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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 shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 26, 1900.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. SCHOOL DIRECTORS C. C. Ferber, E. D. Fellows.

The citizen who wishes to take th measure of the present mayor of Scranton should not fail to read his latest message, setting forth his honor's compliments, grievances, hallucinations

The End of Polygamy.

HE OVERWHELMING vote by which Brigham Roberts was eveluded from congress is a fair reflex of the American people's wish and will. It sounds the death knell of polygamy and of the attempt to carry Mermonism into national politics. The Mormon influence may survive for a time in Utah; but polygamy as a political stock in trade on any large scale has been vetoed effectually.

It is significant that congress did not stop to give much heed to the constitutional questions of method in getting rid of Roberts. The legal arguments in favor of first seating and then expelling were strong; it is possible that after the excitement of the moment shall have cooled their strength will be recognized more generally. But the audacity of Roberts' presumption maddened public opinion; fine points in constitutional interpretation were simply swept away.

This incident teaches plainly that the house of representatives at Washington is quickly responsive to the public's asserted will.

Filipino representatives in this country find that Mr. Bryan's halo becomes rather indistinct when viewed at short

The Case of Puerto Rico.

HE POPULATION of Puerto Rico is about 1,000,000. Under Spanish rule the island exported coffee, sugar and tobacco to the value of \$10,000,000 annually, or about \$10 per capita. It has been nearly two years since Spanish rule ended and in the interval Puerto Rico has had no export market. To make matters worse, the hurricane of last year almost destroyed art entire year's crops and left thousands of inhabit. ants homeless, destitute and without means of gaining a livelihood. The result is that the island today is on the verge of ruin. The following picture of conditions is drawn by the delegation now in Washington representing the Lucrto Rico chamber of

"Merchants have been compelled to limit their operations; banks have suspended making advances; agricultural properties are heavily mortgaged; and in many ways work has been suspended; laborers are out of employment; whole families are in misery, and hunger threatens everywhere; the poor farm laborers being in such state of destitution as they have never been before in the history of the island. The United States government, with a zeal and interest worthy of all praise, is sending rations and supplies to relieve the poor; but this is insufficient, a more sheroic remedy occomes imperative, and this can only be found in justly applying, and with all urgency, free trade with the United States, thus giving the country the benefits of the interchange of commerce with the North American republic, of which Puerto Rico is an integral part. This reform, which we are glad to see that the administration favors and considers just and necessary, and which should be granted as a constitutional right, cannot and must not be delayed. unless the United States wish to shoulder the responsibility of the serious, grave and disastrous consequences which shall arise therefrom." Legislation in remedy of this deplor-

able situation is now pending in congress but is opposed by special interests in a spirit of selfishness and largely unfounded alarm. It remains to be demonstrated whether congress will have the courage to do promptly its manifest duty.

Kentucky expects, in a few months, to decide whether prayers or bullets are most effective in preserving order,

The Religious Froblem in the Philippines. CCORDING to William E.

Curtis, a thorough understanding exists between the government and Archbishop Chapelle concerning the affairs of the Catholic church in the Philippines. The archbishop's mission as the representative of the pope is to reorganize the church in the Philippines upon the same basis that exists in the United States. "There is," says Mr. Curtis, "no intention on the part of our government to confiscate or occupy with. out fair remuneration any property belonging to the church, but the estates and other property belonging to the religious orders, or whose title is in like any other property. The only exception will be such property as is actually used for worship or for educational purposes. There will be no objection to the friars remaining in the Philippines provided they do not interfere with political and civil affairs, and confine their activity exclusively to ecclesiastical matters. The schools will be secularized, although there will be no objection to the establishment of worthy of its opportunity if it makes the

the people prefer to maintain them. No public money will be given to the support of any sectarian institutions, either educational or benevolent, and the priests will not be allowed any other privileges or immunities then they enjoy in this country."

To this policy Archbishop Chapelle

has given his assent and the purpose

of his journey to Manila is to aid in its execution. It appears from the reports that the opposition of a large majority of the Filipinos to the friars is so intense that there is a furious clamor for their immediate expulsion. Were it not for the restraining force of American authority, it is probable that mob violence would be directed not only against the friars, but also against other representatives of the Catholic church in the archipelago. But General Otis has instructions to treat this whole problem strictly in the American way. There will be no religious intolerance; no wholesale proscription of any denomination, sect or class. Every legitimate right of the church will be protected, but no special privileges or exemptions will be illowed. If any individual among the friars or among any of the brothergoods disobeys the law he will be subject to arrest and trial upor a footing with all other malefactors; prejudices either for or against him because of past conditions will be scrupulously ignored. The church and the state in the Philippines have dissolved partner ship but no feud is to be cultivated between them; each in its own way will strive as best it may for the uplifting of the people,

Captain Leary has fixed up a tariff for Guam without taking the trouble to consult the government at Wash. ington. Leary's enterprise is of a nature that is liable to cause a collapse in red tape.

Independence, Real and Alleged.

NCE MORE have the hopes of the Mugwumps been dashed, Governor Roosevelt has carried his point in the contest over the nomination of a successor to Superintendent of Insurance Louis F. Payn; that is to say, he has forced the Republican organization in New York state, or, as the Mugwumps would say, the "Tlatt machine," to recognize the propriety of respecting his constitutional prerogative; and he has at the same time averted an open factional war between himself and Senator Platt.

Amongst a certain element in New York, the fact that Roosevelt goes right on having his way as governor and executing in good faith the policies to which he is pledged without kicking up a row which would weaken for years to came the party which elected him and repeat the old factional feuds that landed Grover Cleveland in the presidential chair gives great offence. Dr. Parkhurst, who by his outxotte crusade on "Plattism" when Roosevelt was a candidate did what he could to embarrass Roosevelt's election, revealed on Wednesday the paramount desire of these independent reformers with uncorscious impertinence: "12 you distinctly, uncompromisingly and Mrs. E. Seigle, Mc. and Mrs. Andrew T. C. Platt, the state will stand by 'Choose ye this day whom ye

will serve." Yet, says the New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, 'Governor Roosevelt has been able to conduct the government of the state with conspicuous success even by pursuing his policy of consulting with Platt and the other party leaders. His appointments have been excellent, his administration honest and carable, and much reform legislation has been passed or advanced. He seems to have been absolutely consistent in regard to Payn. From the first be has said that Payn could not remain as superintendent of insurance, and he has never departed from the straight line of that determination. Payn has attacked him and has pleaded for harmony, but Roosevelt has said that Payn must go, and Payn goes. The governor wins the most notable victory of his administration."

It is fortunate for the Republican party, for the people and for himself genuinely independent in the sense that he will not sacrifice principle to expediency, has a sufficient acquaintance with the genus crank to recognize the idiocy of trying to get along in politics without an organization. He gatherings. The familiar chorus is not to be led into a personal spite movement. He stands as governor for certain clearly defined principles of government which, in order to be put into practice, must have the support of a majority of the legislators. If Platt can help him to command that majority it is his duty to keep on good terms with Platt so long as he can do so with self respect. He is governor and he marks out the lines of his own administration; if there shall ever be quarrel it will have to be begun by some one cise.

There are two kinds of independence, one kind is rational; the other is a slave to its own prejudices. The latter kind is evidently not Roosevelt's kind.

A Factoryville subscriber asks why the United States paid Spain \$20,000. 000 for the Philippines. The explanation given by Judge Day, who was the chairman of the peace commission, is that it was found necessary by the commission, in order to avert European complications, to take over the Philippines, and the \$20,000,000 was paid in order to perfect our title an i also as an act of generosity to Spain. The precedent followed was that which the United States established in setthe name of the bishop, will be taxed tling with Mexico after the Mexican

THE PROPER TICKET.

From the Scranton Truth

Pennsylvania would be honored in the nomination of Postmaster General Smith to the vice presidency, and the Republican National convention, which meets is Philadelphia next summer, will prove Catholic schools provided the church or | ticket McKinley and Smith.

SCOTIA'S SONS' ANNUAL SPREAD

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF ROBERT BURNS.

Scranton Caledonian Club Banqueted in Guernsey Hall-Feast Was Followed by a Period of Speechmaking and a Dance. Thomas Russell, W. Scott Collins, Mayor Moir and Rev. George E. Guild, D. D., Responded to the

Over a hundred persons-Scotsmen and their families-last night participated in the annual banquet of the Scranton Caledonian club. The occasion was in honor of the one hundred and forty-first anniversary of the birth of Scotia's bard, Robert Burns. It was celebrated in Guernsey's hall, on Was 1-

ington avenue. Following the banquet proper there were two hours and more of speechmaking and song, the evening concluding with a dance of eighteen numbers. The affair was arranged by the following committee: Chief James E. Drummond: Second Chieftain James Turnbuil, Third Chieftain John K. Lambie, ex-Chieftain James Beattle

and Clansman Wallace Moir. The banquet was served by Catere Ira Mitchell in the basement dining hall, the members and their guests marching there from the auditorium where had occurred an informal reception from 8 to 8.30 o'clock. Chief James E. Drummond opened

the banquet quite informally and Rev. George E. Guild invoked the divine blessing. Following was the menu: MENU

Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce ork Bolled Ham Lettuce Mashed Potators Potato Salad Cabbage Chow Chow Red Beets Pickles

Rolis Assorted Cakes Oranges Bananas Apples Brick Ice Cream Grapes

Among those present were: Walter Morton, John Biggar, jr., and Alex. Gillespie, of Aveca; John H Alexander Campbell, Elsia Powell, Ruby E. Yost, C. H. Weber, Thomas Allison, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Wilson, Frank Barton, Kate Jeffrey Maggie Murray, Mr. and Mrs. James Beattle, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Lambie, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay McMillan. Miss Bella Calderwood and William Donaldson, of Dunmore, Samuel Mor-row, of Moesic; Mrs. James Calderwood, and William Wiggins, of Avoca; County Commissioner John Penmar

and Miss Jennie Penman, of Olyphant Thomas Ruddy, of Hawley. THE CITY GUESTS.

Mayor Moir, Mrs. Moir, Mr. and Mrs. David S. John, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Luke, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Walker Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gammell, Mr. and Mrs. James Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. George Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Smith. Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott Collins, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, Mr and Mrs. D. Mackie, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Alexunder Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. William when he telegraphed to the governor. Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Seigle, Mr. and Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bruce, M. and Mrs. James Hadden, Mrs. Alex. Hadden, Mrs. W. Marchel, Mrs. I. Jeffrey, Mrs. D. V. Wint, Mrs. James Harvie, Mrs. M. J. Heran, Mrs. E.

Hineline Misses Moir. Margaret Stevenson Laura Rafter, Bessie Shepherd, Louisa Hamm. Jessie McIntyre, Margaret Glencross, Katherine Bush, Harrison L. Williams, Mary Martin.

Rev. George E. Guild, D. D., Thomas Henderson. William Campbell, Hugh Jeffrey, J. Carter, John Jeffrey, O. J. Henopp, John Luten. A. S. Thompson, Linney, Patrick Hannick, J. E. Lewis, James Green, Robert Davidson Hector Campbell, Bradford Samson, John Borthwick, M. J. Walsh, Anthony Gillespie, P. J. Dougherty, John White. Joseph Baker, R. L. McCrea, J. T. Williams, William Lyall, Alexander

The stage of the auditorium was filled the air with threats, and Platt draped with the United States colors, a large Scottish flag and an equally large one showing St. Andrew's cross. Seated with Chief Drummond, who presided, were Mayor Moir. Rev. Dr. Guild, Thomas Russell and William S. Collins. After a piano overture, played by Professor C. F. Saft, Chief Drummond spoke very briefly, his rethat Governor Roosevelt, although marks being a simple but hearty welcome to those present.

> THE FAMILIAR CHORUS. "There Was a Lad Was Born in Kyle," was sung in concert, as it always is at these annual Caledonian

> > Robin was a rovin' boy, Rantin', rovin', rantin', rovin'— Robin was a rovin' boy, Rantin', rovin', Robin.

as usual served to set the gathering into its proper Scottish fervor and en

The chief toast of the evening, "Memory of Burns," was first on the programme. It was delivered by Thomas Russell, a popular speaker among local Scotsmen. He gaid:

THOMAS RUSSELL'S SPEECH. We meet tonight in what might be called a double capacity. Pirst, we meet as a company of Scotch folks, far sway from our native land, but with a love for that land which no distance can dimmish or time efface. We gather to-gether somewhat suddened by the large number of our gallant fellow-country men, who have recently died on the field of battle, nobly fighting for their country's honor-a sadness, however, which is somewhat modified by the knowledge we possess that there are no braver soldiers on this earth than the Scottish Highlander. It may be that there have been mistakes in connection with this

"Their's not to reason why: Their's but to do or die

when their generals led them or There cannot, I think, be the shadow of doubt on which side the one whom we onight meet to honor, would have been on-he who wrote "A man's a man for a that" and "Scots who hae wi' Wallac bled" would have burst forth into the greatest indignation against the base ingratitude, inequality and tyranny which the Boers have been practising against the people they invited to come and develop their country. And in this large gathering of Scottish people tonight, without any diminishment of our patriotism for this, our adopted country, or with any less respect for our worthy president, we exclaim with all our heart,

God save the Queen."
But second, and principally, we mee o commemorate the one hundred forty-first anniversary of the birth of one who has not only a national, but an in-ternational reputation as a poet—a poet

who is everywhere admired for his patriotic ardor, his intense love of his bonnie
Scotland, his perpetuating of the Scottish
dialect, his hatred of all that savored of
sham and hypocrisy, and his spiendid advocacy of the cause of Brotherly Love,
Equality and Fraternity. Yes, great
cause have Scotchmen tonight to be joyous because of the fact that Hi years
ago there was born in a lowly thatched
cottage near Alloway Kirk and the Brig
o' Doon, the man whose anniversary is
more generally celebrated, and who has
more monuments erected to his memory more monuments erected to his memor than any man who ever lived-the im-mortal Robert Burns!

A WONDERFUL PERSONALITY.

No words of mine can properly portray this wonderful character. What a personality was his and what a story! How exhaustingly fascinating it is! I do not know anything so intensely interesting in history, except it be the life story of the great Abraham Lincoln. Plowboy, farmer, flax dresser, exciseman, then suddenly the poet of a nation, then the admiranation, then immortal! As a study of human nature the story of the life of Robert Burns is intersting from start to finish. His lowly birth, his rustic boy-hood, his extraordinary dilligence in educating himself when a mere boy-and which contributed more to his success as a poet than any other thing; his "eternai propensity," as he himself calls it, to fall in love with every pretty woman he met, his prayers and his revels, his piety and implety, his intense patriotism, his love of nature and all the dumb animals-even the tiny mouse, "Wee, sleekit, tim'rous, cow'ring beastle," claiming his tim rous, cow ring beastle," claiming his affection; his poverty, his failures at farming and other occupations, his tri-umphant success in the highest realms of poetry and his tragic death at the early age of 37, all go to make up a story which is thrilling in its interest, crowded with warnings and with encouragements.

A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER. it is difficult to know which of his poems to admire most, the serious or the humorous. The world cherishes his memory in loving remembrance for both, but I presume more for the serious than the humorous. His "Collar's Saturday Night," so vividly descriptive of the poor farmer's Scottish home, and so full of admiration for all that is good and noble, shows to the world that the heart of Rob-ert Burns was rightly fixed; even though his passions often led him to wander far from his exalted ideals. What a beau-tiful prayer for his country he puts up in this poem when he says:

O Scotia! my dear, my native soil! For whom my warmest wish to heaven is sent:

Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content! And, Oh. may heaven their simple lives From luxury's contagion, weak and

vile; Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent, virtuous populace may rise the while, And stand, a wall of fire, around their much-lov'd isle."

ocetry than his address "To Mary in

And then what more exquisite in all

That lov'st to greet the early morn, Again thou usher'st in the day My Mary from my soul was torn. O Mary! dear, departed shade, Where is thy place of blissful rest? Seest thou thy lover lowly laid? Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?'

We do not hear much about his poem called "The Vision," but Andrew Carnegie, in a recent address, names it as the best of all Burns' poems. Read it again and mark its beautiful language. But now, having thus dealt with his somewhat serious poems, how can I describe his humorous ones? Did ever man have such fun out of life as he had, notwithstanding all his troubles? ply had to sing. He was as full of song and could sing as easily as the lark. was his relief at all times to burst into song. As he himself says:

My chief, amaist my only pleasure At hame, a fiel' at wark, at leisure, The Muse, poor hizzle! Tho' rough an' raploch be her measure,

A GOOD DAY'S WORK. Can't I make your eyes sparkle with pleasure as I remind you of the unapproachable and inimitable tale of "Tam O'Shanter" and his gray mare Mcg-written in a single day and which some ne has called the best single day's work done in Scotland since Bruce fought Bannockburn, Or his "Twa Dogs" or "Hallowe'en" or "Holy Willie's Prayer." And when you hear his songs sung as you are hearing some tonight; when you hear his "Nannie's Awa," his "Banks and Braes O Bonnie Doon." his "Auld Lang Syne," his "Scots wha hae wi Wallace Bled," his "What can a young lassle dae wi an auld man," his "A man's a man for a' that," his "There was a lad was born in Kyle," his "Ha! Ha! the wooin O't," his "Flow gently, sweet Afton; when you hear these sung, what are the feelings that take possession of your hearts? Are they not feelings of longing for a sight o' bonnle Scotland again, as well as feelings of great gratitude to the man whose songs are capable of creating such feelings?

all lament his somewhat untimely We wish he had been spared death. longer to give us more of his apparently endless stream of melodious song. We have the idea that had he lived longer. had old age with its tempering influences been granted him, he would have enriched the world still more with his soulstirring poems, and exemplified in his own life the noble virtues and characteristics of his Saturday Night Cottar. But this was not to be, and we do not repine. I say nothing tonight of the fallings of Robert Burns as a man. A careful re-perusal of his life compels me say that as there are always more lite sheep than black, so the good in his life greatly exceeds the evil.

IN MEMORY ETERNAL.

Pitcous end was his, in as far as a life like his has an end! A flower drooping from. while it blooms! A sun setting in mid-day! A leaf falling in mid-summer! But Scotchmen will cease to live on this earth, the hills and mountains will be obliterated, the rivers and seas will be dried up before we forget the magnificent work he performed for his country and for the world. Judge him kindly! G'er his errors throw the mantle of complete forget fulness. Let his work of hallowing Scotland and the Scottish tongue be fondly remembered. Let his great hu-man-heartedness, his helpfulness to the poor, his cheeriness in times of black despair, his tenderness to the dumb animals, his love and care for weans and wife, his love of honesty and his rever-ence for his Maker be daily practised by us, his ardent admirers. And let his songs be sung, let his poems be read songs be sung, let his poems be read and his praises resound till tongue of man be forever silent

'Around the globe his winged words Borne on the summer breeze, or wintry And tho cold hand,

tones still echo round the As some bright star, upon the brow of Undimmed by years, still sheds a lovely

Remain untarnished by the touch of W. Scott Collins responded to the

"Scotland, the Land of Our Birth." His address included a generous flow of humorous story and anexdote and kept his hearers in good hum

"America, the Land of Our Adoption," was the toast to which Mayor Moir re-

principles of freedom which have prevalled and do prevail in this country." he said. "The same characteristic in Scotch people generally accounts, in a measure, for the presence here of so many of that blood. Every true Scotsman," he held, "makes a true Ameri-

In responding to the toast 'The Scot tish Pulpit," Rev. George E. Guild, D. D., said it was an intelligent and educated pulpit, and it was streetly sempthodox. It was also nearly saways ray erentially witty.

Among the music numbers were a

violin solo by George Walkinshaw; vocal solo, "Who's at My Window," by Mrs. Josephine C. Walsh; vocal solo, Scots Wha' Hae'," by ex-Chieftain Lindsay MacMillan; vocal solo, "Mary of Argyl," by Mrs. Thomas Luke; vocal tolo, "Star Spangled Banner," ex-Chief ain Lindsay MacMidan: selection, by Prof. Walkinshaw's orchestra; vocal solo, "The Bells of Seville," by Miss Ruby Yost; vocal so'o, "Fiona, by David John; vocal solo, "Mary," by Mrs. Josephine C. Walsh; Jaale, "Aud MERCEREAU & CONNELL ong Syne," by the company.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Africa has nearly 700 languages. About 400,000 tourists visited Switzerland luring the past summer, and their expenditures are estimated at 120,000,000 francs A bicycle geared to 240 will be sent to the Paris Exposition. The front sprocket contains 50 teeth and the rear sprocket 17 teeth.

There is a rosary in the British Museum made of the vertebrae of a snake's backbone. Another is composed of rat's teeth.

Prussic acid and essence and oil of almonds are made from the peach and rune pits and these flavors are used in many ways. By the recent improvement in the Ca-

nadian canals a vessel 270 feet long, drawing 14 feet and carrying 2,500 tons, can pass from Lake Erie to the sca without breaking cargo.
It is not generally known that there is still living in Europe a large herd of European bison-larger, probably, than

the herd of American bison which roams

Yellowstone Park. These rare animals are preserved by the Czar of Russia in the imperial forest of Biolovege, in Lathiania, and number comething like 700. Twenty-three miles of aluminium cable will be used to transmit 2,000 horse-power at a pressure of 10,000 volts from Tariff-ville to Hartford, Conn. The cable is three-fourths of an inch in diameter and consists of seven strands, each made of seven wires. At the present price of cop-per the saving to be made by using alu-

minium will amount to \$3,500. In Bokhara, where the finest and most costly camel's hair shawls are made, he camels are watched while the fine hair on the under part of their bodies is a hair is lost, and it is stored until enough has been accumulated to spin. The yara made from the hair is of surpassing soft ness, and is dyed all sorts of lovely col

A writer in Forest and Stream asserts that the criminal tendency is manifested to a greater or less extent by all the lower animals, and he has compiled a list of eighteen crimes, which are commonly committed by birds, beasts or reptiles. The indictment is cludes murder, parri-cide, fratricide, suicide, theft, kidnapping, lighway robbery, polygamy and drunkenness.

It is calculated that the 70,000 American tourists in Europe last summer spen about \$1,500 apiece, or a total of \$100,000,000 braska's 300,000,000-bushel crop of corn at to cents a turbel. In other words, this country contributes to Europe every year -and chiefly to Great Britainenough to pay the charge of the British national debt or the cost of the British rmy.

One of the hig railroads running out Chicago has changed the arrangement of its cars on its passenger trains. The sleepers and parlor cars are next the enrines, the coaches next the sleepers and the baggage and express cars at the rear of the trains, the old order of make-up being reversed. It has been demor strated that the cars directly behind an engine ride easier than those farther

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A gentleman of New York City, who had found Ripans Tabules an excellent thing for dyspepsia, observed after using about fifty tabules that they were in his case a great kidney and bladder washer. "About two hours after taking one," said he, "I urinate so copiously that I at one time almost became alarmed. Once it seemed as though something thick like mucus was passing also and a slight pain or stoppage was noticed." On consulting a physician this man learned that the fact that he passed an increased amount of urine while taking the tabules was in no way detrimental, but rather beneficial, and that the momentary stoppage was caused by a collection of the mucus washed out of the bladder by the unusual flow of urine, and was a desirable thing to have brought about.

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To close out several lines on which the sizes are more or less broken-we offer them for the two days mentionedat the following prices:

At 19 Cents

in a good assortment of Fancy Colors, as well as all Black. Most of them 30 and 35c goods. At 21 Cents One lot of Ladies' Fleece

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