

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 12, 1900.

The opening of the Boulevard speedway club house last evening was an event of much interest not only to lovers of horse flesh, but to amusement seekers generally. The Elmhurst Boulevard is perhaps one of the finest in the world, and the new house of entertainment will be an additional attraction to driving parties and wheelmen.

The Dick Turpin Way.

IF THE LICENSE committee of common council is wise it will think long and carefully before giving its unequalled endorsement to Mayor Mohr's proposition to extort \$10,000 of additional taxes each year from the business men of Scranton. This sweeping new revenue scheme is not justifiable on any account. There has, as a preliminary, been no adequate effort to cut needless city expenses. There has been no new guarantee that if more money were poured into the municipal hopper it would not, like much of the money now paid, be frittered away with little show for it save the bare necessities of government. The new proposition in its bearing on the stand and deliver, and it is leveled for the most part at the heads of the very men in the community whom the city can least afford to overburden to drive out of town.

The business men of Scranton are taxed enough. Don't imagine that they escape the tax on real estate because many of them are tenants; it is all figured in in the rent. And the taxes which they don't pay in the name of the law they pay in the form of enforced contributions to penitents, jails and benefits, to charity, philanthropy and religion, to one or another of a thousand objects accustomed to consider that the man who keeps a shop or a store is fair and proper prey. To add to this already heavy burden a new weight of license taxation, most of it crude and reckless in its schedule of assessment, would not only be to commit an outrage without a scintilla of substantial excuse, but it would also be to advertise to the world at large that the city government of Scranton, instead of reflecting the city's proverbial hospitality, regards merchants with disfavour and legislates to encourage them to locate elsewhere.

We care nothing in this connection about what has been done in Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre or Pocono. The rule hitherto in Scranton has been to welcome capital and give cordial encouragement to enterprise, and it is a good rule to continue.

If ex-Clerk Fetterolf, of the House at Harrisburg, had waited until after the Philadelphia city convention, it is probable that his resignation would have been postponed indefinitely.

At Right Angles.

PENNSYLVANIANS who derive their political information chiefly from the Philadelphia newspapers controlled by Mr. Wanamaker and his anti-Quay league will be interested in learning that at the primary elections held in Philadelphia on Tuesday evening, with the lines tightly drawn between the men who believe in the John Wanamaker way of running politics and those who, in spite of all the invented edicts of the M. S. Quay way, prefer the M. S. Quay way, the admirers of Quay captured the city committee by a two-thirds vote, carried twenty-five of the twenty-seven legislative districts in the city, named nine of the ten national delegates and voted out of politics the magistrate who originally lent himself to the Wanamaker spite prosecution of Quay on the trumped up charge of conspiring to use state funds. The Philadelphia papers which are controlled by Brother Wanamaker are not saying much about these primaries, but the independent Philadelphia Times views in them a demonstration of the fact that in Philadelphia at least the so-called insurgent element has little to show for itself besides bluff and noise and we suspect that this is true in a large majority of the counties throughout the state.

Republican stalwarts will be encouraged by the Philadelphia result, to put up a square fight in every other disputed arena, classing the insurgents as part and parcel of the Democratic opposition and not trying to conciliate the professionals among them by offers of compromise. Two years ago, as Colonel McClure points out, compromises were made in a number of counties with the only practical result of mixing things up. This year he predicts that where the stalwarts or Quay followers have the power to nominate a legislative ticket they will make it distinctly stalwart from top to bottom, and the independents will meet such nominations by aggressive opposition regardless of the possible or probable election of Democrats, and he correctly opines that: "Such a conflict, involving war to the death between two opposing elements of a great party, must result in the complete overthrow of one and the complete mastery of the other. There will be no middle ground."

On the whole it will be well to have this entire issue substantially disposed of at one election. If the Republican people of the state prefer the Wanamaker-Martin-Plinn style of leadership to the leadership of Colonel Quay, they should have a chance to say so, not sporadically or with qualifying clauses, but in crisp Anglo-Saxon. If they do not banker after a trade of

that character they should be equally explicit. The issue is joined at right angles and until the party electorate does make clear its choice it will probably not know the meaning of peace.

Mr. Rockefeller's demonstration of the necessity of trusts given before the industrial commission the other day almost makes one sigh for the possession of a few blocks of Standard oil stock.

Avoid the Flame by Putting Out the Spark.

WHO AMONG those who speak lightly of a general strike in the mines has been through such a strike? Do those who would countenance so great a misfortune realize fully the fearful consequences? In the region commercially tributary to Scranton, if we estimate that 50,000 men engaged in and about the mines are now earning, on the average, \$2 a day apiece, when they work, it would need only ten days of enforced idleness to take out of labor's pocket \$1,000,000; in one hundred days the loss would be no enormous as to stagnate for years to come the general business of the whole community. Can labor afford to pay so great a price? Where is the gain that could possibly compensate? Where has a mine strike ever repaid the strikers for the time and wages lost? But more than the coal operators, more than the miners, are concerned in the proposition of a strike; every man, woman and child in the Lackawanna valley without exception is concerned, because a strike means loss to every one; means feverish days and sleepless nights; means passions aroused in which disorder is born; means the turning away, perhaps for a time, perhaps for all time, of the prosperity, so long and so eagerly awaited, which has but lately approached within view. Before it is even considered seriously the consequences should be carefully and prayerfully weighed.

Who says there is justification for the bringing down upon the people of this valley of such an awful calamity? If a cyclone were to sweep through, carrying death or destruction to innocent thousands, its appalling visitation might be accounted for and assuaged without putting blame upon any individual. If a conflagration originating in accident should lay in ashes a thousand homes, the homes untouched would instantly be thrown open to shelter the shelterless and humane hands would generously put forth the means of a prompt reconstruction. Cyclone and fire are inevitable hazards. But a strike is a misfortune which does not befall by chance. It has its designers, its promoters, its abettors. It is a climax cunningly worked up to; and like the bomb hurled into the crowd it spreads its havoc alike among the just and the unjust, being most pitiless in its cruelty to the weak.

Is it because the mines today are working better time and the miners earning better pay than for a long time past that they are hearing threats of a strike? No honest miner in this valley has been or will be refused a hearing when seeking one, as man to man, or by committee, from his employer. The door of every reputable mine manager is open to every employee who has a suggestion to make or a grievance to present. It does not take counsel from afar to inform intelligent miners how they shall go about it to earn for their families the ample wages arising from better breaker time. Those outsiders cannot, with all their argument, add to the number of days that the breaker will work in the month, they can only subtract from it, if their interference shall force a shut down or a strike. It is, therefore, for the intelligent miner to say whether a strike shall or shall not occur. It is his interest and his family's interest which is chiefly at stake. It is his place and duty, and not the place and duty of any professional agitator or mercurial enthusiast, to cast the deciding vote.

Let the men of sense, the men of cool judgment, the men who know from experience what strikes mean, come to the front among the wage-earners of this valley and extinguish the spark of danger before it can be fanned into a consuming flame.

Some of Mr. Bryan's friends should warn him before it is too late that "extension" and "extension" are synonymous.

Regulation the Remedy.

ALTHOUGH the formal report of the congressional commission which has been inquiring into industrial conditions and methods will not be transmitted to congress for some weeks to come, an interesting forecast of the salient features of the report appears in the Washington correspondence of the Chicago Record.

"The great question offered for solution is the consolidation of commercial and industrial enterprises into combinations commonly called trusts, which the commission does not," says the Record correspondent, "consider injurious to the public welfare provided they are properly managed. To insure their proper control several propositions have been suggested. That which has been given most prominence during the hearings, and which is considered by the commission as the key to the situation, is discrimination in freight rates in favor of the corporations. It has been emphasized that individual producers, competitors, etc., could make a fair fight against the trusts provided the railroads would give them equal advantages in rates. This suggested amendments to the law extending the authority of the interstate commerce commission and giving it power to

prevent and punish discrimination, by which most of the injurious effects of trusts can be removed through competition which will then be possible. Another important recommendation will be to control trusts as national banks are controlled, to secure the publication of their expenditures, receipts, earnings, dividends, salaries, wages, operating charges, profits and other items which will show their actual condition at frequent intervals and permit the public to ascertain the value of their stock. The commission will also recommend that corporations, combinations and trusts should not be permitted to overcapitalize, or water their stock. The latter propositions are not only suggested in the interest of the public, but for the benefit of individual stockholders, who as innocent investors are frequently the victims of manipulation by the directors and others at the head of the trusts. It is believed that these two objects can also be accomplished through amendments to the interstate law. By making the products of trusts taxable, like liquor, tobacco and oleomargarine, the combinations can be brought within the jurisdiction of the federal court."

It is very noticeable that this idea of subjecting to public regulation the great combinations of capital and power which exist through legal incorporation is gaining converts rapidly among the more intelligent students of the trust problem. It was the principal topic considered in Governor Roosevelt's recent message, and following him comes Governor Nash of Ohio, whose inaugural address is an able plea for state supervision of corporations. "These artificial persons," says he, "except insurance companies, railroad companies, building and loan associations and certain banking companies, are practically under no restraint by the state and make no reports to her officers. Large mining, manufacturing, commercial and other enterprises are carried on by and through them. Because they are created by the state and possess certificates bearing the impress of her seal, people are led to believe that they are more entitled to credit than are private partnerships and individuals. In very many cases they are less worthy of confidence. They are authorized by the state to do business before one dollar of the capital stock has been paid."

Governor Nash suggests that before corporations be permitted to do business the state should require that the capital stock be all paid in. To make sure that the money is paid in, Governor Nash would have reports made to some competent state officer. He would even go further and require corporations to make annual reports, to be filed with the officers indicated. These reports, among other things, should show the capital stock paid in, how the money is invested, what the assets are, the amount of the liabilities and the names of the stockholders. As a condition of their admission to Ohio, Governor Nash would also have foreign corporations make as complete disclosures concerning their financial condition and business as domestic corporations are required to make. With Governor Roosevelt, he stands for the fullest publicity as to matters in which the public has a proper interest.

It has been said by cynical commentators that out of this popular discussion of trusts nothing tangible will come. We dissent from that view. It seems to us that public opinion is rapidly crystallizing about certain remedial legislation in the nature of regulation which it will both enact and enforce.

There will doubtless be bitter disappointment in some quarters that England did not give the United States an opportunity to go to war over the consignment of flour at Delagoa bay.

Now that Miss Morrison-James, the actress, has threatened to write a book telling the story of her life, the Chattanooga jury will no doubt regret that they did not convict.

The latest reports from Eastern Africa indicate that an extra yard of cotton sheeting will soon be needed for the turban of King Menelek of Abyssinia.

The failure of the Delaware peach crop will not be announced this year. There is no longer a Delaware peach crop.

Mr. Bryan's campaign key note this season seems to have been sounded with the soft pedal on.

PERSONALITIES.

Paris has a new beauty. She is Mile. de Vere, a writer on Gaiety.

The Empress of Germany acts from 40 to 50 new dresses each year.

Mrs. Susan H. Emory, of Salt Lake City, is said to be the largest woman of the Rocky Mountain region.

Winston Churchill, author of "Richard Crayke," has drawn \$25,000 in royalties for three months' sale of his book.

Senator Marion Butler is progressing rapidly in the study of the law. His present profession is that of newspaper editor.

Henri Rochefort, editor of the Paris L'Intransigent, has fought 29 duels and has challenges for a dozen more outstanding.

Joseph H. Douglass, the colored violinist, is a grandson of Frederick Douglass and is to spend five years more in musical study in Italy.

The condition of ex-Postmaster General Wilson's health continues to cause grave fears among his friends. His recovery is now regarded as most doubtful. For months he has been almost totally blind.

The Toronto admirers of Edward Blake, formerly of Canada, but now a member of the British House of Commons from Longford, Ireland, will give a public reception in his honor on the 15th of this month.

Roscoe W. Davis, of the Thirty-third United States Volunteers, is the richest private soldier in this country. His home is at Marfa, Tex., where he owns a splendid ranch with hundreds of thousands of cattle.

Lieutenant James Hamilton, U. S. A., has recently been appointed instructor in military science in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was graduated at West Point in 1898, and served in the artillery branch until his retirement in 1898.

The widow of the Czarowitch of Russia, though descended from the royal family of the last king of Sweden, was a telegrapher when she was married to the Russian prince. It was a morganatic marriage, and the widow is left with several children.

In Woman's Realm

WOMEN ARE a study under all conditions. Sometimes the study intensifies in interest, particularly on the occasion of an accident. There was opportunity for much meditation on their various methods yesterday when the car ten away on Pine street and broke itself into little bits after leaving the track. One never can quite predict what people will do under such circumstances and especially what one will do one's self. It is all very well to plan out a beautiful line of procedure which shall have in it, self sacrifice and nobility of purpose, but probably when the test comes one will crawl under the seat or trample on babies.

IT WAS an awful moment on that car when the passengers realized that it was past control as the motorman leaped for his life. Poor fellow! He stayed by his post as long as there was any earthly prospect of doing so and while he was still at the front even if he were powerless to avert the catastrophe, some degree of composure could be preserved, but when suddenly the car pitched into a horrible fate from which no mental power could protect them, it was an unpleasant situation. The natural inclination seemed to be to get out, but many did not and then to look for some way of escape by a leap, but fast as the mind works, that runaway car was swifter, and by the time each thought, death was certain, all were in a mass on the floor. Then was the opportunity to study characteristics but most of the passengers were otherwise engaged.

ONE VERY large woman seemed to be at the bottom of the heap. She was one of the few who were uninjured, but she yelled unintermittently from the time she sat down with her two feet straight out in front of her and a number of passengers occupying seats upon her, until she trudged off down town weeping copiously. "I am killed entirely," she declared, although one of the persons sitting on her knees took the trouble to assure her that she was all right and if only she would keep still would be helped out in due time. But she struggled desperately and dug her fists into the ribs of all the people in the vicinity and offered up a large assortment of prayers.

A fair girl with the blood streaming down her face failed to hold the roof from crushing the passengers in the rear of the car and never uttered a moan or complaint. More than one man who struggled for release near her went away bearing on his coat crimson touches from her wounds and the memory of her brave, steady young eyes in his heart. A strong young woman at her side clawed and fought like a wild animal long after the danger was past.

Another who had industriously poked open ventilators as she entered the close, vile atmosphere of the car where she had to stand in the aisle, oddly enough had the sudden happy thought through her dazed brain as, from a prostrate position on the floor, she saw the roof smashed and driven off. "Well, we have plenty of air now."

A LADY sat quietly and with seeming placidity with her feet fastened beneath the debris while her son kept the roof from beating her down. When extricated she walked off down the street and attended to the errands on which she was bound as if nothing had happened. The days of hysterics are past in the case of feminine minds trained to self control and practical ideas.

A pretty girl with the rosiest cheeks which even the terrors of the accident could not pale and which it might almost be believed, death itself could not blanch, was lending assistance to the injured apparently unconscious that from a white cut on her brow blood was streaming, her cheeks still deeper red, "Why was I hurt?" said a bystander. Then she touched her face, saw the ruddy mark on her hand and began to cry softly.

A HUNGARIAN mother with almost a manly bearing, held a little baby in her arms. After the first shock and when people began to realize that she was still alive, not a few moments of the baby. Naturally it must be crushed for passengers clambered upon each other and the cruel claws was everywhere, but inquiry showed the mother with the same calm, unperturbed countenance, the tiny child blinking its eyes in pleased wonder at the scene utterly unharmed. Surely, he who holds the lightning in his hands doth sometimes lean down to turn aside the path of death down which we mortals would plunge too soon.

WANAMAKER'S POLICE GAZETTE

From the Lancaster New Era.

Not content with rivaling the New York Yellow Journal, the conductors of the John Wanamaker's Philadelphia paper are making a desperate effort to eclipse the Police Gazette as the leading vehicle for retailing domestic and church scandal. So long as these imported New York bohemians confined their efforts to the manufacture of political sensations, based on the business and moral lapse of a trusted public official, their right to do so could not be questioned, however disreputable as a matter of taste and honorable journalism. But when they invade the sanctity of the church and exultingly retail crime, scandal, based on ex parte testimony, there can be only one opinion among decent citizens and Christian men and women. If Mr. Wanamaker is sincere in his professed reverence for the church, which suffers by the premature publication and elaborate illustration of such scandals, he will call a halt on his managing editor and sensational reporters. Otherwise, he will find that his "reform" journal will be excluded from "Christian families where it is liable to be read by women and children."

THE ROSE.

Written for The Tribune.

The red, red rose as it grows and glows  
'Neath the soft warm suns of June,  
How we welcome the fair bright beauty  
Rare.

But alas! that it dies so soon.

One by one the bright petals fall  
Like heartdrops red, so red;  
But we never know of its heart of gold  
Until after the rose was dead.

—Rose VanH. Speece.

Luther Keller

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