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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 29, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.
To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:
I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republican electors 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 congressmen-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.

By order of the Republican state committee.
Frank Foster, Chairman.
W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhes, Secretaries.

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

The mayor's confidence in the economy and fidelity of the city government might be shaken if somebody were to ask him for a bill of particulars.

Narrowed Down.
THE PROPOSITION embodied in the card of the Grocers' association, published on Saturday, which involves the tender of good offices to miners having grievances and the promise of Superintendent Loomis to meet in conference any miner or number of miners employed by his company, in the presence of local business men, if the miners so desire, presents a basis of solution for the unrest which now prevails among some of the mine workers of this valley. Should miners with real grievances hesitate to accept this offer?

The demand of the United Mine Workers of America, an organization largely controlled by soft coal influences, is that the operators shall confer with committees or representatives of their choosing. Mr. Loomis takes the position that he has no right to assume that this organization represents the employees of his company; on the contrary, he has reason to believe that it represents a very small proportion of the miners working for the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company. A parallel, therefore, does not exist between the United Mine Workers and the railway brotherhoods, which clearly do include the employees of the railroad.

What is the purpose of the United Mine Workers? Obviously to benefit the miners. Is a means to an end, the declared end being to improve the miners' condition. If the miners can attain this end by personal conference with their employers, should it matter to them whether representatives of the United Mine Workers are formally recognized as such or not? Recognition of an organization controlled by soft coal influences is not essential to the welfare of the miner of hard coal. What he wants is a chance to earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work; and judging from the past, he is not likely to broaden this chance through a strike.

It may be asked why the Grocers' association should concern itself in this matter? But surely those of whom the miners would ask credit in case of a strike are entitled to do their best to avert the necessity for a strike. If they should be represented in a conference between Mr. Loomis or any other mine superintendent and the men in his employ, they would be in a position to offer timely counsel from the standpoint of the community's business interests. Unlike the soft coal interests, which largely control the United Mine Workers, these men are actually interested in the welfare of the city of Scranton and of the Lackawanna valley, and their moral right to exhibit and to protect that interest is undeniable.

The question, then, practically narrows down to this: If the Scranton miner can secure a redress of real grievances by personally conferring with his employer, should he refuse to hold such a conference on account of the exclusion of representatives of the Indianapolis organization? Would he be warranted in making that exclusion the basis of a strike?

Persons who are surprised that Senator Platt does not break with Roosevelt do not know Platt. He can get along with men who are frank, clean and true to their word. If there were more Roosevelt-like politics would be an easy job.

The assignment of Major General Brooke to succeed Major General Merritt, who is about to retire from command of the department of the east, is a proper compliment. It gives him the best berth in the army and he deserves it for extraordinary services rendered

to the best of his ability. That General Brooke was not a Leonard Wood was the fault of destiny. All that he could do he did with his whole heart.

A test vote indicates that Candidate Goebel has five majority in the Kentucky legislature, which means that unless the people shall prevent, the elected governor, Mr. Taylor, will be ousted. Perhaps in the long run that would be best. It would afford Kentucky manhood a chance to show itself.

An American on the Boers.
IN LAST WEEK'S Outlook is an interview with John Hays Hammond upon the causes of the South African war, which presents a number of facts not generally known. Mr. Hammond, as our readers probably know, is an American who achieved fame and fortune as an engineer in the gold-mining industry in South Africa, and was one of the men sentenced to death in punishment for the Jameson raid. His version of that raid differs in many particulars from the version that most of us have read.

Mr. Hammond demolishes the commonly accepted theory that the Uitlanders, or English-speaking element in the Transvaal, forced themselves into the land of the Boers. He cites the fact that in 1853, on behalf of the South African republic, President Kruger published in the London press a cordial invitation and welcome and the promise of equal rights and protection to all who would go to the Transvaal and invest their capital or contribute in any way to the development of the country. In consequence the gold mining industry was started, swelling the revenues of the Boer republic from less than a million dollars in 1856 to more than twenty millions in 1899, but no sooner was gold discovered than the Boers began adversely to change the franchise and other laws affecting the immigrant population until, up to last July, for an Uitlander to acquire citizenship and a voter's rights he was required to show fourteen years' residence and a written petition signed by a majority of Boers in his district, the latter not binding until approved by the executive council. While thus aspiring to citizenship the Uitlander was subject to conscription and had not only to leave his work at the order of the Boer government but also to purchase his own arms when summoned to fight the native tribes.

Peaceable measures looking to reform in the administration having failed, the Uitlanders, in 1895, instituted a Reform committee, of which Mr. Hammond was a member, the purpose being secretly to import arms and cannon to use in forcing a change in political methods. Prior to that the Uitlanders had been forbidden to own arms. Mr. Hammond admits that Dr. Jameson, then administrator of the South Africa Chartered company, was to help in the Uitlander uprising, but denies that Cecil Rhodes had any other part in the movement than as one of a number of capitalists interested in mining properties who contributed funds. Dr. Jameson stopped over; his abortive invasion, made on his own initiative, against the protests of the Reform committee, alienated sympathy from the reform movement, gave Kruger the opportunity to solidify the Afrikaner element, led to the arrest of the Reform committee and to this incident, which we give in Mr. Hammond's own words:

"The arrest of the Reform committee took place in the face of promises to the contrary from the Boer government. After a few months' imprisonment our trial followed, the jury being composed exclusively of Boers. Under an agreement between the attorneys for the prisoners and the Boer government attorneys, it was agreed that a nominal fine only should be imposed on us if we pleaded guilty. We accordingly pleaded guilty, when, to our consternation, the Boer attorneys repudiated their agreement, and the death sentence was passed on four of the leaders of whom I was one. The other members of the committee were imprisoned. As the civilized world protested against carrying out the sentence, the government finally commuted it to imprisonment. Fortunately for us, the abstraction from the community of about sixty men, composing the Reform committee, was having a disastrous effect on business. In consequence a general movement was made throughout South Africa for our liberation. The Boer government did not think it wise to resist the unanimity of this movement, and finally, after nearly six months' imprisonment, released us on consideration of a payment of \$1,500,000, the four of us condemned to death being compelled to pay \$125,000 apiece. There was no question of clemency involved."

"The Boer government then appointed a commission to investigate the matter of our grievances. After a long and careful examination, the commission unequivocally acknowledged the validity of the charges made against the government, and strongly recommended that these grievances be redressed. Despite this, nothing was done. The interests of the cause controlling the government prevented the realization of the hopes of reform based on the report of the Boer commission. Things now went from bad to worse. Time and again the Uitlanders appealed to the Boer government, but without avail. Finally last spring a petition signed by 11,000 British subjects was forwarded to the British government. The result was the conference between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner, in which the latter took the ground that all questions could best be settled by a concession on the part of the South African republic of the right of franchise to the Uitlander population. The impression prevails that the conference failed on account of the difference of the number of years' residence necessary to gain a franchise. This is a mistake. The most important point was the basis of representation. Under the scheme suggested by Mr. Kruger a majority of the voters would have been entitled to less than a fifth of Volksraad representatives."

Mr. Hammond denies emphatically that a change in sovereignty was contemplated by the Uitlander element when they planned the revolution which Dr. Jameson, by his previous success, tipped in the bud. "This," he says, "would have directly violated the pledges which we gave to the people of Johannesburg. We declared that the movement was only to rid the country of a corrupt oligarchy. We repudiated any subversion of Boer sovereignty. At that time it would have been impossible to have foisted the British or any other flag upon the inhabitants of the Transvaal. The Anglo-Saxon members of the community themselves would have forcibly resisted any such attempt." What they wanted was fair play under a clean government, and they proposed to clean out the corruption existing in the government. In this purpose, until Dr. Jameson spoiled all, Mr. Hammond says that they had the sympathy of many of the more intelligent Boers. Mr. Hammond thus summarizes the case for the Uitlanders, which is in reality the case for Great Britain in the present resort to arms; and all who wish to be informed should read his statement carefully. If true, it supplies a complete justification; and its truth has not to our knowledge been challenged.

Two-thirds of the Transvaal population were Uitlanders. We went thither by express invitation; our capital and enterprise developed what in Boer hands was a worthless territory into the greatest mining center of the world; the country, now rich, was bankrupt before our coming. We owned more than half the land, having purchased it from the Boers; we paid ninety per cent of the taxes, much of which was admitted by the Boer commission to be class taxation; any yet we had to submit to unlawful expenditure of the Boer treasury, as we had no voice in the government.

We objected to the subversion of the high court of justice, in which rested our only hope of redress. In direct contravention of the franchise and the Volksraad, the Volksraad empowered the president and executive council to dispute the validity of any law passed by the Volksraad, even when such law conflicted with the Grundwet. President Kruger exacted this privilege in summarily removing Chief Justice Gubbie, who had for many years honestly and ably filled that office. Afterwards all the judges were simply the president's tools.

We objected to the arbitrary seizure of our property, which was found guilty, and a very large percentage of Uitlanders are convicted. Nor was any jury known to convict a Boer who had murdered a native. We objected to the alien's exclusion act, by which an Uitlander can be put over the border at the will of the president, without the right of appeal. This, too, is a course open to the offending burgher. This law was obviously opposed to the British-Bour convention of 1851.

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In Woman's Realm.
MISS HERTHA GALLAND fully met the expectations which had been raised by this city regarding her dramatic ability. Indeed with her changeable grace and fascinating personality she far exceeded the hopes of even her warmest admirers. She does not suffer from stage nervousness as might be expected from one so inexperienced but she confessed on Saturday that the most earnest approval of her dramatic play was felt on the previous evening when facing a Scranton audience in which were many of her childhood acquaintances. Her play, "The Bride of Jennico," was well received and she was filled with her friends and they appreciated her talent even if they did do it with apparent timidity. Scranton audiences are not in the habit of being so demonstrative. Perhaps they consider it undignified to ky-yi and clap their hands and make vociferous demands for a re-appearance of even the greatest favorite in the category. Perhaps they like to be thought fastidious, perhaps they are uncertain as to the infallibility of their own judgment. In any case they receive dramatic situations with admirable self-control. The other night the quiet studies of people who saw "The Bride of Jennico" were made more agreeable by the fact that they were so desirous of catching every word, every look, every detail of what was taking place on the stage that they hesitated to interrupt the sentences they were enjoying. However, there was far more enthusiasm displayed on that occasion than any time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

This week Miss Galland has a rest in New York while an understudy plays Flavia in "Rupert of Hentzau" with Florence Brooks and a graduate of the English tour will be taken and after the return "The Bride of Jennico" will probably be given a run in New York. The stock market is making a record, and will need to have many gory details eliminated in order to make the play equal in merit and refinement of treatment to the sensational review and rejoicing with Miss Galland's success as far as to express his sentiments mildly.

Mrs. Galland accompanies her gifted daughter on all her tours.

THE NEWS that artificial eggs are likely to take the place of the natural product is causing considerable agitation among the poultry raisers in Scranton. The Pure Food Exposition has demonstrated that such a substitute can be manufactured at a reasonable price and will every day supply the place of eggs. The problem regarding this particular article of food is no joke. The winter has thus far been remarkably mild and still the price of eggs has been ruinous, while the demand is heard that they are far from fresh and often impossible in every respect. The great proportion received in this city are what are known as cold storage eggs. The yolks will be found to be close to one side of the shell and the taste is stale and frequently rancid. So called country eggs are hard to obtain, especially high in price and not always irreproachable. It seems impossible to live without eggs in modern cookery and still they are almost unobtainable during much of the winter. Anybody who will place artificial eggs on the market which are "fresh," wholesome and generally satisfactory will confer as great a boon on his race as if he had discovered the North Pole or a new way to produce cancer in rabbits.

IT DOES SEEM strange that with so great a farming region to draw upon as surrounds this city and its suburbs we should not have a respectable egg and poultry supply. No better market can be imagined in the State than Scranton. Our people live well and purchase the best of food products, but the supply is notoriously poor and very expensive. Our wishes are not what they should be and yet there is no way of improving their condition unless the nearby producers institute a reform. Why on earth a farmer taking an grubbing and plowing the year round to raise a lot of poor hay and hundreds of bushels of potatoes which the vicissitudes of the season or of trade reduce in price until he scarcely clears his seed corn, and yet he is not content with this? Why, when he can make a business of raising fruits and making a business of raising eggs, he should not show a line profit with half the work? The farmer in Lackawanna and Wyoming counties has one of the greatest home markets in the country right at his doors, and yet he allows the city to import eggs from a distance and poultry supplies from a refrigerator car.

IT IS ESTIMATED by competent authorities that a dairy of twenty cows as figured against a poultry farm of 2,000 hens, will result in favor of the latter by a clear profit of \$150 a year. The first cost of a dairy is \$1,000. The feed for the cattle will necessitate an outlay of \$75; for the hens, \$130; milk value, \$1,200; egg value, \$300. With warm weather business and warm food, eggs will be produced all winter. These, together with the excellent prices received for early spring chickens, will realize handsomely for the proprietor.

Still the average farmer would prefer to delve and dig and grow old before his time in tilling late and early in the fields and in milking great herds of cows and running the risk of being ruined by a drought and disastrous end by some woman's stab. Men are so queer.

A NUMBER of ladies connected with a prominent clothing store are now talking of engaging in the second-hand store business. It will continue but a fortnight and will be unique in character. All sorts of contributions will be solicited, second-hand clothing, bric-a-brac, books, pictures, furniture, carpets, curtains, everything which people earth are willing to buy at low prices. Almost everybody has articles of which the family has grown tired and which although in good condition could well be sold to help to pay a store centrally located, which will be presided over by a committee. The result of the sales will be given to the charity fund.

MISS GRACE REALS, the "Michele" of "The Bride of Jennico," is a native of this region, having been born near New Milford. She is a namesake of Mrs. Frank H. Jerome, whose girlhood home she was a frequent visitor. While in this city she was the guest of Mrs. William F. Hallstead. Miss Reals works in "The Mice" and is one of the strongest parts of the play.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.
Yellowstone Park geysers are slowly playing out.
John Bull's naval pension list consists of 5,277 persons.
The average loss by fire in the United States has been reduced in ten years from \$622 to \$180. The insurance loss in the same period was reduced from \$500 to \$145.

Madrid Journal is printed on linen with a composition easily removable by water, and the subscriber, after devouring the news, washes his journal and has a handkerchief.

Alabama has a History Commission, appointed by legislative authority, the mission of which is to ascertain and report to the Governor all accessible materials, without as well within the state's borders, for a history of the state.

The occurrence of French names like Joubert among the Boers is explained by the fact that many Huguenots went to the Cape of Good Hope while it was still a Dutch colony, and there became prosperous and prominent. The descendants of many of these Huguenots may be found in the Transvaal today, and are quite as Dutch in all their ways as the other Boers.

THE PROPER TICKET.
From the Middletown Press.
We heartily coincide with the Scranton Tribune, which believes that the office of vice president of the United States has found the right man and names him, the Honorable Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia. The rank and file of Republicanism in the capitol county will endorse this nomination. This state deserves recognition for its constant loyalty. Mr. Smith represents no faction; but the grand old party. He is indeed the man for the place and McKinley and Smith would make a banner for the next campaign that would bring victory and prosperity from every hamlet.

From all accounts Generals Roberts and Kitchener still remain in the ant-room.

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MR. SCRANTON TO MR. WHYTE

Office Scranton Gas and Water Company, January 27, 1900.
Editor of The Tribune—

I observe that Mr. W. H. Whyte, formerly of the Terrace hotel, having paid his water bill for three months, pours forth his soul in a letter to The Tribune on the water question. As I read how Mr. Whyte looked on himself as a "debauched" man, I couldn't but think of the old Irish saying: "Are you Mr. Whyte who speak of it so highly? Are you Mr. Whyte who keeps the hotel? If you're Mr. Whyte you speak of it so highly. He said, Mr. Whyte, you're looking right well."

PERSONALITIES.
M. Hanoutax, the ex-foreign secretary for France, has just concluded an agreement with one of the great Paris publishers to bring up to present time Henry Martini's history of France.

Colonel Duncan H. Hood, son of the famous General Hood, of the Confederate army, and a graduate of West Point, has cast his fortunes with the South African republic and is now a commissioned officer in the Boer army.

W. D. Howells said the other day in the course of an interview that when the great American novel came to be written at least a portion of it would have to be enacted in Wall street, that being a typical phase of peculiarly American life.

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, whose engagement to George Riggs, a business man, has had a somewhat checkered life, which has been much to the advantage of her literary work.

William Allen White, whose volume about "Boyville" contains some excellent stuff, is a Kansas lad only thirty years old. He attended the Annapolis State University, and has worked as a newspaper man ever since, except when, in 1888, he first became generally known through his sketches in the Kansas City Star.

Fourteen years have passed since the death of Marie Bashkirtseff, but an annual mass is still chanted for her at the Greek church in Paris on the anniversary of her death, and prayers are said at her tomb, which is one of the most curious spots in Passy, the fashionable cemetery of Paris.

A man of some prominence in the republic to President Kruger and applied for employment under the government. The blunt old Boer turned on him and replied: "All the big places are filled, which is one of the most curious spots in Passy, the fashionable cemetery of Paris."

IN 1883 three now famous men were at the University of Strasburg—Roentgen, Radium and Tesla. Then Roentgen became a professor of physics, Radium was an instructor in music and Tesla was installing the electric light plant at the university.

OFFICE FURNITURE

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Under ordinary circumstances this announcement would be sufficient in itself, without further comment, to interest every housekeeper in the community, but taking into consideration the recent advances on almost every line of Dry Goods, LINENS INCLUDED, and the fact that all our stock of Linens was bought early enough to secure them at old prices—makes it all the more so.

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Mining, Blasting, Sporting Smokeless and the Repassons Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

AGENTS: THOR. FORD, JOHN B. SMITH & SON, W. E. MULLIGAN.

Ripans Tabules

"I am 42 years old," said a Philadelphia bookkeeper, "and have always led an indoor life. I have been a great sufferer from constipation, and my liver has seemed to be out of order almost all the time, and my face looked yellow. Some time ago a neighbor of mine suggested that I try

and I did so. I now take them whenever occasion arises, and feel much better. My bowels act well, and people tell me my face has taken on a more healthy look. I usually take one Tabule every day and another at night before getting in bed."

Lewis, Reilly & Davies, 44 1/2 Wyoming Avenue.