

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends on current topics, but it is a rule that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions of whatever nature and by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 20, 1899.

Henry W. Lawton, all things considered, was probably the ablest fighting general in the United States army. He was big of stature, big of grit and big of brain and heart. The bullet that did him low accomplished the greatest American loss since the destruction of the Maine.

Wall Street's Flurry.

OUT OF THE multitude of reasons given for Monday's panic on Wall street two may be selected as deserving of consideration apart. They entered specially into the suspension of the Produce Exchange Trust company and perhaps largely influenced some of the other pinches.

The first and greater of these was the belief that considerable inflation had taken place in the securities of some of the big industrial combinations or "trusts" lately formed. The letter of Edwin Gould explaining his position as a director of the suspended trust company brought out clearly his belief that in issuing syndicate loans to an amount almost equal to capital and surplus the trust company had skated on thin ice.

It had paid out good money in return for paper which might or might not in a time of emergency, show up well as security; the speculative element had entered into the transaction to a degree deemed unsafe by him and it would seem that his judgment stands vindicated by events. The lesson in this unfortunate incident has widespread application.

The second reason has to do with the exceptional power of the Clearing House association. This power, toward the last, was put forth in rescue of the market. But did it, before that, consciously or unconsciously, help to bring on a crash? As bearing upon this question we quote from the New York Sun's account of the Produce Exchange Trust company's suspension:

One of the most trusted employees of the company, who has known all about the condition of the concern from its organization, told a reporter yesterday that it was, in his opinion, doubtful if the company could have continued to do business for a great length of time in the face of the hostility of the clearing house banks. He said that the company had made a mistake in resigning from the clearing house association and in fighting the policy of the association of charging for the collection of out-of-town checks. When the clearing house, about July 1, decided to make this charge, the Trust company resigned from the association and interposed extensively all over the country that it would collect out-of-town checks free of charge. This brought a large amount of out-of-town business to the Trust company, but it also brought the ill-will of the clearing house banks. This hostility, it was said, was not felt by the Trust company until holders of its stock tried to borrow money on the stock as collateral. It was said that as often as the stock was offered as collateral for a loan at a clearing house bank the collateral was refused. This soon became known in Wall street and led to the first rumors reflecting upon the company's stability.

Of course, this statement may be biased, and there is the further possibility that the clearing house banks were entirely justified in refusing collateral about which there may have existed, to the banks' knowledge, reasonable doubts. From this distance we cannot determine these points. But if the foregoing statement is true and if the collateral offered and refused was good; in other words, if the clearing house association used its power deliberately with a view to compelling outside banks or trust companies to conform to its practice in respect to charging for the collection of out-of-town checks, then a situation exists which apparently calls for attentive consideration. The public is not prepared to suffer artificial disturbance of its business relations because of a row between banks, and it may yet insist on stronger safeguards if it shall appear that these are needed.

As to the panic in general, it denoted nothing alarming to substantial industry or commerce, but rather a mere vent to over-speculation. The man who keeps out of stock gambling need not, on account of it, waste a wink of sleep.

Brother Wannemaker has just preached another of his characteristic funeral sermons over Colonel Quay's political corpse, and still he doesn't seem to be real sure that the old man will stay dead.

For the Boer Wounded.

WE HAVE received from George W. Van Slicen, esp., of 141 Broadway, New York city, the copy of an appeal to the American people for contributions to aid the widows and orphans of the Boers. Accompanying it is an address to the public made by a committee of Cape Colony Africaners, which sets forth that although these kindred of the Boers, being British subjects, will preserve neutrality so far as actual fighting is concerned, they feel justified in promoting the relief of those men of Dutch descent who will be wounded or mutilated on the field of battle and of wives and children who will be robbed of their only support in life by sword or bullet.

It is not possible for us to agree with Mr. Van Slicen's views as to the merits involved in this cruel South African war, but there can be no dissent to the proposition that the wounded and the dependent on the Boer side deserve the best offices of civilization. They deserve it all the more because the Boers as a class are poor and have, as in the case of England, no vast reserves upon which to draw in the re-

lief of their suffering ones. They are risking their all in defense of what they consider to be their just rights, they are conscientious and God-fearing above the ordinary, and the sympathy which their pluck and valor have very generally excited may properly take expression in generous contributions for the purposes above indicated.

All aid sums to Mr. Van Slicen at 141 Broadway.

The Christmas number of the Scranton Truth has long been considered an event of Scranton journalism and the twenty-eight-page issue of last evening fully sustains the traditions. It is equally generous in seasonal literature and in holiday announcements, and it reflects credit upon its enterprising publishers.

What to Do with Trusts.

IN THE LAST issue of the Engineering News appeared an interesting article from the pen of the editor of that journal, Mr. Charles Whitney Baker, in answer to the question, "What Shall We Do with the Trusts?" Ten years ago Mr. Baker took up as a pastime study of the problem, is competition the life of trade? and wrote a book, "Monopolies and the People," embodying the deductions to which his studies led him. This book has recently been reissued in revised form and the article above mentioned constitutes a kind of running digest of it.

"There need be no longer," says Mr. Baker, "the shadow of a doubt that the trusts are with us to stay. The factory system of production, the railway, the department store—these and a hundred other outgrowths of this century, have created a new economic system, and one in which free competition, the panacea of the old school of political economists, can no longer apply. It follows from this that the policy of repression cannot solve the trust problem. Statute laws can no more create anew the days of free and universal competition than they can abolish the railway, the cotton mill and the electric light." The question, our author thinks, is one of intelligent regulation. On this point he says:

"Under the old system of free competition, prices were regulated by the law of supply and demand. When there is only one source of supply, however, those who control it can fix prices to suit their own pleasure, and can base them on 'what the traffic will bear.' The average member of the New England society is working up a Plymouth rock epitaph for the trusts. The faculty of stealing the ideas of others is often more profitable than real talent. Observing people contend that wealth is just as liable to bring happiness as is poverty.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaelchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast: 4:08 a. m., for Wednesday, December 20, 1899.

A child born on this day will notice that successful people do not allow hope to get too far in advance of hustle in the race for fortune.

The individual who attempts to attract attention from his own misdeeds by endeavoring to smother the reputation of another, seldom fails to stumble into the jaws of the searchlight.

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Individual Horoscope.

A. Syma Tinker—The position of Taurus in the zodiac star indicates that you are a deep thinker and a person of rare discernment with several things coming. You are fitted by nature to occupations requiring keen powers of observation and the ability to criticize. In fact you would probably succeed in almost any intellectual pursuit. You should, however, try and break yourself of the habit of writing anonymous letters. Never get behind a fence when making a suggestion. It is apt to destroy the effect of good advice. You should avoid wearing hats that retard the growth of the skull over the eyebrows.

SOMEbody's BABY.

Written for The Tribune. Two beautiful eyes of softest brown. Whence a pure, sweet soul looks out; Two witching dimples on either side; Of the cherub rose-bud mouth.

Golden hair like a halo grown Over the graceful baby head. A princely spirit breaking forth In the proud and sturdy tread.

He trustingly looks into eyes above. His father's—his priest, his star— And I envy the man who claims that child. That I saw last night in the car. —Rose VanB. Speece.

policy will be swift. The Southern cotton growers desire a more extended market and they realize better than any one else that there are no localities so promising as the tropical countries where the demand for cotton fabrics must follow the march of civilization that induces the natives to wear clothes. The Atkinson colporteur will do well to avoid cotton-growing districts in his mission of shaping public opinion.

The Archbold Citizen's Christmas edition appeared on Saturday last and embraced twelve pages filled with interesting reading matter and the holiday announcements of many merchants up and down the valley. It is a commendable number in every respect and one in which the residents of Archbold should take pride.

Unmarried working women of Boston have inaugurated a crusade against married competition. As the culture of the Hub has a tendency to cause a large excess of spinsters, it is easy to anticipate the finish of the women who fall to take advantage of the divorce courts.

The easy manner in which Philadelphia scooped in the Republican convention may be taken as an indication that the Quaker City is not addicted to slumber to the extent that many would have us believe.

Senator Bacon's resolution to treat the Filipinos as the Cubans is premature. Let the bridges of the future be crossed when they shall be reached. The present has troubles enough of its own.

General Buller's experience, like that of some others, illustrates the misfortune of having a fighting title attached to one in times of peace.

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Fall Silks And Dress Goods For the Holiday Trade

- China Silks, new bright colors for fancy work..... 25c
Bright Roman Stripe Satin..... 19c
Fancy Silks for Waists, very best quality..... 75c
Black Spot and Brocade Taffeta Silks, fine goods, 24 inches wide, will wear..... 69c
High Class Silks in checks and plaids..... 59c

Elegant new assortment of Silks and Satins for Fine Dresses and Waists.

- Peau de Soie, 21 inches wide..... 79c
Peau de Soie, 24 inches wide, soft and pliable..... 95c
Satin Duchesse Pure Silk, 22 inches wide..... 75c
Satin Duchesse Pure Silk, 27 inches wide..... 95c
Haskell's Black Silks, guaranteed, from..... \$1 to \$2

DRESS GOODS.

- Fine Black Crepons..... 75c
Very Fine Black Crepons..... \$1.25
Highest Grade Black Crepons..... 1.75
Fine Assortments of Armures, Plaids, Cheviots, etc., very desirable, at..... 75c
New Lines of Black and Colored Whipcords, Pebbles, Cheviots, etc., from..... 50c to \$2
A New Fabric Worsted Granite in black, royal, dahlia, russet and myrtle. 45 inches wide..... 75c

MEARS & HAGEN 415-417 Lackawanna Avenue.

PERSONALITIES.

General Lawton, in a recent interview, described himself a total abstainer. Professor George T. Laid, of Yale, has received from the Japanese emperor the third-class decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun. Germany's last veteran of the "Friedrichsberg" against Napoleon has just died at the age of 86 at Wolgast, in Pomerania. His name was Schmidt. George Tritsch, the pioneer millionaire who died in Denver recently, first came to that city in a wagon which contained all his world's goods and a mining outfit.

The Khedive of Egypt, whose salary is \$50,000 a year, complains that the sum is not sufficient to meet his household expenses, and he will have to dismiss some of his wives. Captain Andrew Tainter, the millionaire Wisconsin lumberman who died at Rice Lake this week, went West alone at the age of 15 and began work in a sawmill at \$3 a month.

Senator Mason says that a young friend of his in the Chicago public schools recently remarked to him: "The way they keep changin' things these days I know more 'bout joggity than the joggify itself."

The assignment of Rear Admiral Sampson to the Boston navy yard will net him a total of \$7,756 per annum, counting shore duty pay and allowances. Admiral Schley, at sea, without perquisites, will receive \$2,500.

Mrs. Susan Eleanor Andrews, of Nevada City, Nev., is said to be a great-grandchild of Robert Burns. She claims to be the daughter of Elizabeth Burns, who was the child of Robert, one of the sons of the poet.

J. P. Pence, of Lagrange, Mo., is the oldest school teacher in his state. For more than half a century he has taught in the country public schools of Missouri, beginning his long course of service in the fall of 1845.

Frederick C. Penfield, for four years consul general of the United States at Cairo, Egypt, says that when Great Britain gains control of the Transvaal the railway northward from the Cape will be extended to Cairo.

There are women physicians who count their income in thousands, and one lady practicing in the West End of London earns \$20,000 a year. Miss Annie Romberger, of Philadelphia, has a practice worth \$6,000 a year, and she is one of many who earn as much.

The Earl of Arlry, who, as commanding officer of the Twelfth Lancers, has been ordered to South Africa with his regiment, is a wealthy nobleman who prefers the active life of the soldier to the easy existence to which his money and social station entitle him.

Prince Henry, of Prussia, the younger brother of the Emperor William, who for some months has been in command of the German squadron on the Asiatic station, is coming to San Francisco on his flag ship, with the purpose of crossing the continent and calling upon President McKinley.

The first lady doctor in the world was an American woman—Miss Elizabeth Blackwell, who was enrolled as a physician in the Medical Register of Jan. 1, 1849. One of America's most noted lady doctors, Marie E. Zakrzewska, was a native of Berlin, but she had to leave the German capital in consequence of the strong prejudice aroused against her.

Justin McCarthy's sight continues to improve, but he is not yet allowed to try it with reading and writing. He is constantly engaged in literary work, however, dictating his copy to a secretary, and being read to for a certain time every day. He is employing his pen on fiction just at present, having engaged to do three of his charming short stories for various Christmas numbers.

A very charming little woman is Tama, the Japanese wife of Sir Edward Arnold. She has somewhat the air of a Parisienne, but mingled with it all is the dainty grace peculiar to the gentle womanhood of the land of flowers. Lady Arnold speaks her husband's native tongue with fluency. If with a foreign accent, and her English letters show how wonderfully she has been able to adapt herself to the English mode of thought and expression.

Mercereau & Connell, Jewelers, Silversmiths, No. 130 Wyoming Avenue. Our Thirty-fourth Year. A GRAND Christmas Display. BARGAINS IN EVERYTHING. Fine Diamonds, Rich Jewelry, Stone Rings. Watches of the reliable sort from \$2.50 to \$150.00. Sterling Silver Wares, Sterling Silver Novelties, Clocks, Etc. Our prices are at the bottom. Our guarantee is perfect.

Hill & Connell's CHRISTMAS PRESENTS Furniture. The largest stock to select from of Writing Desks, Lounges, Dressing Tables, Work Tables, Toilet Tables, Easy Chairs, Gilt Chairs, Parlor Glasses, Inlaid Chairs, Music Cabinets, Rockers, Curio Cabinets, Shaving Stands, Book Cases, Pedestals, Waste Baskets, Jardinieres. And novelties in PICTURES. All marked in plain figures. A fine selection for early callers.

Hill & Connell 121 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa. Heating Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, Plumbing and Tining. GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 22-27 PENN AVENUE. The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. 434 Lackawanna Avenue.

MEARS & HAGEN 415-417 Lackawanna Avenue. IS YOUR HOUSE VACANT? IF SO, TRY A "FOR RENT" AD. IN THE TRIBUNE. ONE CENT A WORD.

FINLEY'S Fine Laces. Like fine pairings and fine jewels, are pleasant to look upon and give joy to the possessor. We have added this week to our stock of Laces some elegant Real Renaissance Lace Robes, In Black and Cream. ALSO Renaissance Lace Jackets, Real Point and Duchesse Laces and Hdkkerchiefs, Renaissance Center Pieces, Doylies Etc., Etc. And our usual unapproachable stock of Fine Housekeeping Linens. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE. OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

Holiday Goods. Calendars, Booklets, Bibles, Prayer Books, Gold Pens, Gold Ink Stands, Leather Card Cases, Fountain Pens, Music Rolls; Pictures, Pocketbooks, Traveling Cases, Bill Books, Opera Bags, Typewriters, and a Handsome Assortment of 1900 Diaries in fancy bindings, suitable for Christmas Gifts. Reynolds Bros Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave. HOTEL JERMYN.

DUPONT'S POWDER. Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Amateurs and the Republico Cuonico. Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Explosives Room 401 Connell Building, Scranton, Pa. AGENCIES: THOS. FORD, Pittston; JOHN E. SMITH & SON, Plymouth; W. E. MULLIGAN, Wilkes-Barre. A young man whose home is in East 76th street, New York City, has a considerable acquaintance among medical students and hospital doctors. Almost every morning, when riding down town to business on the Third Avenue Cable Road, he meets one or more of his professional friends, and this has happened so often that the conductor, knowing him and his associates by sight, have come to address him as Doctor. One morning not long ago the conductor approached our friend and said: "Doctor, I have been troubled so much with dyspepsia that I haven't been able to eat a square meal in two days and an nearly dead. What shall I take?" The man addressed put his hand in his pocket and, taking out a carton of Ripans Tablets, replied: "Here, take these, and when you use them buy some more at the druggist's." A week later the same conductor, while collecting his fare, said: "I used those Tablets you gave me, and then bought some more at the druggist's. They fixed me up all right. I have no more dyspepsia, and I can eat without getting sick."