

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.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 9, 1900.

By the court's reappointment yesterday of John M. Harris, esq., as one of the board for the examination of students at law, an appropriate compliment was paid to the efficient services rendered by Mr. Harris during his first term in this position; and incidentally the stamp of disbelieve was placed upon the report of Mr. Harris' alleged remarks at Pittsburg purporting to cast reflections upon his brethren at this bar.

That Wyoming Avenue Extension

LAST EVENING'S action of common council in passing the concurrent resolution, which had already been approved by select committee with only one dissenting vote, restricting the city solicitor to withdraw the exceptions filed by him on behalf of the city against the confirmation of the report of the viewers in the matter of the opening up of Wyoming avenue will, when approved by the mayor, bring to an end the delays that have postponed this necessary work of public improvement. That the mayor will concur in this manifest wish of council and public and expedite the matter is naturally assumed.

When the proposition to open Wyoming avenue first came up, some eighteen months ago, there was opposition on the ground that the expenditure of public money which it would involve (about \$25,000) would at the first instance benefit chiefly the property owners along that avenue, and only incidentally benefit the community at large. This argument was extensively employed in the discussion at that time but the majority nevertheless gave assent to the ordinance, viewers were appointed, they framed their schedule of awards and not until all this had intervened did the city through its legal adviser interpose technical objections.

In the meantime a wholly new complexion has been given to this matter by the announcement of the management of the International Correspondence schools that if Wyoming avenue is promptly opened an immense new printing plant, offering employment to 500 men, will be constructed in the vicinity of Wyoming avenue and Ash street. Coupled with this is the statement that if the avenue is not opened the plant will not be built until it can have a direct approach. The difference is one involving easily \$200,000 a year in wages directly affecting the business welfare of the entire community; and it supplies a convincing reason why the improvement should be hastened.

It is announced that the president will endeavor to have congress revive the grade of lieutenant general in the army so that he can confer it upon General Wesley Merritt just before the latter's retirement next spring. General Merritt is a first class soldier whose record is uniformly good. But what is the reason why the honor here contemplated is withheld from that other good soldier, Commanding General Miles?

The True Basis of Representation.

WITH A VIEW to exciting prejudice against the Crumpacker bill to have a census taken of the number of male citizens of voting age who are not permitted to vote, a step intended as preparatory for an enforcement of the Fourteenth amendment, southern members of congress are professing to be greatly concerned lest there should be a reduction in the congressional representation of some of the northern states, as for instance Massachusetts, which have imposed qualifications upon the suffrage.

This Representative Fay of Virginia, an ingenious Democrat, requests the public to compare the states of Massachusetts and Indiana and points out that each of these states has thirteen members in the house of representatives. "The population of Massachusetts," he continues, "is 2,274,297. The vote cast in the thirteen districts of Massachusetts in 1896 (a presidential year) was 257,972. Indiana has a population of 2,210,623, 64,000 less of population than Massachusetts, and yet in 1896 the vote cast in the thirteen districts of Indiana was 622,249, 264,277 more votes than were cast in Massachusetts. Now if representation is to be based upon the number of votes cast, and not upon population, then the representation of Indiana would be largely increased and that of Massachusetts greatly diminished. Maine has a population of 661,098 and cast a vote in 1896 of 106,654, while the First, Sixth, Tenth, and Twelfth districts of Ohio, with a population of 675,255, cast a vote of 181,981. New Hampshire, with a population of 376,530, cast a vote of 82,292 in 1896, while the Third and Tenth districts of Iowa, with a population of 372,782, cast 105,311 votes. In 21 districts of Illinois, with a population of 4,068,428, there were cast in 1896, 1,035,051 votes; in twenty-one districts of New York, with a population of 4,998,078, there were cast only 869,087 votes, a difference in favor of Illinois of 174,964 votes. These are a few examples of how the proposed law would operate in favor of the states I have named; of course the law would apply to all of the states; it could not be confined in its operation to a few states. Such being the effect of this law, one wonders if the Republican party is pre-

pared to place it upon the statute books."

What the Republican party may or may not have the courage to do in this matter is something which the future must develop. But if we consider the subject from the standpoint of equity only one conclusion is possible; and it is that states which for reasons of their own wish to depart from the fundamental rule of universal manhood suffrage and set up this, that or another franchise restriction, should, in fairness to the other states which adhere to the original doctrine of one man, one vote, consent to such an abridgment of their representation as will justify offset the number of citizens disfranchised. The proposition is independent of the question whether a restricted suffrage in a democratic republic like the United States is wise. On that point opinions differ widely; but there can be no honest difference of opinion upon the unfairness of allowing to one voter in one state a percentage of representation in congress two, three or four times as large as the percentage enjoyed by another voter in a different state, because of differences in the franchise qualification. At the root of our institutions is the doctrine of equality before the law and this doctrine must not be surrendered in principle, however grossly it may upon occasions be outraged in practice.

The Chicago Times-Herald, which is one of the leading champions in the recent controversy regarding the beginning of the Christian era, has celebrated what according to its own calculation, is the dawn of the Twentieth century by the issue of a 60-page edition devoted to reviewing the events of interest in the nineteenth century. The number is a most complete history of one hundred years, and will be invaluable for future reference. Of the many original features of enterprise that have marked the career of this progressive journal, the twentieth century edition is probably the most meritorious.

The Favorable Side.

WE HAVE HAD recently from reputable observers like George Kennan many expositions of the unfortunate side of the Cuban character, more especially its tendency to steal. It therefore is pleasant to note an exception illustrating the possibilities in the opposite direction.

Some time ago Mr. W. E. Curtis published in his Washington correspondence for the Chicago Record a story which had been told to him by an excellent authority that General Ludlow had met with difficulty in securing the proper sort of men to fill the municipal offices of Havana, and that he had found it impossible to interest the best people of that city in the reorganization of their government. General Ludlow assures Mr. Curtis that nothing of the kind has happened in his experience. "I have had no trouble whatever in Havana in getting good men to fill official positions," says General Ludlow in a private letter, "and, in fact, have today the same government that I appointed on Jan. 14, 1899. In addition to being men of intelligence, they are also men of integrity, and the city government has in a recent conspicuous case refused to accept inducements offered in large sums to act favorably upon a proposition which would have involved an expenditure of \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000. I was able to report in connection with this matter that I knew of no official community of like nature in the United States that could have sustained so simply and so faithfully the test of almost wholesale bribery for a favorable report on an official proposition."

So long as there are men of this kind in Cuba her case is not hopeless.

Does expansion pay? Time must elapse before this question can be answered finally, but here are a few straws: Our exports of wheat-flour to Cuba alone increased from \$271,000 in the first eleven months of 1897 to \$1,874,000 in the corresponding eleven months of 1899, and from \$969,000 in those months of 1897 to \$1,655,000 in 1899, bacon from \$582,950 in 1897 to \$42,000 in 1899, hams from \$319,000 in 1897 to \$668,000 in 1899, corn from \$267,000 in 1897 to \$434,000 in 1899, and butter and cheese from \$27,000 in the first eleven months of 1897 to \$154,000 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Beet Sugar.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Indianapolis Press who has investigated the recent announcement that a large factory was to be established near Laporte, Ind., supplies the public with some readable information. The factory will be at North Judson, in Starke county, Indiana, and will cost \$400,000. It is to begin operation this summer. The company which is building the factory has received a guarantee of 6,000 acres of sugar beets every year. The daily consumption of the plant will be 600 tons of beets and the production from sixty to seventy tons of sugar. Farmers have pledged about 25,000 acres. The crop must rotate and a piece of ground will be drawn on but once in three or four years. The company will pay the prevailing price for beets, which at present runs from \$1 to \$5 per ton. The acreage production will run from fifteen to twenty-five tons. The new plant will be equipped with the latest improved machinery and will manufacture only the finer grades of sugar. During the operating season the company will employ from 200 to 250 men in the factory. Nelson Morris, the Chicago packer, will also build a factory on his 15,000-acre farm in Lake county. He will raise his own beets. If the enterprisers are successful several other factories will be erected in the Kanawakee swamp land section. For the past ten years in the United States agricultural experiment station in connection with Purdue university at Lafayette, Ind., has been making tests of the soils in the Hoosier state with respect to the growth of the sugar beet. More than 400 tests have been made. Beets would be grown and then analyzed; records were kept as to the

chemical constituents of both the beets and the soils in which the beets grew. It was found that the best beets came from the vicinity of North Judson, where the soil is a black, sandy loam. In some instances beets were grown in this soil that, upon analysis, revealed 22 per cent. of sugar. Beet sugar can be manufactured profitably from beets in which the percentage of sugar is as low as 12.

Last year the average yield of wheat for Indiana was less than twelve bushels to the acre, worth at ruling prices \$7.40. Corn has not been yielding more than this, and barley, oats and other cereals do not, according to the Press correspondent, make as good a return as wheat. But from an acre of well prepared land it is claimed that fifteen tons of beets can be harvested, worth at the factory \$4.50 a ton, or \$67.50. From this sum must be deducted the cost of plowing, fertilizer, seed, labor and haulage; but if this estimate is anywhere near correct, there should be a margin of profit much larger than can ever be expected from the cultivation of the ordinary cereals. It has been computed that it would require 150 large factories to produce the sugar now imported, and for which \$100,000,000 is annually sent abroad. In sugar beet sections where ground sold for \$10 to \$20 an acre previous to the cultivation of sugar beets, it is now selling for \$100 to \$200 per acre. In many communities where the industry is fully established \$200,000 is distributed in cash annually for beets by a single factory. The pulp left is found to be one of the best feeds for cattle yet discovered.

Obviously this matter is worthy of investigation.

The latest spelling reform wave comes by way of Chicago. Following the lead of Superintendent Andrews the congregation of the University of Chicago has adopted a resolution in favor of "fonetic" spelling, and has suggested that catalogue, pedagogic, etc., be spelled "catelogue" and "pedagog." The Chicago reformers are thoroughly earnest in their efforts and unless the leading universities of the country can be persuaded to join hands with them in this matter, they will carry forward the battle undaunted though alone.

The Portland Morning Oregonian gives a review of the past year of prosperity of the Pacific coast in a sixty-page edition, a portion of which is in the form of an illustrated supplement containing numerous half-tone views of public buildings; the shipping; hunting and fishing scenes; wheat fields; the various industries; portraits of public men and other interesting subjects. From appearances the Oregonian has shared in the general prosperity of the state, and fraternal congratulations are cordially extended.

It will be useless for any Jingo element to attempt to persuade the United States to take a hand in the San Domingo row. The enthusiasm now manifested by members of the Cuban war party in criticising the administration for assuming territorial responsibilities that could not be honorably avoided, has to a certain extent neutralized the effect of the advice of those who are anxious that this government should become active in regulating the affairs of our neighbors.

The British generals in South Africa at present seem disposed to monopolize the business of the war correspondent, but when the tide turns in favor of "Tommy Atkins" it is probable that the press representatives will be allowed an opportunity to cause a buzzing on the wires.

Lieutenant Gilmore's experience with the "revolutionary patriots" of Luzon is a pretty good antidote for the literature of treason.

Admiral Dewey's reputation as a disciplinarian will suffer unless he puts an end to so much social revolution at home.

SCRANTON TRIBUNE ALMANAC.

For Future Reference. From the Scranton Times. The Scranton Tribune Year Book has an ornate lithographed cover and the contents of 104 closely printed pages give a lucid record of the happenings of the year, local and general, besides an official directory and various other sorts of information. The purchaser on looking carefully through its pages will not fail to lay it aside carefully for future reference.

The Best of Annuals.

From the Scranton Republican. The Scranton Tribune's year book is the first in the local newspaper annals to come to our desk. It is an interesting volume with an illuminated cover design of a decided local flavor. The book is very neatly printed on a good quality of paper and displays considerable typographical taste. The contents include many subjects of interest to which ready reference may be desirable. It is one of the best annuals ever issued by our morning contemporary.

Up to the Standard.

From the Lebanon Record. It affords The Report especial pleasure to acknowledge the value of the Scranton Tribune's year book for 1899. Not only must the work be invaluable to Lackawanna countians, but in its general usefulness in all sections of the state. It measures up to the standard set by any Philadelphia journal so far as we have seen. To those who know the Tribune it is sufficient to say that the work is in keeping with that excellent newspaper.

One of the Neatest.

From the Philadelphia Record. One of the neatest almanacs for 1900 that we have been favored with is from the Scranton Tribune. It is a pamphlet of 100 pages and is in every way excellent. Brimful of local, state and national information it will always be useful. The illustrated cover in colors is both characteristic and original, and most appropriate for the anthracite coal regions.

Has Few Equals.

From the Philadelphia Record. Among the almanacs which have reached the Record office few are equal to The Scranton Tribune Year Book for 1900. Its 100 pages are crowded with information of the utmost importance to Pennsylvanians as well as to the people of Scranton and vicinity. Its political statistics are complete and in some respects unique, while its household lore and industrial and historical data are invaluable.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES:

The Conversion of McKinley.

The conversion of William McKinley when a boy was described today by the clergyman to whom young McKinley went, says a Cleveland, O., dispatch in the Sun. The minister is Aaron D. Morton and his residence is 996 Central avenue. Forty-two years ago Mr. Morton was a Methodist circuit rider and held a revival at Poland, O., where young McKinley then lived with his parents.

"McKinley was converted at a prayer meeting," said Mr. Morton. "I remember the evening very well. The congregation that night was small, although there had been many largely attended meetings prior to that time and McKinley had attended all of them. That evening he sat about the middle of the church. He was a very attentive listener. At my request for those to stand who wished to express a desire to become Christians he rose. I remember his words very well. He said:

"God is the greatest of all beings, and religion is the best of all things in the world. I have determined, by the grace of God, to seek for it until I find it."

"After his declaration he attended the revival meetings for three or four evenings. At the expiration of that time he said that he found relief and joy in religion. He continued to be very much interested in the meetings and he was very attentive at the services. He pursued a strict study of religion and religious duties.

"There was only one religious question which troubled the young man. He was puzzled as to whether he should be baptized by sprinkling or by immersion. Both could then be used in the Methodist church. In a few months, however, he decided to be immersed with a number of others, and having been on probation in the interval, he then became a member of the church."

Confessed His Ignorance.

Augustus Birrell tells of a delightful incident that occurred at the "Johnson Club," which meets four times a year at the "Old Coaching Cheese," a steak-and-club house in Wine Office Court, London, just out of Fleet street, and where its members dine and talk and "explore the mind" of their hero, Dr. Samuel Johnson, says the Buffalo Commercial. At one of these dinners there happened to be present Bonnor, the famous Australian cricketer, who confessed to the company that until that evening he had never heard of Dr. Samuel Johnson. Mr. Birrell says that at this "some one tittered." Whereupon "Bonnor, the bearded, the terrific, clear-eyed, drew himself up to his full height of six feet six, and said: 'Yes; and what is more, I come from a great country where you might ride a horse sixty miles a day for three months, and never meet anybody who had. But I have heard of him now, and can only say, that were I not Bonnor the cricketer, I would be Samuel Johnson!'"

Defining an Agnostic.

A certain well-known and interesting woman is, or was till recently, head mistress of a boarding school for girls here in town, relates the Washington Star. The rules of the institution permit the pupils to receive their friends one evening in each week, and it was on one of these informal occasions that the head teacher, passing through the library, noticed one of the younger girls listening intently to a self-satisfied looking young man. What he was saying seemed half to terrify, half to shock, but wholly to fascinate the girl. She hung on his every word. She looked up as the teacher came near. "Oh, Miss Blank," she asked, in a voice full of awe and of admiration, "what is an agnostic?" Mr. Spatts says he is one.

He Knew the Process.

There is a bright little page at the capitol, says the Washington Star, who is undergoing his first experience as a wage-earner. He is as sharp as a briar and quick as a cat. The other night at dinner his sister and his mother were jollying the little fellow about the disposition of his first month's wages. His sister said that on pay day she intended to stick to him closer than a brother.

A Victim of Habit.

A fisherman, in whose house was neither clock nor watch, got out of his bed one morning, but did not know at what time, relates the Scottish American. Accordingly, he went to the door in his night garb and looked out to see if, from the appearance of things around, he could discover the hour of the morning. When standing in this state a fellow fisherman came past, hurrying away to begin the labors of the day. Having glanced from him that it was half-past 5 o'clock, he said: "Weel, I maun gang awa' in an rize."

THE NECESSARY REMEDY.

From the Philadelphia Record. Dr. Allen, of the Scranton board of health, calls attention to an insufficiently appreciated cause of the spread of contagious diseases in that city. He says that children in whose homes infectious diseases exist are permitted to associate with the children of the neighborhood. His anxiety in regard to quarantine precautions which prevail in Scranton is common everywhere. In some instances health authorities and sanitary officers meet with great difficulty in the enforcement of laws and ordinances relative to contagious diseases, and occasionally find themselves obliged to resort to physical force in the performance of their duties. The only remedy lies in holding those who violate the law to strict accountability.

Luther Keller

LIME, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE, Etc.

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A custom tailor, doing business in Ithaca, N. Y., relates the interesting case of a sister of his who had catarrh in the head and of the stomach for ten years, and had changed her place of residence a number of times trying and hoping to get rid of it. She had tried some of the best doctors, but without any help, until finally her brother sent her some Ripans Tabules. They benefited her from the first. She has taken six boxes of them in all, and is now entirely cured.

FINLEY'S Ladies' Muslin Underwear. An unusually large holiday trade on this particular line has left our stock pretty much broken up, both in assortment of styles and sizes. In order to make a complete clearance of what we now have in stock, before opening up our new line for spring. Our Annual Sale For This Purpose Will Open Tuesday Morning. And continue for the balance of the week. The most tempting prices have been marked on all garments, every one of which is of the highest order—both as regards material and workmanship, and for the bare price of materials you can make your selections of Ladies' and Misses' Gowns, Skirts, Chemise, Drawers, Corset Covers, Etc., etc., and save money. Sale opens Tuesday. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

Excelsior Diaries. A complete line for 1900, for office and pocket use, numerous styles of Calendars, Pads and Stands to select from. Blank Books and the largest and most complete line of office supplies in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Reynolds Bros. Stationers and Engravers, Hotel Jermyn Building, Scranton, Pa.

Illustration of a man in a suit and hat, likely related to the advertisement for Ripans Tabules.