

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.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, OCTOBER 26, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State. Justice of the Supreme Court—J. HAY BROWN, of Lancaster. Judge of the Superior Court—JOHN I. MICHELA, of St. Michaels.

County. Commissioners—JOHN COYRIER MORRIS, of Scranton; JOHN PERMAN, of Olyphant.

Auditors—WILLIAM E. JOHNS and ASA E. KIEFER, both of Scranton. Election day, Nov. 7.

The joy of people who are inclined to crow over the victories of the Boer will be short-lived. With everything in their favor in regard to position, and with a force of troops outnumbering the British three to one, it would indeed be a surprise if the Dutchmen did not make a good showing in the way of resistance. Hence may be different a few weeks hence.

Questions for Creasy.

WHILE A PORTION of the Democratic press in Pennsylvania is resorting to malicious insinuations in its attacks upon the Republican nominee for state treasurer, endeavoring to splay out his record as a soldier, for purposes of contrast, it is interesting to observe how the Republican party is treating his Democratic opponent, Mr. Creasy. This gentleman occupied two positions of great importance in the last legislature. He was the ranking Democratic member of the appropriations committee and he held the same rank on the ways and means committee. These two committees largely determine how the revenues of the state shall be raised and how they shall be expended, and Mr. Creasy's actions as a member of these two committees are proper subjects for public inquiry and discussion.

Mr. Creasy is not attacked by any Republican in his private character; a monopoly of that form of argument is freely conceded to his Democratic supporters. But he is asked by a leading Republican—Congressman Olmsted of Harrisburg—to explain some dubious features of his legislative career. We reproduce in another column Mr. Olmsted's letter covering these points and bespeak for it the most attentive consideration of our readers. The letter is a proper and privileged communication of deep interest to every tax-payer of Pennsylvania and unless Mr. Creasy can squarely satisfy its interrogations he must stand before the people as thoroughly discredited in his role of political reformer.

Where Common Sense Fled.

THE NATIONAL convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union did not place itself in a favorable light when it adopted resolutions denouncing the war in the Philippines. Mere denunciation amounts to little at any time unless there is substantial argument and reason back of it; but when it is put forth in sheer impudence in a manner to embarrass the government of our country while the soldiers of our country are in front of an enemy's guns, the difference between it and treason, the blackest of crimes, is more in intent than in effect.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union has done a great deal of good in this country, for which it will always be held in grateful remembrance; but it would vastly increase its usefulness and the respect in which it is held if it would not try to go beyond its proper sphere of activities (namely, the promotion of temperance) in order to mix into politics in various directions often without understanding of the issues involved and often still in an impulsive way which betrays it into illogical conclusions. There are few agitators who are not likely at some time or other to fly away on a tangent from common sense, and we have observed that this tendency is very marked in the case of the worthy women who imagine that they have received a special command to turn things upside down in the interest of political regeneration. Their intentions are irreproachable but their equipment for meeting practically the rough conditions of every day political strife is absurdly inadequate.

In the present instance we confidently assert that there is not a woman among the delegates at the Seattle convention or anywhere else, who can offer a single substantial reason for denouncing the war in the Philippines. That war, like all wars, is to be deplored and the conditions precedent, as well as the sufferings incident, to it may properly be lamented. But to denounce a war which has for its chief purpose the protection of the wealth, the enterprise and the intelligence of the island of Luzon against the chaos threatened in Aguinaldo's bandit uprising; and which, in its highest significance is, as much as any war for humanity, for the salvation of the higher against the menaces of the lower order of civilization, is to exhibit either an indifference to facts or an inability to weigh evidence and motives which in either case vitiates the national convention of the Women's Christian Tem-

perance Union for the task of censoring the government.

Scranton is distinguished for a number of reasons besides the production of coal and conventions. From present indications it rather appears that in her list of star performers will be several of the best golfers in the country. In the years of the past this city has scarcely had time to devote much attention to anything but the most serious matters of life. While golf, to a cup winner, may be about the most serious thing in the world, it is scornfully regarded with so much gravity by the uninitiated spectator who watches the efforts made to get a very small ball into a tomato can. However, if Scranton awakens to the fact that young men reared in its confines are arousing the admiration of not only the smart set in the chief cities of the east, but also the honest respect of people generally who enjoy athletics and appropriate proficiency in healthful outdoor sports, a due recognition of the abilities put to a test this week at the Country club links will be accorded our players, who do other things besides play golf.

Desperate Tactics.

HAVING WAITED until the election was only a few days distant, the Philadelphia Record now proclaims that Lieutenant Colonel Barnett was a coward while serving with the Tenth regiment in the Philippines. It contemptuously calls him a "cold foot" and accuses him of having dyked behind in the shelter of a rice dyke when the men in his command took their places on the firing line. It brings these charges upon the anonymous authority of privates in the regiment, neither revealing their number nor their identity.

The peculiar thing about this accusation, apart from its malignity, is that it was withheld until Colonel Barnett was a candidate for political office so near to election as to render impossible a military investigation in time to dispose of it ere the vote is cast. The average man, viewing the matter without prejudice, immediately asks himself why it was, if Barnett was a coward, that his fellow officers did not, at the time, call him to account, as it was their duty to do, and thus remove a gross reflection upon the honor of the regiment. The records of the Tenth regiment are not cited to show that there was at any time an official question raised as to Barnett's conduct as a soldier. It was not until he had become a candidate for political office that this charge was brought and then it was put forward simply in the form of bitter abuse, without a particle of sustaining evidence.

Under these circumstances we are not surprised to learn that a wave of sympathy has arisen throughout the state in behalf of the soldier thus maligned, which threatens to bear down upon his accusers with crushing force. The people, regardless of party, hold to the doctrine of fair play even in politics; and especially do they resent with swift indignation the dirty tactics of the defamer who, thinking to gain a political point, will circulate slander which does not bear upon political conduct but seeks to rob its victim of the most precious part of his reputation as a citizen and a man.

Unless the accusers of Colonel Barnett produce in support of their gross accusations proof absolutely final in its overwhelming establishment of guilt, they will deserve to be refuted on election day by a majority in Barnett's favor including every Republican vote in Pennsylvania and that also of every decent Democrat in the commonwealth.

Mr. Markham of "Man and Hoe" fame, has written another poem in which words of encouragement are offered to the man whose upper apartments are not properly illuminated. It is entitled "The Muse of Brotherhood," and comes "To take the toiler from his brutal fate—The toiler hanging to the Labor-Cross."

If Mr. Markham is the father of a scheme whereby we may obtain a good living without work, he is entitled to a hearing.

marked very pointedly that the Alaskan boundary dispute would not be submitted to arbitration; and the reasons given for that remark were not only that there was nothing in this particular case calling for arbitration but also that the close political and family relations existing between the monarchs of Europe, as demonstrated in sad experience, would not permit an unbiased decision in any matter in which European interests came into conflict with the interests of the United States. It is charged that a conspiracy to defeat justice existed in the Venezuelan tribunal, which was defeated in part only by the firmness of Chief Justice Fuller, and a gentleman who was connected with the Bering sea tribunal of 1893 has admitted to the Ledger correspondent that he and his American colleagues in that tribunal underwent a similar experience. He asserts that the arbitrators selected by the powers of Europe were subjected to personal, social and political pressure in favor of England, which was brought so strongly upon them that they could not resist, and that if it had not been for the firmness of Senator Morgan and Justice Harlan, acting as arbitrators on the part of the United States, the decision would have been much more one-sided than it was.

These are phases of international arbitration which do not receive much exploitation in print, but they have received careful consideration in official circles at Washington, where the objection to jug-handled arbitration is strongest; and it is believed that the state department, in whatever reply it shall decide to make to the latest Canadian overture, will include a repetition of its former respectful refusal to consider any proposition looking to arbitration which includes as a condition the selection of adjudicators from among the inhabitants of Europe. To this reasonable precaution should be added a postscript notifying Canada that the United States is disinclined to continue further the discussion of American rights in inextricably grounded-in-law and custom and therefore gives notice that the dispute, so far as it is concerned, is now at an end. This is the frank way of putting the dominion at once to the necessity of dismounting voluntarily from its high horse or running the risk of a mighty tumble.

Anti-expansion, according to the talk of present advocates, means that the government of the United States must throw up its hands and back out of Manila, leaving the country to anarchy, disruption and the devil. It is scarcely possible that the most effusive Bryanite would really like to have this state of affairs come to pass.

Some of the Pennsylvania anti-expansion against the unholy war on the Philippines in one breath and in the next find fault with Colonel Barnett because he does not return to Manila and fight the Filipinos. This is characteristic of the party of unreasonable opposition.

Bradford newspapers are just now in a quarrel over the condition of the county jail. From descriptions by those who advocate improvement, it would seem that the Bradford county jail is an institution that all good citizens should try to keep out of.

The special correspondents several thousand miles removed from the seat of the Transvaal war are liable to get the map of South Africa tangled up to such an extent that a new survey will be necessary when the trouble has been adjusted.

The Philadelphia Record is making votes for Colonel Barnett rapidly by throwing mud at his record as a soldier. We are surprised that the Record should be so ill-advised.

Some of the British "aunties" act as though they thought the victorious despatches from South Africa had been censored by General Otis.

General Funston probably thinks that he will be in less danger in front of the Filipinos than in the hands of Kansas politicians.

It is reported that Li Hung Chang is back in power again. But he does not seem to be working at it.

The Boers evidently have an eye to the distribution of prize money at the Kimberly mines.

LIFE INSURANCE. Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your editorial on "Life Insurance" is aimed in the right direction, but that it may not stimulate undue prejudice in the minds of those who delight in scoring the regular life companies and their business I will call your attention to some statements therein that should be toned down and are misleading.

First—The life insurance business is not the first in magnitude. It is excelled by the railroad business. Second—As the expenses of management, the item you mention as the aggregate expense in the year 1885 of the three giant companies includes taxes, repairs and expenses on real estate owned by the policy holders of these companies, who are benefited thereby, as all real estate holdings are in trust for the policy holders, and amounts to many millions of dollars. Third—In the reference to lapsed insurance in which you state that "it shows that new blood does not abide long enough to be of any practical benefit to the persistent policy holder," the inference is misleading, in that the lapsed insurance includes matured endowments or paid-up policies, and policies that have been in force more than one year. (See the report of the superintendent of insurance of New York or Pennsylvania.) In this connection the total amount of real statements which, if challenged by any one, I will prove. They are: That the regular companies referred to are furnishing protection averaging less cost than in the past. That there has been a constant progress in this direction. That considering the volume of business, the average per cent. of expense to the policy holder is less than in any other business. That it is very much less than in the average assessment companies. That it would be impossible to meet your suggestion and reduce the expenses one-half. The business is now being conducted on very conservative methods. When you take into consideration the total amount of premiums secured by the agents for these companies, they are the poorest paid of any class of salesmen. If I am correct the management of these companies is not "discriminable" but very creditable to the officers and directors of the companies referred to. Yours truly, Charles L. Rice.

CANDIDATE CREASY ASKED TO EXPLAIN

POINTED QUESTIONS AS TO HIS PUBLIC RECORD.

Did He Prepare a Revenue Bill Which Ingeniously Offered Inducements to the Standard Oil Trust and the Copper Tube Trust, While Purporting to Be in the General Interest of the Taxpayer?

Harrisburg, Oct. 25.—Congressman Marlin E. Umsted of this city, has addressed the following communication to State Chairman Reed:— Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 25, 1899. Hon. Frank Reed, Chairman Republican State Committee, 1221 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. My Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your invitation to speak upon the issues of the campaign at New Castle, Lawrence county, on the 27th inst. and I am glad to accept but for the fact that I have an important engagement to fill at Lynchburg, Va., upon the same day. If it were possible for me to be present and speak I should not hesitate to discuss local or state issues with Mr. Creasy, the Democratic candidate for state treasurer. Mr. Creasy occupied a very important position in the last legislature. He was the ranking Democrat upon the appropriations committee, which had charge of the bills providing for the expenditure of the state's money. He was also the ranking Democrat upon the ways and means committee, whose duty it was to provide revenues to meet the appropriations. It would be interesting if he would explain what part he took as a member of the appropriations committee to keep down the appropriations so that they would not exceed the estimated revenues, and it would be still more interesting if he explained what real efforts he made, as a member of the ways and means committee, to provide revenue so that the public school and other appropriations made by the legislature might be paid. Did he try to pass, or did he defeat, the direct inheritance tax bill, which would have raised large revenues from the estates of the wealthy without burdening the living poor? The Democratic party nominated Mr. Creasy under the impression that he had fathered a revenue bill which had not been defeated by the senate, and that he would have been permitted the state and permitted the payment of the full appropriation of \$5,500,000 per annum to public schools. A correct understanding of the part he played in a very bad light with the taxpayers of the commonwealth generally and show that he was nominated under false pretenses.

UPON QUESTION OF TRUSTS. Upon the stump Mr. Creasy has been declaiming against trusts. At Lehighton, on Saturday evening last, as reported in the Philadelphia Press, he said: "Have you ever thought how the individual coal operator has been wiped out by the great oil trust because the laws have been made in favor of this gigantic monopoly? Have you ever thought how the individual coal operator has been put out of business by allowing great corporations and combines in the commonwealth to do a business contrary to the purposes of our constitution and directly against the interests of all the people?" Of course, he refers to the Standard Oil Trust, which, as everybody knows, holds the stocks of many Pennsylvania oil and pipe line companies. The so-called Creasy bill, read in place by Mr. Creasy Feb. 24, 1899, which passed the house but failed to pass the senate, was a very long bill of fifty-three sections, purporting to provide an elaborate scheme for the taxation of corporations, persons and things, even including horses, mules and cattle above the age of 4 years.

Now, isn't it a little singular that if Mr. Creasy has such an antipathy toward trusts and monopolies, that laws have been made in their interest, he forgot to tax them in his boasted revenue measure? I was thoroughly familiar with his bill at the time, and have just read it in its own country. Furthermore, the Creasy bill repealed that tax and imposed a state tax of five mills upon a valuation of their property alone. True, it provided that in valuing the property the value of the funded debt should be added to the value of the shares. But none of these Standard companies has any funded debt, so, of course, there would be nothing to add, and the five mills tax under the Creasy bill would not amount to any more, it added as much, as the five mills state tax they already were paying.

But in addition to the five mills state tax on capital stock, the pipe line companies owned by the Standard Trust, are under a special law, paying a state tax of eight mills upon their gross receipts. The Creasy bill as it passed the house, increased the gross receipts tax from eight mills to ten mills or 1 per centum, but limited it to corporations "not subject to the tax heretofore imposed." As the Standard pipe line companies are subject to the five mills property tax imposed by the third section, they were thus expressly relieved by the fifteenth section of the gross receipts tax of eight mills which they now pay.

But worse than this, Mr. Creasy's bill, in its third section, after imposing the above-mentioned state tax of five mills on the value of the property of corporations, expressly declares that "hereafter the property, when indispensably necessary to the exercise of a public franchise, and the shares and the funded debt of every company taxable under this section, shall be taken or construed to exempt so much of the real estate owned by any company as shall be necessary to the exercise by such company of its corporate franchise."

TAXATION OF CORPORATIONS. When the commonwealth grants to an oil or natural gas company the franchise to own or lease lands and to produce oil or gas therefrom, or to a coal company the right to own coal lands and mine coal therefrom, the ownership of these lands is essential to the exercise of the franchise. These lands are now subjected to the same county, city, borough, road, school, poor and other taxes as are property owned by other individuals owning similar properties.

It is within bounds to say that at least one-fourth, in value, of all the real estate in the commonwealth is owned by corporations and is essential to the exercise of their corporate franchises. Mr. Creasy's bill relieved these oil, coal and other corporations from all local taxes in consideration of their paying a state tax of five mills, which is no more than the capital stock tax that they are already paying.

How this could be helpful to the farmer or individual citizen, it is difficult to see. This loss to the local treasuries is at once proposed to be made up in part by diverting to the local treasuries the one-fourth of the personal property tax, the mercantile license, the tax on writs, wills, deeds, etc., which now go into the state treasury. Coupled with the loss of the gross receipts tax from transportation companies, this diversion would have left the state treasury almost bare.

The bill then attempted to help the

state treasury by adding the funded debt of certain corporations to the taxable valuation of their properties. In many instances the funded debt was owned entirely by non-residents. The Supreme court of the United States decided in 1822 that bonds held by non-residents cannot be taxed in Pennsylvania, and that in any event debts owing by corporations cannot be treated and taxed as property of corporations. This case may be found reported in 15th Wallace, commencing at page 330, and is absolutely conclusive.

EFFECT OF CREASY BILL. In short, Mr. Creasy's bill would have reduced existing taxes of the oil trust and the great coal corporations, against which he publicly inveighs, and would not, and was not intended to, increase the taxation of any of the wealthier dividend-paying corporations. It was intended to increase the burdens of a certain class of the poorer, smaller, non-dividend paying corporations, but the character of the tax imposed was plainly in violation of the Federal constitution, as already determined by the Supreme court.

Even had the taxes proposed by the bill been constitutional and acquiesced in at once by all the corporations of the state, her revenues would not have been increased; but, on the contrary, largely reduced. But the taxes were not constitutional and would have been paid.

The bill repealed the entire corporate system of taxation under which the state is now deriving large, sure and certain revenue from the corporations, of its undoubted damaging effect upon the state treasury. This was made so plain that a leading senator said that instead of being a boon to the state officers, of its undoubted damaging effect upon the state treasury. This was made so plain that a leading senator said that instead of being a boon to the state officers, of its undoubted damaging effect upon the state treasury.

If Mr. Creasy knew the effect and operation of his bill, he is hardly sincere in his statements upon the stump. If he did not know, he is hardly the man for state treasurer.

OUR MUCH-ABUSED SOLDIERS. General Funston. We hear talk about mismanagement in the Philippines, and those who are doing the talking know the least about it. I want to tell you today that our army over there is better clothed, better fed and better cared for than any army that ever fought in any country under any flag; the hospital arrangements there are so perfect that within two or three hours after a man is shot, especially if along the railroad, he is delivered to the hospital in Manila, where at least 500 wounded men sent to that hospital not a single primary amputation was performed, and but three cases of ultimate amputation, during the campaign, at least 500 men among the 1,500 would have been subjected to amputation and rendered permanent cripples. This is an important fact to bear in mind in face of irresponsible criticisms of the campaign.

A Safe Guess. "Why do you think this man who almost drove over you was Irish?" "Because I threatened to kick him." "Well, instead of driving on about his business he got down from his wagon and wanted to fight."—Chicago Times-Herald.

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