of objection from him and intervened with his police force just as the loop was nearing completion, evidently expecting that the company's anxiety to gather in the exceptional profits of the letter carriers' convention would force it to acquiesce in whatever terms he might impose. It looked like a case of the Barber asphalt repair contract over again—gallery playing on the outside; intrigue on the city.

To the credit of General Mangor Silliman, he refused to be held up in this contemptible fashion, carried the case into court and won on the very day of the mayor's promissory defeat. It ought, like the asphalt episode, to be a warning against peasant politics in the government of a great city.

Mayor Harrison is sanguine, but the general impression is that Admiral Dewey will fix Feb. 30 as the date of his proposed visit to Chicago.

The Franchise Tax Law.

ON MONDAY the Ford special franchise tax law went into effect in New York state. The tax commission of that state is now mailing to all the corporations affected by the law blank forms calling for information regarding their financial condition and earning power. These blanks are to be filled out and returned before Nov. 1, after which the commission will estimate the value of the special franchises and forward this estimate to the local assessors where the corporate property is situated, and they, in their turn, will levy the same rate of taxation upon those valued franchises that they put upon real estate of equal value. The first assessment will be based upon the corporations' own returns. Subsequently, if fraud appears, the tax commission may have to employ experts to make independent appraisements.

Under this law the "special franchise" subject to taxation is "the right, authority or permission to construct, maintain or operate" certain mechanical devices, such as street or steam cars, telegraph, telephone or electric wires, etc., in, under, above, upon or through streets, highways or public places; and no method is provided for the taxation of any other franchises; as to all other corporate franchises the law remains as before. The value of a "special franchise" is ascertained by ascertaining the value of the entire corporate property, taking into consideration all the elements

which go to make up such valuation, and deducting therefrom the value of the personal property of the corporation, and of so much of the real estate as is not connected with the "special franchise," and of the franchises not affected by the Ford law; in short, by deducting from the total valuation of the corporate assets all of the tangible and intangible property not part of or connected with the "special franchise."

It is obvious that the task of discovering an equitable valuation is going to be a difficult one, and it is natural for the corporate influence hostile to this tax to magnify the difficulty in the hope of creating a public sentiment for the law's overthrow. But the principle behind the tax impresses the people as just and it will be upheld by them, whatever changes may be found necessary in details of application.

In this connection we cannot withhold a word of credit for the real parent of the Ford law, Governor Roosevelt. The glimmer of militarism gives overshadowing lustre to the naval victory of Dewey at Manila, which was won in the open, in obedience to orders, after neutrality laws had deprived the commanding officer of a harbor of refuge until he could make one by capture and destruction of the enemy's ships. The battle in which Roosevelt won the day for a franchise tax was in some respects different from this, but the difference is not to Roosevelt's discredit. No orders had been sent to him, disobedience of which might mean court martial. Nothing but his sense of justice impelled him to begin a war for fair play which instantly arrayed against him some of the most powerful financial and commercial influences in the American metropolis. He could have shirked the duty and nobody would have criticized. He doubtless foresaw that by taking it up he would make resourceful enemies with long memories and sharp knives, while on the opposite side he could not count with certainty upon permanent support from the people most concerned. But he went ahead; he laid his battle plans, hoisted his flag, sailed in and won, and he won in such a consummate way that the opposition had no option but, for the moment, to surrender.

It was an act of heroism for which he has, as yet, received no medals, decorations or ovations, but it was just the same a great and a significant victory, and we thought at the time and still believe that one day it will do more than anything else to make Theodore Roosevelt president of the United States.

Mrs. Ruiz, the wife of the Cuban dentist, Dr. Ricardo Ruiz, who was murdered by the Spaniards in Guantánamo jail, for which crime damages in the sum of \$75,000 were demanded by the United States of Spain, Ruiz having been a naturalized American citizen, is living in Washington in extreme poverty, supporting her children by needlework. Under the Paris peace treaty the United States assumed Spain's obligations on American claims but it stands between this unfortunate woman and the money which is her due. Somebody in official circles should cut the tape without further delay.

Political Gaffes. PUT TO IT to explain just what his party in Ohio is kicking about with reference to the administration's management of the Philippine problem, Representative (Republican) Candidate McLean says in a delightfully vague way: "We object to the methods that have prevailed. We are in favor of legitimate expansion but opposed to an imperialistic policy. We believe that a rational course could have made the Philippines our friends, and that even at this time fairness and justice would bring peace." Here are no specifications, no suggestions, simply a demagogue's general grunt. Let us look at the Philippine situation from the standpoint of one who has been there. Colonel Alfred S. Frost of the First South Dakota Volunteers led his regiment through the toughest part of the spring campaign and upon being mustered out said:

"General Otis did everything in his power to avert hostilities. I believe our government acted in perfect good faith. The attack on our outposts on the night of Feb. 4 was entirely without provocation. Stories of outrages by American forces are absolutely false. The humanity of our troops was unexampled. During the advance on Malolos the natives abandoned their homes and fled to the country beyond. We found the houses absolutely deserted. As this mass of indigent natives were necessarily a burden to the insurgent leaders they would have been taken to live outside our lines, just as Bismarck kept the noncombatants in Paris during the siege. But not wishing to cause unnecessary suffering General Otis allowed all natives who professed friendship to return to their homes. The humane example thus set by the head of the army was followed down to the private soldier. I have seen private empty their haversacks to give food to Filipinos, give water out of their canteens when water was scarce and precious to wounded insurgents and erect shelters over them. I have never seen a case of inhumanity on the part of officers or men. I look upon Aguinaldo and his leading men as practically belonging to the bandit class. I consider the main resistance of the enemy broken. The fighting will be mainly by small bands hereafter. The operations of the army were hampered by lack of transportation. Recent shipments of horses and mules have increased the mobility of the army. It can now operate at a greater distance from its base. The country affords no supplies. MacArthur's army never had transportation to carry more than one day's supplies away from the railroad. There is now more transportation. In short, I expect to see the war ending during the next dry season. I believe when a nation is at war all the citizens of that nation should support the government regardless of politics. Political differences can await

adjustment until victory is secured. I do not believe any soldier would be willing to haul down the flag under fire. Personally, I am in favor of annexing the Philippines. I do not believe the Filipinos are capable at this time of maintaining a government that will give security to life and property."

Similar opinions were expressed by Lieutenant Colonel Stover and Major Howard of the same regiment, the latter saying: "There was scarcely a moment of actual hostilities, that the Tagals did not commit acts sufficient to constitute a casus belli. The mild forbearance of the Americans appeared to convince the Tagals that the Americans were afraid of them. Their aggressive insolence kept increasing until the entry on that fateful Feb. 4 was compelled to fire. It is a sufficient refutation of the claim that 'war was forced on the insurgents' that their entire line in front of our division had been pushed up against ours before-hand at the exact logical point of attack on Manila, was all ready, and in fact opened fire along its entire length before the second shot was fired on our side."

Although it may be true that mistakes have been made by our commanding officers in the Philippines, and although the Filipinos may be capable of education into ultimate self-government, of what practical use are vague and general criticisms like that of Candidate McLean? Such men as he, with nothing definite to propose, but given over completely to grumblings and murmuring, are as contemptible as the madflies of summer which maliciously annoy the patient ox when it is trying its level best to do useful work.

Some of the ancient Democratic historians are now trying to demonstrate that Grover Cleveland was the original "United States navy man." This is undoubtedly the greatest joke that has been born during the Dewey celebration. If the country had depended upon the Democracy for a navy, it is probable that the bodies of the majority of those who took part in the naval parade in New York the other day would have long since furnished food for the fishes.

The West Point cadets who were hissed on parade the other day by hoodlums who imagined that they belonged to the Seventh regiment of New York, were much chagrined until the mistake had been explained. When the cadets grow older they will not need explanation to ease their minds upon an instance of this nature. They will realize that the opinions of the cowardly curs who hiss in public places are of no account one way or another.

Mark Hanna says that the practice of continually placing the name of Admiral Dewey in the list of presidential candidates after he has repeatedly stated that he has no desire to hold the office is "indecent." There may be a diversity of opinion in regard to the indecency of the act, but it is certainly a painful display of idiocy on the part of people who ought to have better sense.

The work of the camera finds the other day at New York ought to render further publication of "before the war" pictures of Admiral Dewey unnecessary.

The announcement that Johannesburg will probably "go dry" today is one of the most conclusive evidences that war in the Transvaal is inevitable.

The attempt to make a Dreyfus out of Captain Carter was a dismal failure.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES

Mrs. Gould's Kindness. When George J. Gould made his last trip through the Far West in his private car, Mrs. Gould and his children accompanied him. At a point in New Mexico it was necessary to add the Gould car to a passenger train for a few hours. At an obscure station a poorly dressed woman and a girl boarded the car by mistake, and were not observed by the porter, says the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

When Mrs. Gould discovered them she proceeded to make it agreeable for her unbidden guests. She had a lunch prepared for them, over which the woman told her story. She was going to Las Vegas, but her husband had left her a daughter. One thing, however, was looking to her happiness. She was too poor to buy her daughter a present.

"What did you want to buy her?" asked Mrs. Gould.

"I had set my heart on a brooch."

Mrs. Gould left the table and went to a jewel case in the safe and brought out a handsome Oriental brooch from the World's fair—a gorgeous piece of enamel work fringed with stones and made of gold.

"Would this do," she asked, smiling. The woman almost cried with pleasure. "But can you spare it?" she inquired. "It will be worth \$5 or \$6."

Mrs. Gould reassured her on that point and the luncheon was resumed. When the train reached Las Vegas it was difficult to tell who was the more astonished, a thin young woman on the platform whose eyes were dazzled by a hundred-dollar brooch, or the train conductor, who saw for the first time the passengers in the private car, and turned pale when he thought of the consequences.

The Interruptions Censured. A clerkman who had been greatly annoyed by the continued interruption to which he had been subjected during the delivery of his sermon stopped abruptly, and looking round at the congregation spoke as follows:

"Some time ago, while delivering a sermon, I was frequently interrupted by a gentleman sitting in front of me, who gestaculated, moved about and whispered to his neighbors, and at last addressed to him a sharp reprimand for his unseemly conduct. When the service was over my clerk in the vestry mentioned the matter to me, and asked if I was ignorant of the fact that the person addressed was an idiot. I have since then always hesitated to reprimand any of my own congregation for interrupting me in fear that that may be addressing an idiot, who is not responsible for his actions."

Silence reigns throughout the delivery of the remainder of his sermon.—Spare Moments.

The Fruit Was Wax. When the great account is rendered, when the final balance is struck, it may, writes Victor Smith in the New York Press, be found that Uncle Russell Sage has credit with Kingdom Come. On earth for the last twenty-five years the old miser has been the recipient of all complaints. Many a manufactured story of money meanness has been fastened upon him because he was good tacker to

carry it. His hospitality also has come in for more than one score. The latest in boat racing is a record of directors. Having no other place so cheap, Sage invited the members to his house, where business was transacted in the dining-room. On the table was a magnificent basket of fruits, and visions of wine and salads, brandy and cigars, arose. Refreshments, however, failed to materialize when the old man left the room; a director said, sotto voce, "Gentlemen, there being nothing else in sight, I shall help myself to a pair." The action was suited to the word, but the pear was wax.

Injustice to Ireland. When Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht, Shamrock, was lying in Southampton harbor, to be sure everybody that could be done for her safety was done, a close watch was kept by those on board, and all small boats were warned to keep from coming in contact with Shamrock's delicate sides, relates the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. Sir Thomas, who stayed aboard his steam yacht Erin, had the harbor closed to all boats in regard to as much protection to the racer as feasible, and himself watched over the Cup challenger's safety perhaps more eagerly than any one else.

AN EMPHATIC DENIAL. Editor of The Tribune—Sir: Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to contradict an article which appeared in the daily edition of yesterday, stating that I was connected with my brother, John E. Johns, in the hardware business in West Scranton, Pa. The common abbreviation for 1899 is, of course, '99, but the German judges have decided that '99 would not do at all for the first year of the next century. Accordingly the year will have to be written out in full on all German documents.

I wish to state to any one interested, that I am in no way affiliated with my brother in the hardware business, and he will be just as glad to show his books for years back, which will go to substantiate my statement regarding same. Yours truly, J. E. Johns, Republican Candidate for County Auditor.

The Old Front Gate. When dah's chitlin in de house, Day keep on gittin' tall; But de folks don't seem to see, Dat dey's growin' up at all, Twel' dey fin' out some fine day, Dat dey gals has 'menced to grow, When dey notice as dey pass, Dat de front gate's saggin' low.

Oh, you grumble an' complain, An' you prop dat gate up right; But you notice right nex' day, Dat hit's in de same of' plight. So you fin' dat hit's a rule, An' dah'll ain' no use to blow, When de gals is growin' up, Dat de front gate will sag low.

Den yo' tink o' yo' young days, When you courted Sally Jane, An' you say of feel ashamed, 'Fu' to grumble an' complain, 'Cause you' ricklection says, 'An' you know hit's words is so, Dat dah munny had a time, Wid his front gate saggin' low.

So yo' les' looks on an' smiles, At 'em leatin' on de gate, Tryn' to tink what he kin say, 'Fu' to keep him dahn so late, But you lets dat gate erlone, 'Fu' yo' ricklection goes to show, Twel' de gals is ma'd off, It gwine keep on saggin' low.

Unappreciated. The teacher of a district school in Maine tells a story that reminds one of Joe and his little dog.

Joe was a boy about 8 years old, and was devoted to a small, lank puppy. Out of school hours boy and dog were inseparable, and Joe apparently could not resist himself to the necessity of leaving the dog at home. For several mornings the teacher allowed the puppy to remain at Joe's feet under the desk.

Then there came a day when the smug dog could not be kept quiet, but frisked about to the delight of the school and the dismay of the teacher.

"Joe," she said firmly, "you must take that dog out."

Joe looked at her mournfully, but plucked up the pup, and with his head against his cheek, sat by the door. The boy's feelings were evidently hurt, but he said nothing until he reached the door, then, giving his teacher a reproachful look, with a pining sigh which led his dog, he said slowly, "And he's named for you!"—Youth's Companion.

How Bobby Achieved His End. "Mamma," said Bobby the other day when he came home from school, "has frony anything with my dog, he said slowly, "And he's named for you!"—Youth's Companion.

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There's a Santa Gertrude ranch, owned and managed by Mrs. Richard King, is one vast pasture of a million and a quarter acres with the gridle of a single fence long enough to reach from London to Edinburgh. It is estimated that this tract would hold all the live stock in Great Britain and half the world's population.

A woman of perfect figure should weigh 125 pounds and be 5 feet 5 inches tall. She should measure 5 feet 5 inches from the tip of one middle finger to the tip of the other when the arms are extended. The length of the hand ought to be just one-tenth of the man's one-eighth should be the length of the foot.

The Judicial department of the German empire has recently been called upon to pass on the proper abbreviation for 1900. The common abbreviation for 1909 is, of course, '99, but the German judges have decided that '99 would not do at all for the first year of the next century. Accordingly the year will have to be written out in full on all German documents.

When the young man has only recently taken up photography and is an ardent enthusiast, he persuaded the girl to whom he is engaged to pose for him. She was seated in a hammock, and he stood directly before her when he took the picture. In a day or two he proudly exhibited the result of the sitting. She gave one glance at it and then handed it back.

"Don't you like it?" he inquired.

"I don't assume to criticize," was the reply.

"I thought it was pretty good for a first attempt," he insisted.

"Perhaps it is. I am glad you are satisfied with it."

"Of course it might be better."

"Do you think it looks like me?"

"Yes."

"Then, Herbert, I am content."

"But you don't seem very cheerful over it."

"Perhaps I don't show it; but that photograph has made me very happy."

"I'll have a frame made for it and give it to you."

"I don't want to keep it. But it fills me with joy, nevertheless. They say that when beauty fades, affection vanishes; but when I realize that you can see me, depleted with hands and feet like those without engagement, I am convinced that there can't be any doubt about your loving me when I am old."—Tit-Bits.

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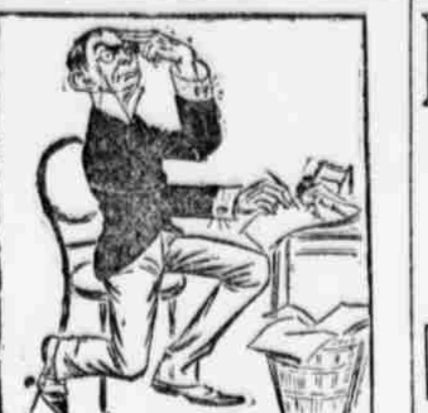
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What you want, he said, "is a Ripans Tabule."

Wanted—A case of bad breath that Ripans Tabule will not benefit. Send one cent to Ripans Chemical Co., No. 100 North 10th St., Philadelphia, Pa. for a trial. If it does not cure you, we will refund the money. It is the only medicine of the kind that will cure you. It is the only medicine of the kind that will cure you. It is the only medicine of the kind that will cure you.

AGENTS: THOR, FORD, WITTON, JOHN B. SMITH & SON, W. E. MULLIGAN, WILKES-BARRE.



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FINLEY'S

AUTUMN LINEN SALE

This annual sale has been somewhat delayed on account of several of our "Finest Numbers" in damask—being delivered later than we expected—but now they're here and are well worth waiting for, as you will attest on an inspection of our line. Never have

been handsomer than now, and this importation contains some of the "Choicest Designs" in "Fine Double Satin Damasks," that have ever been produced. We have Napkins to match all of our Finest Goods—generally in 5/8 and 3/4 size. Special prices will prevail on all numbers of

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