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 15, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:

I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in convention at the opera house, in the city of Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 25, 1900, at 10.30 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices, to wit:

One person for the office of auditor general.

Two persons for the office of congressman-at-large.

Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternates-at-large to the Republican national convention to be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of June next, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

In accordance with the rule adopted at the state convention held in Harrisburg on August 24th, last, the representation in the state convention will be based on the vote polled at the last presidential election. Under this rule each legislative district is entitled to one delegate for every two thousand votes cast for the presidential electors, in 1896, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two thousand votes polled in excess of one thousand. Each district is entitled to the same number of delegates as represented it in the convention of 1896.

By order of the Republican state committee.

Frank Reeder, Chairman.

W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhees, Secretaries.

The man who talks strike amongst restless workingmen is like the man who shouts "fire" in a crowded public place. He is much more likely to do harm than good.

Forewarned Is Forearmed.

THE COMMUNICATION elsewhere from "Taylorville Miner" recites a page of local history which is profitable for contemplation in view of the current possibility that unwise counsel may precipitate another disastrous strike in the mines of the Lackawanna valley. We use the word possibility to denote a calamity which we sincerely hope may never occur again; but which can surely be prevented if the best judgment of the intelligent and conservative men who work in the mines shall be asserted in time.

Men of experience in such matters know full well that strikes never pay; that the loss in wages, the damage to business, the suffering caused in the home circle, the feverishness, the disorder, the turbulence inseparable from such destructive conflicts between labor and capital are dearly bought even when, at the end, some concessions are won; and the history of the anthracite industry teaches that seldom do strikes end in any substantial gain for those who strike. The mine can close down but the coal in it remains; it can be mined and sold some other day. The mine owner for a time can lose his profit and do without a return on his investment; but after the trouble ends the mine resumes operations little the worse forthe enforced interruption and the mine owner makes up for lost time. Not so with the miner. The wages lost by him are lost forever; but in the meantime his family must live and this means either the eating up of savings or debts to be paid when work is renewed.

The great trouble in the mines during the past few years has not been in the rate of wages. This was established when the price of coal was higher than it is today. It has not been reduced, although in the meantime numerous reductions have been made in the rate of wages paid in the soft coal regions. Through the years of depression the rate in this valley remained constant; but the market for anthracite fell away; the breaker could not be run as many days in the month as it used to run and thus, without reduction of the rate, the amounts earned by the miner decreased; a condition which began to improve just as soon as the market began to take more coal, enabling the breaker to increase its time. The energies of all the operators are now bent to increase the demand for anthracite; the more they sell the better their chance to receive a profit. They cannot sell more coal, however, without first mining it; they cannot mine it without running their breakers on better time and this, for the miner, means a larger pay.

It is therefore clearly to the mutual interest of miner and mine-owner that production and sale should both increase; and neither can increase without increasing the miner's pay. A strike in the anthracite mines might make it easier for the soft coal operators to crowd anthracite out; it could not possibly aid in the extension of anthracite's market. The soft coal miner and the hard coal miner are natural rivals to the extent that idleness for the one generally means more work for the other. It is not possible, so long as the present competition exists, to harmonize the interests of both. The anthracite miner is foolish to permit the soft coal miner to have a voice in deciding when he shall quit work. This power of decision should be his alone. He is the man whose earnings must support his family and educate his children. He, therefore, is the man who must not shirk the responsibility of preventing so disastrous an occurrence as a strike at the very time when better time is meaning better pay and a brighter prospect both for himself and for those dependent upon him.

Forewarned is forearmed.

Senator Hanna's assertion that the vice-presidential nomination is open to the ablest competition, that the convention is to decide and may the best man win, undoes a lot of Mugwump abuse of Hanna founded on the hallucination that he had made a slate. The standing difficulty with Mugwump conclusions is that they too often rest upon false conceptions of fact.

The mayor's approval of the joint resolution withdrawing exceptions to the opening of Wyoming avenue clears the way for a public improvement which will add largely to the laurels of Hon. John E. Roche.

Where Ignorance Is Bliss.

THE PHILADELPHIA Press replies to The Tribune's inquiry concerning the $300,000 anti-Quay war fund alleged by the Philadelphia Record to have been collected by the insurgent organization for use in the legislative districts this year by saying that "no such fund or any considerable part of it, or any part whatever, either considerable or inconsiderable, so far as we know, has been collected for an anti-Quay war fund."

We accept the Press' statement, "so far as it knows." Perhaps it does not care to know too much. We recollect that when, in the senatorial fight of 1897, Mr. Van Valkenberg, still eminent among Mr. Wanamaker's coterie of political reformers, was gladdening the hearts of the boys in the districts which he visited (and we especially remember the excursion which he made to Scranton during that interesting campaign) there were those in connection with that anti-Quay movement who took care not to know too much.

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

In the matter of epidemics it is necessary to remember that one careless parent, by permitting infected children to roam the streets, can undo the good work of a dozen health officers.

Tropical Free Trade.

IF WE MAY believe the American Agriculturist, one of the more representative of the weekly publications devoted to the interests of the farm, the various agricultural and producing interests of the country are greatly disturbed over the president's recommendation of free trade with Puerto Rico and a reduction in duties on all products and manufactures from Cuba. It cites particularly the protest of the American Beet Sugar Manufacturers' association adopted last month at Omaha, which, after explaining the large possibilities of the beet sugar industry in this country, asserted that "the importation of cane sugar from tropical islands, under principles of reciprocity, or free sugar or under greatly reduced duties awarded because they are insular dependencies of the United States, would bring into competition a product raised by coolie and debased labor that would be ruinous to the American farmer and to the production of the sugar in the United States," and resolved that the present tariff duties must not be disturbed.

It also points out that at the Omaha convention representatives were present from the sugar cane plantations of the south and from the tobacco growers of the New England, Middle and Southern states, and these, in conjunction with the beet sugar men, took steps preliminary to the establishment of a League of Domestic Producers, the purpose of which, as officially set forth, is to "provide a medium through which the various interests in the production, manufacture and sale of domestic sugar, cigar leaf, tobacco, cigars, fruits, vegetables, cotton, rice, etc., produced within the United States may co-operate for their mutual benefit. The immediate object sought by the League of Domestic Producers is to prevent any unjust legislation by congress against the interests of domestic producers or laborers for the benefit of these industries in the tropics, and to prevent further favors to refiners in this country of imported raw sugars. In brief, our purpose is to put into the pockets of the farmers, capitalists and laborers for these United States the $100,000,000 now exported annually to pay for imported sugar, to promote the continued prosperity and successful development in these United States of cigar leaf tobacco culture, cigar manufacture, the culture of semi-tropical and other fruits, and of vegetables for the early markets, rice culture, etc., thus maintaining profitable home industries for vast numbers of our people and taxpayers, and for many millions of capital." To this end the league demands:

1. That the United States senate defeat the pending treaties of reciprocity with the British West Indies, whereby sugar and other products from those islands are to be admitted into the United States at a reduction in tariff rates.

2. We oppose the recommendation that Cuban sugar, tobacco, cigars, etc., be admitted at a like reduction in duty. We also oppose the recommendation that Puerto Rican products be admitted to this market duty free.

3. We regard the proposed reduction in duties on sugar, wool and hides imported from Argentina as destined to seriously injure domestic agriculture.

4. That all sugar, tobacco, cigars and other products which compete with the products of our American farmers and manufacturers, continue to pay the full rate of duties irrespective of whether such sugar and other produce comes from Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines or other parts of the world.

5. That thus the labor and capital invested in our domestic agricultural and allied manufacturing industries may have a fair chance against the coolie labor and monopolies of the tropics.

6. Agriculture and labor have borne the brunt of protection for these many years, have earned the right to be themselves equally well treated now that they have to face a crisis, and nothing less will satisfy them.

In consequence of this pressure, which has already made itself felt at Washington, the endeavor is being made by leaders in the administration to find constitutional warrant for setting up, first ,with respect to Puerto Rico and later for the Philippines, a tariff system different from that in operation throughout the republic, proper ;the purpose being, if such warrant can be found, to provide insular duties preferential toward the products of the United States, but only in part reciprocated—a kind of jug-handled arrangment, with the new possessions more likely to lose than to gain. Instead of taking a bold position in affirmation of the justice of the president's recommendation and hewing strictly to the line of our largest welfare, we are surprised to learn that some of the ablest Republicans at the national capital are wobbling and talking of compromises. It is a poor beginning in the new trusteeship.

The extension of the American tariff system to Puerto Rico by removing present tariff barriers is absolutely necessary to the commercial life of that island. We have eminent authority for this statement. The governor general of Puerto Rico, General Davis, has testified to this effect before the committees of congress in charge of insular affairs, and on Saturday he personally assured the president that if the United States did not extend to Puerto Rico a market at least equal to that taken from her when Spanish sovereignty was extinguished, absolute destitution would overtake a large majority of her inhabitants and the island would be ruined. The same testimony comes from the special commission recently sent by the president to study the question of a government for the island. Freedom of trade between the dependency and the mother country is a boon which will benefit both alike. The intelligent labor of the United States will not need to fear the so-called coolie labor of Puerto Rico; but on the contrary prosperous business conditions on the island will tend to raise the level of insular wages, creating a new demand for articles of household necessity and comfort which can be manufactured with profit in the United States. This is the uniform experience in the extension of our boundaries over new territory. It is not free trade in the doctrinaire sense; but free trade within American limits, a wholly different thing. The aim of American sovereignty should be to build up prosperous business conditions in the new territory. This will reflect itself in a larger prosperity at home. The body cannot hope to prosper at the expense of the limbs; but the prosperity of every part adds to the prosperity of the whole.

It is important to begin aright in this matter; to take the larger view; to work for the ultimate welfare. The perpetuation of artificial barriers between mainland and dependencies would be most unwise and most unfortunate.

Hard as England's contract is in South Africa, it does not yet include parliamentary collusion with the Boers; and in this respect England fares better than the United States does with respect to the Philippines.

The Fight for Good Roads.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the State Road commission, which organized last week under the presidency of Hilbert B. Worrell, of Philadelphia, the chairman also of the state highway committee of the League of American Wheelmen, will frame for presentation to the next legislature a comprehensive bill for highway improvement, the main features of which will be the discontinuance of the working-out tax system, the election of more than one supervisor in each township, the collection of road tax in cash and a liberal appropriation from the state which shall define the requirements of road construction and exercise a sufficient supervision to secure uniformity.

Of the 80,000 miles of roads in Pennsylvania exclusive of turnpikes, not more than 200 miles, according to Mr. Worrell, are macadamized. He does not exaggerate in pronouncing the present road system abominable. Whether enough money is raised in the various townships to pay for excellent roads, as he asserts, or not, it is undeniable that in a large majority of cases the money now raised is either wasted or expended to little purpose. It would be very desirable to have the required improvements brought about without extra cost to the individual taxpayer; and if the present commission can effect this result it will more than justify its appointment.

But in any event the time has come when the question of cost, within reasonable limits, must not be the only question to be considered in this connection. The economy and necessity of highway development are sufficiently recognized to warrant progressive steps even though to take them may involve some increase in taxation. Legislature after legislature has fought shy of the main point in road construction, which is the building of the roads. The people will expect the next legislature to get down to real business in this matter.

The insurgents explain the Stalwart victory in the Philadelphia primaries by asserting that they didn't try. Insurgents who don't try need not expect to win. They tried all right. But the people had taken their measure.

The opportunity confronting Lord Kitchener in South Africa is one to make or mar a brilliant reputation. It is an opportunity such as does not come twice to one man.

Critics of Senator Beveridge's speech declare that the senator is a conceited young man. Of course this demolishes what he said.

BAYAMBONG OR BOAMBANG.

I've studied Greek and Latin, in Sanskrit simply shine,
And Hebrew, Turkish, Sudanese, are strictly in my line.
Egyptian is my favorite tongue, I think my thoughts in Greek,
In Welsh and Gaelic poetry I recreation seek.
A link howe'er is missing in my linguistic brain,
The Filipino language I really can't attain.
The latest information of Aguinaldo's gang,
States they are not at Bayambong, but are at Boambang.

Geography's a pleasant sport, a map should never vex;
I always draw some extra lines to make it more complex.
I know each river, lake and pond, the counties of each state.
The strata of each mountain, and all right up to date.
I know the foreign countries and all that they afford;
Can tell the population of the smallest city's ward.
But I'm floored by Aguinaldo, though I say it with a pang.
Is he perhaps at Bayambong, or is it Boambang?

—Frank Gaylord, in New York Sun.

In Woman's Realm

THE AVERAGE woman doesn't believe she is selfish. She does not mean to be. In fact a woman's life is chiefly one of self denial if she is the sort you like to know. She must sacrifice the last word, she must deny herself the satisfaction of saying disagreeable things—for sometimes that is a great satisfaction. She must give up the luxury of quiet hours with books or work, because family or other duties demand it. She must often smile when she would rather weep and she must rather generally do the apologizing when somebody else is in the wrong, but she does not need to make a close monopoly of all the new books in the public library. In this matter the Scranton women as a class show an appalling degree of selfishness.

* * * *

MR. CARR is one of the most capable librarians in the country. He now occupies an enviable position in the estimation of his profession all over the United States. His direction of the Albright Memorial library has been pursued on the most liberal of advanced ideas. There are few public libraries whose patrons receive so much consideration or where they have so many privileges. That they take advantage of these to an unreasonable degree is scarcely creditable to themselves.

One of the regulations is that if the desired book happens to be out a patron may leave his library card and by the payment of one cent is notified of its return and that he can call and get it. If somebody else wants the same book and has left a card prior to his, the chances are that he will wait two weeks at least before securing it. If it happens to be one of the new and popular novels there are probably from ten to thirty cards ahead of his and by reckoning two weeks apiece for these, the literature he desires to peruse will probably meet all requirements recommended by Emerson when he gave the advice: "Never read a book until it is a year old."

* * * *

BUT THIS is not all. Another regulation allows a person to renew a book for a second period of two weeks by leaving the card and having the matter arranged. So by the time the uninitiated patron manages to secure a glimpse of a popular novel it is likely to be after it has been withdrawn from circulation for re-binding although two, and sometimes four, copies of much sought works are contained in the library.

Here is where the selfishness of women is evident. They are nice women, probably some of your friends, perhaps even closer than that. They read the book notices and manage to constantly have a card in the library belonging to some other member of their family. Whenever a new book is received they get it. When the two weeks' limit has expired they have a renewal for the benefit of friends or some relative. Then frequently another in the house secures it on a card and consequently a close monopoly is maintained.

How many except those who have thus abused the privileges permitted,have read "The Market Place?" How long was it before they were enabled to secure "David Harum?" How many have read "Richard Carvel" from the library, or "Janice Meredith?" Although as to the last named no one need be agitated if the felicity of obtaining it continues to be denied. A more absurd, exasperating, utterly fool girl than the same Janice would be difficult to imagine. She becomes engaged to every man she meets and is really a most tiresome young person who gave ample justification for being regarded with suspicion. The value of that book is largely in its cover.

How many expect to grasp "The Pride of Jennico," or get an opportunity to read that beautiful book of the year, "When Knighthood Was in Flower?"

* * * *

IT IS OUR WOMEN who play such sharp practice and we are not surrounded by a remarkably glittering halo during the operation. If we are so fortunate as to get a recent book from the library do let's keep it but a reasonable length of time and not attempt to control the entire output of popular fiction. It is horrid to be so grasping.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The salary of the mayor of Munich has been raised from $4,000 to $5,000 a year.

The largest filtration plant in the country is at Albany, N. Y., which purifies 15,000,000 gallons of Hudson river water daily.

The three chief characteristics of Pekin, the Chinese capital, which most impress the newly-arrived visitor, are dust, stench and dogs.

In all Ceylon there are only 6,000 Europeans, as against 3,250,000 natives. The island is almost as large as Ireland, and tea-planting is the chief industry.

The director of the Royal Vesuvian observatory announces that Mt. Vesuvius is now perfectly quiet, and that the eruptive period of 1895-99 is definitely closed.

The London county council has resolved to purchase an estate near Horley, with the purpose of establishing a reformatory for men and erecting buildings thereon.

A medical paper directs attention to the curious fact that scarlet fever has never been observed in an epidemic form in the tropical or subtropical regions of Asia or Africa.

The first constitutional convention in Ohio contained as delegates five who afterward were elected governor of the state and four who became United States senators.

In German cities merchants are not allowed to put up "selling out" signs unless they are honest. In Mayence a fine of 500 marks is inflicted for every transgression of this law.

Girls working in the match factories of England become permeated with the chemicals and minerals used. The sulphur sometimes eats their jaws in the most painful and disgusting way. Their wages average $1.50 a week.

Carter H. Harrison, mayor of Chicago, figures that by the time the twenty-first century rolls around that city will have a population of 2,018,000,000. This means an increase at the rate of a little over twenty millions every year.

"Within the next five years Missouri will startle the world," prophesies State Geologist Gallagher, in a recent interview, "with the great amount of lead, zinc, copper, nickel, cobalt and coal mined in the state. Missouri is rich in these minerals, the richest of any state in the country."

Vermont in maple sugar stands first in the Union, making nearly 2,000,000 pounds annually. More butter per cow is made in Vermont than in any other state—more pounds of wool per sheep are clipped than in any other state and more bushels of potatoes are raised per acre than in any other state.

An American company has been awarded the contract for the supply of all the trolley, feed and span wires for the equipment of the lines of the Havana Railway company. The concession to convert the principal existing horse and steam tramways in Havana into electrically equipped roads has also been granted.

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Our Embroidery Opening and Muslin Underwear Sale.....

Which has held the attention of the buying public during the greater part of last week will be continued

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Of this week. No better opportunity will present itself this season for laying in a supply of High Class Underclothing at low cost, or to select from a stock of Unquestionable Merit the choicest and daintiest of Trimmings and Embroideries for what garments you prefer having made at home. New line of

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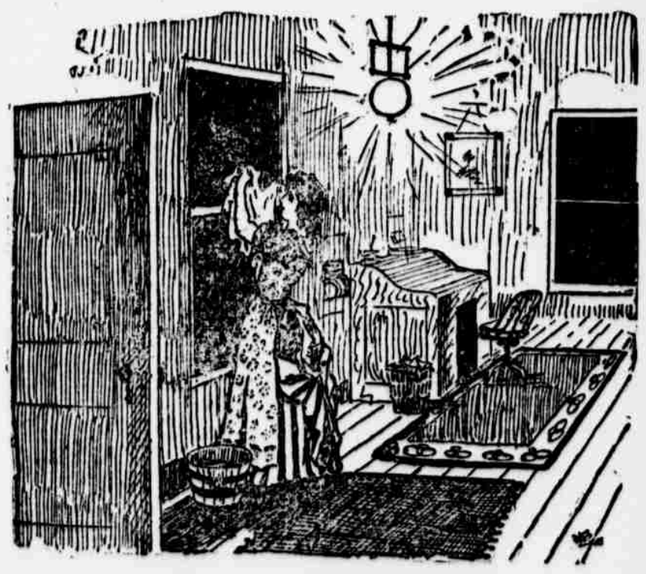

My complaints were bad taste in mouth, dizziness, foul breath and headache, but after taking Ripans Tabules according to directions, I am perfectly well. I am 37 years old.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents. RIPANS TABULES may also be had of grocers, general storekeepers, news agents and at liquor stores and barber shops.