

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; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions of whatever nature and by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 2, 1900.

The organization yesterday effected in the new board of commissioners, whereby John Courier Morris became president, John Durkin secretary, W. G. Daniels chief clerk and Herbert L. Taylor county solicitor, represents a promise of marked efficiency in the discharge of the public business. Mr. Morris has a sufficient acquaintance with the county's people and needs and a sufficient familiarity with the methods of public office to give admirable service as president of the board, and his colleagues begin their new duties with a large measure of public confidence. The retiring commissioners carry with them into private life the best wishes of a host of friends.

The Constitution and Justice.

A FEW DAYS ago we gave the substance of a bill drafted by Judge Crumpacker, of Indiana, and of his argument for the reduction of representation in congress of states which enact unfair restrictions upon the suffrage aimed especially at the negro. We have since received the copy of a reply to Mr. Crumpacker's bill and argument, made by Representative Wilson, of South Carolina, who as chairman of the judiciary committee of the constitutional convention of 1850 had much to do with shaping the present suffrage laws of South Carolina; and fair play entitles Mr. Wilson to an equal hearing.

The gentleman from South Carolina does not consider the merits or demerits of the Crumpacker proposition; he simply presents a brief showing that congress has no constitutional authority in the premises. "There is," says he, "no power under section 2, Article XIV of the constitution, or under any other provision of that instrument by which congress can deprive any state of a congressman or of a vote for president in the electoral college because of the suffrage provisions of any state constitution. The thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments abolish slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, throughout the United States and all places subject to their jurisdiction. The fourteenth amendment has several objects: 1. It declares all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to be citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside; and it forbids any state to make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, or to deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of the law, or to deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. 2. It provides that when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for president or vice president of the United States, representatives in congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of congressional representation therein shall be reduced in proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens, twenty-one years of age in such state. The third and fourth sections have no bearing here. The fifteenth amendment declares that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. "The fourteenth amendment was intended to confer citizenship on the negro race. Neither the constitution nor the fourteenth amendment makes all citizens voters. The fifteenth amendment does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one; it simply prevents a state from giving preference to one citizen of the United States over another on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. It exempts citizens of the United States from discrimination in the exercise of the elective franchise on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The right to vote in the state comes from the state, but the right of exemption from the prohibited discrimination comes from the United States. The first has not been granted or secured by the constitution of the United States, but the last has been. The right to vote is a privilege regulated by municipal law and inhering exclusively in the state. The fifteenth amendment is the only provision in the constitution concerning the 'right to vote,' and that amendment applies only to cases of discrimination on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and it is settled that the 'right to vote' is not one of the privileges or immunities of the citizen of the United States within the meaning of the fourteenth amendment, which amendment recognizes the right of the state to deny or abridge the suffrage. As is well known, many of the states have from time to time denied the 'right to vote' to such of their citizens as were thought not to possess the qualifications necessary for an independent and intelligent exercise of the right. These states impose educational qualifications as conditions to the exercise of the 'right to vote.' Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Colo-

rado, Wyoming. These require payment of taxes as a condition: Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Nevada. Judge Thomas M. Cooley, who is certainly as able authority on constitutional law as this country has ever had, entertains the views which I have presented, and that section 2, article XIV, of the constitution is ineffective so far as it is sought to be made operative by Mr. Crumpacker."

It is a poor cause which cannot defend itself behind adroit interpretation of the constitution. Fortunately Mr. Wilson quotes the Fourteenth amendment, and any one who can understand plain English must see, as Judge Crumpacker asserts, that its mandate is peremptory that "when the right to vote at any election... is denied to any of the male inhabitants of any state above 21 years of age and citizens of the United States, 'OR IN ANY WAY ABRIDGED, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of congressional representation therein SHALL be reduced.'" To be black is not a crime, yet in some states male inhabitants who are above 21 and American citizens are, because their skin is black, and for no other reason whatsoever, denied the right to vote. Not only is their right to vote abridged, it is more than that—it is canceled outright. Ignorance is not a crime, within the meaning of the constitution, yet in some states men who are in every other way qualified to vote are disfranchised for ignorance. It may not be within the power of congress to say that a property or a literacy or a "grandfather" test for voting shall not be set up in any state; but it is within the power of congress to say that where the suffrage is abridged the representation in congress shall be abridged in proportion; and the constitution on this point is not optional but peremptory.

By the appointment yesterday of Mr. Samuel Williams to fill out the unexpired term of William S. Lanstaff as poor director, Judge Archbald did not pass upon the legal point as to whether a vacancy exists in consequence of Lanstaff's removal into another state; but he did make a possible test as to whether the author of the \$100,000 election contest can go on drawing \$25 a month pay in Lackawanna county while devoting all of his time to private business in Ohio.

An Excellent Example.

DISPATCHES from Berlin, referring to the seizure by the British of a German vessel in South African waters suspected of conveying soldiers and supplies to the Boers, say that the responsible press of Germany is keeping cool upon the subject. The Neues Nachrichten points out that international law is unable to fix a definite line between what is and what is not contraband. While it regards Great Britain's action as an infraction of the law in this instance it acknowledges that there are many precedents. It says the question is one of fact that is bound to arise in a war in which a sea power is concerned. The paper adds that the matter is now the subject of diplomatic negotiations, and there is every reason to expect that Great Britain will adjust the incident promptly and fairly. This is a timely object lesson for contemplation by those Americans who, because some American flour was seized by the British in the same locality, wanted to go to war at once. As a matter of common sense, when two powers are engaged in a life and death struggle the fine points of international law as evolved by specialists seated in comfortable libraries are very liable to be overlooked if the suspicion arises that a third party is attempting any funny business. This is true of both individuals and nations; and the sensible man as well as the sensible nation is the one who keeps well out of the quarrels in which he is not directly interested and thereby avoids the possibility of being hit by a stray bullet. England can be held to settlement for any actual injustice done; but the neutrals who go nosing around for trouble which is none of their business deserve very little sympathy when they find it and don't like it.

Getting at the Facts.

THE GOVERNOR of Indiana, Hon. James A. Moun, has thought out two remedies for the trust evil. The first is to take the tariff off all articles controlled by trusts in restraint of trade, and that seems very reasonable when you are sure of your facts. The second is a law that "will force a combination, when it reduces its prices in one locality to freeze out a small rival producer, to make exactly the same price for the whole market;" and of such a law the same thing can be said. The chief difficulty in this whole matter is to get hold of the exact facts. Anybody can denounce trusts; anybody can boast and blather in inquiry can be made into the operation and effect of great corporations. Until this can be done legislation inspired principally by the general prejudice against trusts will be as likely to do injury to legitimate and wholesome enterprise as to protect the mass of consumers.

For certain kinds of monopolies, such as light, water, telephone, telegraph or traction companies doing business by the grace of the people who through their representatives vote the necessary franchises, the best safeguard that we have seen advanced by any student of this question is the suggestion of the editor of the Engineering News that the public, in its laws of incorporation, reserve the right to claim representation on the board of directors. This would apply

profitably to a large number of combinations and could be extended to all corporations in virtue of their existence by charter privileges. It would afford a means of getting at the facts.

While engaged in the labor of keeping one eye on congress and the other on the South African coast, the first days of 1900 promise to be unhappy for Hon. Billy Mason.

After the usual New Year greetings, the historical element of journalism may now resume daily criticism of Secretary Gage.

CRIMINALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN.

In an article on "Women and the Emotions," by Professor Monteggia, in the Humanitarian, there are some interesting statistics showing that those modern ecologists who hold that women are men's equals in the field of criminality are wrong. Here are some of them: Man bears false witness 100 times to a woman's seventeen. Man forgers and counterfeits coinage was convicted 100 times to a woman's eleven. In France women are summoned before the tribunal four times less than men. In Prussia in 1893 women delinquents were fourteen to 100 men. In Italy in the same year there were only 9 per cent. In Algeria we have ninety-six male delinquents and only four women. In England and Wales between 1834 and 1842 there were twenty-four women and 309 men, all for the more serious offenses. In 1871 Dr. Nicholson found in the prisons in England 2,215 men and 1,217 women. In Bavaria from 1862 to 1876, in a population consisting solely of peasants, the women who were condemned were in proportion to twenty-nine to 100 men. In the prisons of Turin from 1871 to 1884 the women in respect to men are represented by a figure of 15 per cent. Taking the whole of Europe, women, pre, the professor says, five times less guilty than men.

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CURRENT VERSE.

The Busy Candidate. How doth the busy candidate, Improve each shining hour; He's on the go from morn till late At home or on a tour.

He takes you kindly by the hand, And greets you cordially, And hopes that you will firmly stand, "And cast your vote for me."

You meet him everywhere you go, No matter where it's at, He greets you pleasantly, also, And always does it pat.

He helps along in every cause— Battle or ball or fair; He buys a ticket for them all, And yet has change to spare.

He goes to church and is devout,— Next day he's at the fair, Where you can hear him loudly shout, "Get fifty on the mare!"

Wherever men do congregate— Yes, and women, too— There you'll find the candidate To show his colors true.

He is the mark for every "bum" Who strikes him for a loan; The dean friars he had last week Have to a thousand grown.

He's hustling ere the break of day, He's scarcely stone to eat, He is so busy "making hay," Before November bleak.

Then pity him, ye voters all, His lot is sad and hard, Give him a little help, tho' small, And he will you reward.

The American Soldier. 'Tis a far, far cry from the minuteman And times of the buff and blue To the days of the withering Jorgensen, The banners that he'd true.

'Tis a far, far cry from Lexington To the isles of the China sea, But ever the same the man and gun, Ever the same are we.

For the blood of the sire at Bunker Hill, Through countless fierce campaigns, Is as red and eager in peri still In the depths of the children's veins, And the heart and the eye support the hand.

No matter what odds there be— Ever the same thy sons, oh land, Ever the same are we.

Not a Valley Forge, nor a Wilderness, Nor hail of a Cuban steen, Can take one bit from our fearlessness, Who dolly thy honor keen, We carry the flag through varying scenes— From the sign of the old pine tree To the Stars and Stripes in the Philippines— Ever the same are we.

And the lad with the fresh unshaded mouth Flights as his fathers fought, And the man from the north and the man from the south Do as their fathers wrought, And whether from city or farm we come, We answer the call with glee— We heroes uprising at the beat of the drum— Ever the same are we.—Edwin L. Rubin in Munsey's.

The Cow That Kicked Melinda. She went to milk the cow with her hair fluffed round her brow, And a happy little smile upon her lips; Her hands were brown and strong and she trilled a happy song, But—how many of the safest of us slip, The hired man ran in and made a fearful din.

As he hammered on the little cook house window, And he filled the house with fright as he yelled with all his might: "The cow has kicked Melinda."

That silence for a while could be heard for half a mile, And the horror of it sunk in every heart; But when the shock was over, like bull calves into clover, You ought to've seen that little household start.

They found the story true, for she was black and blue; And her stranny piped an order thro' the window: "If the milk she milks is cutted, then the animal must be killed, The cow that kicked Melinda."

In splendid halls adorning you sit tomorrow morning, And spread your little napkin for a feast; If you're disappointed much and your teeth do fretted much, Something that is very tough indeed; As you struggle and you sigh, to masticate you try, And the trolley gong is sounding thro' the window, Your spirits I might swear if I whispered in your ear, "That's the cow that kicked Melinda."—Toronto Globe.

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NEW YEAR'S GREETING

LEWIS, REILLY & DAVIES

Wish the peaceful, honest people of the world a Happy New Year. We are happy because we live in one of the most prosperous cities, in one of the best counties, in one of the largest states and the greatest country that man is privileged to live in. Among the cities, towns, etc., that we wish to remember in a particular way are the following:

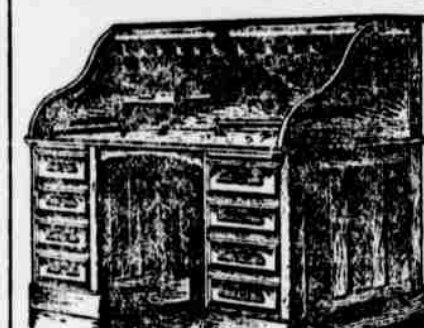
- Delaware, Water Gap, Mauch Chunk, Preston Park, Lake Como, Poyntelle, Belmont, Pleasant, Uniondale, Forest City, Carbondale, White Bridge, Kingsley's, Posters, Factoryville, Nicholson, La Plume, Dalton, Glenburn, Clark's Summit, Chincilla, Mayfield, Say Ann, Dunmore, Wimmers, Maplewood, Lake Erie, Jermyn, Archbald, Wintors, Peckville, Olyphant, Scranton City, Throop, Scranton, Pleasanton, Conklin Center, Stroudsburg.

May they live long and prosper is the wish of LEWIS, REILLY & DAVIES

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A Large Stock to Select from.

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- Unbleached. 6c. Good Brown Muslin for only... 5c. 7c. Fine Brown Muslin for... 6c. 8c. Atlantic P. Muslin for... 7c. 9c. Very fine Muslin for only... 8c. 10c. Extra Heavy Muslin for... 9c. 11c. Best Lockwood 5-4 P. C. Muslin for... 10c. 12c. Best Lockwood 6-4 P. C. Muslin for... 11c. 13c. Best Lockwood 8-4 Sheetting for... 12c. 14c. Best Lockwood 9-4 Sheetting for... 13c. 15c. Best Lockwood 10-4 Sheetting for... 14c. Special. 5c. Good Apron Gingham for... 4c. 6c. Best Apron Gingham for... 5c. 7c. Good Prints for... 6c. 8c. Best Indigo Blue Prints for... 7c. 9c. Good Shaker Flannel for... 8c. 10c. Good Canton Flannel for... 9c. 11c. Good Outing Flannel for... 10c. 12c. Good Outing Flannel for... 11c. Bleached. 9c. Hill Muslin for only... 7c. 10c. Lonsdale Muslin for only... 8c. 11c. Fruit Muslin for only... 9c. 12c. Fine Cambric Muslin for only... 10c. 13c. Lonsdale Cambric for only... 11c. 14c. Best Lockwood 5-4 P. C. Muslin for... 12c. 15c. Best Lockwood 6-4 P. C. Muslin for... 13c. 16c. Best Lockwood 8-4 Sheetting for... 14c. 17c. Best Lockwood 9-4 Sheetting for... 15c. 18c. Best Lockwood 10-4 Sheetting for... 16c. All Muslins and Sheetings are full width. Quality guaranteed just as stated.

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Will claim particular attention during the first week of

January, 1900

And we intend unloading the bulk of our stock at lower prices than will again be possible—probably in years. There is nothing wanting in the assortment—from the

Lowest Priced Cotton

To the Finest

California Wool Blankets

made, and with zero weather this sale ought to be interesting. We still have a few

Extra Fine Silk Covered Down Quilts

Which we now offer at from \$3.00 to \$4.00—below actual value—our reason being we never carry this line of goods over. Best value offered in everyday Comfortables, of fine selected cotton, from One Dollar up.

510 and 512

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A consumptive patient, who made use of Ripans Tablets, found his weight increased but was made anxious because expectation ceased, and feared on that account that harm would result, but on consulting a physician he learned that Ripans Tablets do not affect the conditions of the lungs in any material degree, but if they do so at all they have more tendency to favor expectation rather than to suppress it. Consequently there is no reason why a consumptive should discontinue the use of Ripans Tablets because expectation has ceased. Furthermore, in lung troubles an increase in weight is the best indication of improvement, and as the Tablets regulate the digestion they increase nutrition and are doing the very service required to produce best results.