

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 shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 8, 1900. REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. SCHOOL DIRECTORS.—C. C. Ferber, E. D. Fellows.

At the crucial hour in our crisis with Spain, whose judgment was invoked by the president? A modest man in private life—Charles Emory Smith.

The Kentucky Settlement.

IN ORDER to understand why the Republicans who negotiated the joint agreement with the Democrats looking to a peaceable settlement of the Kentucky contest were willing to accept the first article in the compact (namely, "that if the general assembly in joint session shall adopt a resolution ratifying their recent action, adopting the contest reports seating Goebel and Beckham, the contestees, Taylor and Marshall, shall submit without further protest") it is necessary to know that the seating of Beckham as governor, under the Kentucky constitution, would hold good only until the next ensuing general election. Had Goebel lived and been seated he would have held the office for the entire term of four years; but a lieutenant governor succeeding to a vacancy holds only until the first succeeding general election, when the people must again vote for a governor.

In other words, Taylor's voluntary retirement in obedience to the forms of an admittedly unjust law from an office to which he was undoubtedly elected will be only until such time, nine months hence, as the will of the people can again be expressed at the polls. If in the meantime good faith should prevail in the agreement of all parties to "unite in an effort to bring about such a modification of the election law as will provide for non-partisan election boards and insure free and fair elections," the opportunity might be afforded to get an honest expression of the majority's will. What likelihood there is that this part of the agreement will be kept in good faith can be decided more accurately by those on the spot than at this distance; but if the Democrats should violate their pledge it would supply additional impetus to the Republican cause next fall.

This settlement is not entirely to the public's liking, for it savors too much of Republican acquiescence in legalized Democratic theft. This was made necessary, however, by Judge Taylor's unfortunate blunder in meeting sinful yet lawful indignity with unauthorized force. The Democrats kept within the law; Taylor overstepped it. Goebel was shrewd, Taylor was stupid and his retirement is the penalty, regardless of equity. The equity of the situation must, however, work out in time; and for this reason the Republicans of Kentucky can afford to wait.

The true meaning of expansion is aptly expressed by the Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley, in the poem, reproduced elsewhere, in the line: "For God and man, and space to kneel and pray."

Open or Closed?

UNLESS SIGNS FAIL, there will be a fight in the senate to amend the new canal treaty so as to assure the right of the United States to fortify the waterway. Some of those who favor an open door into China declare in favor of a closed door through the isthmus of Darien. Which is the wiser policy? To hold the canal as the exclusive possession of the United States would involve, says the Philadelphia Times, "the establishment of a territorial sovereignty in Central America, the construction of impregnable fortifications at each terminus of the canal, strongly garrisoned, and the maintenance of a fleet able to cope with any that could be sent against it, and all to what end? To prevent the passage of an enemy's ships in the event of war. But in the event of war the fleets assembled off the approaches to the canal would accomplish just as much, and the defense of the canal itself, instead of falling upon the United States alone, would be assured by the interest of every neutral power.

"The hostile control of such a waterway by any power would be practically impossible. If it were so held, an enemy would need only to get near enough to throw one dynamite shell to block-ade either entrance. The guarantee of neutrality removes entirely the burden of military protection. The canal and its approaches are secured completely immunitely from attack or injury by belligerents. Otherwise, in the event of war with a maritime power, a great squadron must be occupied in defending each end of the canal to keep it open for our own use. Under this guarantee—to which it is not doubted that other nations will subscribe—our control of the West Indies and our stations on the Pacific give us absolute strategic command of the approaches and in the event of war we have every possible naval advantage to intercept the approach of the vessels of an enemy.

"Thus from the narrowest view of national self-interest, not only is the neutralization of the canal most advantageous; it may be said that a canal would be impracticable on any other basis. And beyond all this, the march of enlightened opinion has carried the world beyond the narrow conceptions involved in the idea of a fortified canal. This enterprise is only in

a subordinate degree a military one. It is in the interests of commerce. It is undertaken by the United States because our dominating power on this continent lays the responsibility on us, but every nation that sails a ship will contribute to its support and will be interested in its defense. It will be not less entirely and securely American—it will be all the more American—because it is dedicated to civilization and the peaceful progress of the world."

It seems to us that this view of the subject is the correct one. The United States, in its recent diplomacy, has taken broad ground in favor of fair play in the world's commerce and all its interests lie in the direction of discouraging anti-American discriminations on the part of other nations. Our export trade, which is developing with such astonishing rapidity, is gradually cutting into the competing trade of the continental nations of Europe. Among the people of those nations is a growing jealousy of American enterprise and an increasing inclination to combine in measures of self-protection. How can we best safeguard the future of our commerce? By setting up bars or discriminations against our competitors in foreign fields and by holding fast to the doctrine of equal privileges and the open door?

The administration, in negotiating this new treaty, has not acted blindly. It has looked ahead.

General Lawton was a fighting man who fought humbly, intelligently and indefatigably. He knew neither bitterness nor envy nor guile. He did without complaining all that he was asked to do, and he asked no subordinate to go where he would not lead. These facts, coupled with his fine personality, his kindness of heart and the steadfastness of his affections, explain why, in death, he is honored above any soldier now living; and why, to his widow and children, the practical sympathy of the people has been extended in a manner almost without precedent. The nation exalts itself in showing its esteem for such a servant.

The Mayor and the Taxes.

IT IS EVIDENT that the present mayor of Scranton is taken more seriously at a distance than he is at home. In this week's issue of the Insurance Press is a long editorial reviewing that portion of his honor's recent message which related to the fire department and to the taxing of insurance companies; especially this paragraph: We rejoice in the excellent condition of our fire department, but we must not forget that it now costs over fifty thousand dollars. This sum is drawn from the tax rate of the whole people. It seems to me most unjust that the whole body of taxpayers should pay the expenses of the fire department, while the insurance companies receive and enjoy the profits. Some plan should be devised for taxing insurance companies a sum to assist in the annual expense of maintaining the fire department and keeping up its high efficiency about which they have so much to say.

The Press, among other things, says: "Why the amount for the maintenance of a fire department should not be paid by the whole people has not been explained satisfactorily, certainly not by the mayor of Scranton. The companies can pay the taxes because the amount can be recovered from the premium receipts. Policyholders pay the premiums, and those that own real property pay the regular taxes also. Accordingly, the prudent property-owner pays taxes twice for the support of a fire department when the insurance companies are taxed for that purpose. If revenue for the support of fire departments be needed anywhere, what is the matter with getting it from persons who are responsible, to a certain extent, for the losses by fire? Tobacco smokers! Cigars, cigarettes and tobacco pipes caused more than 900 fires, involving a loss of more than \$500,000. Tax builders and house-owners! Defective fires caused 10,330 fires, involving a loss of \$7,500,000. Tax house-keepers and servants! Explosions of gasoline stoves caused 1,500 fires and a loss of \$235,000; the explosion of lamps, lanterns, etc., caused 2,400 fires and a loss of more than \$1,000,000, and lamp and lantern accidents caused 2,000 fires and a loss of nearly \$1,000,000. Tax the users of matches! Careless use of the tiny things caused 3,900 fires that involved a loss of \$1,500,000. Tax tramps! They caused 755 fires and a loss of nearly \$1,000,000. Tax careless persons! Carelessness, besides that indicated above, caused thousands of fires and a loss of millions upon millions. All of the cases referred to were in 1898. The possible revenue that might be collected in a year has been indicated very faintly. The idea is respectfully submitted to certain political economists, including the mayor of Scranton."

The suggestion of the Press is not amusing; but our esteemed contemporary should not worry too much over the opinions of the mayor of Scranton upon the subject of taxation. It is well known here that he has a mania for devising unique plans for vicarious taxation.

Judge Schuyler, of Northampton county, has bravely subordinated gallantry to justice in a damage suit in which a handsome woman won from a susceptible jury an award out of all proportion to the established facts. The Judge has announced to the comely plaintiff that unless she shall voluntarily accept a reasonable sum in settlement he will order a new trial. Why it is that seasoned men of the world always go to pieces in the jury box when confronted by an attractive woman litigant it is one of the mysteries of jurisprudence; Judge Schuyler will deserve a medal if he can overcome this tendency.

"General Wood," writes an American correspondent now in Cuba, "is too busy with actual administration to give much time to abstract political discussions. He listens courteously to all the political talk which delegations and committees make, and then ends by offering practical suggestions regarding the furtherance of their objects." The Wood plan is a good plan for all countries.

In Woman's Realm

A PROPOS of the much discussed milk question, the basis of complaint in the case of a large dairy company has recently been discovered after some weeks of careful investigation. A great deal of fault was served by the patrons of one of the chief routes in this city and the company was unable to locate the difficulty. Finally very close watch was set upon the delivery man, the detective following after him and exchanging the hat-ties already left for these he carried with him, and taking the ones under suspicion back to the depot for examination. In many cases they were found to be far under requirements and after considerable trouble it was discovered that the delivery employe had a large 10-quart pail full of water, by judicial mingling of which he was causing a little milk to go a long way. The sudden change in the quality of the milk supply on that route nearly caused a collapse of the patrons.

A Hard Fact.

Fax—The diamond is the hardest known substance. De Witte—Yes—to get—Collier's Weekly.

Kept Busy.

"They say the men in the British War Office are working day and night." "Just so. Mobilizing explanations."—Puck.

Eternal Possession.

Quoter—You can't eat your cake and have it. Dyspeptic—The deuce you can't.—Life.

THE HOME VOYAGE.

(In Tribute to Henry W. Lawton.) Bear with us, O Great Captain, if our pride show equal measure with our grief's excess. In greeting you in this your helplessness, To countermand our vanity or hide Your stern displeasure that we thus had tried To praise you, knowing praise was your foe. But this home-coming swells our hearts no less— Because for love of home you proudly Le, then: The cable, fathoms 'neath the keel That shapes your course, is eloquent of you.

The old flag, too, at half-mast overhead— We doubt not that its gale-kissed ripples feel A prouder sense of red and white and blue. The stars—oh, God, were they interred!

In strange lands were your latest honors won, In strange wilds, with strange dangers all beset: With rain, like tears, the face of day was wet, As rang the ambushed foe's fatal gun. And, as you felt your final duty done, We feel that glory thrills your spirit yet, When at the front, in swiftest death, you met The patriot's doom and best reward in one.

"THEY HAVE PASSED ON."

A Retrospect.

Sir: The article in your paper of today containing the account of the commencement of the tearing down of the "Old Blair Homestead" garden my assurance, but I never thought that the "Old Blair Homestead" would be the scene of such a sad event. I recall the scene of which will recall familiar scenes to most of our present day politicians. It is still vivid in my mind, the day my father brought us over from Towanda to our new home. I recollect driving up from the old stone road toward the new home and wondering, as we stopped in front of the old house now to be torn down, why father built so far out in the country. Scranton in those days bore the resemblance to the city of today. Down between Mulberry and Spruce streets was a dense wood, except where the swamp opened out into a pond famous for skating. This pond extended from above Linden street to Spruce street, and occupied about half the block between Washington and Wyoming avenues. Dr. Throop occupied at one time a house on Washington avenue between Spruce street and Lackawanna avenue, and one of our dear old friends, Mr. Mulberry was a field and old brick yard, and a row of small houses in one of which I think J. J. Albright lived. Where the residence of John Jermyn and J. A. Scranton now are the next block between Mulberry and Washington streets was a field, opposite, and in the rear of where Dr. Connell's residence now is, was a spring from which water was piped to our house and the next block between Mulberry and Washington streets were the residences of Colonel Boies and William Connell's residences are in the hay field, from which we had in our yearly supply of hay and pastured the cows. NAY AUG FALLS—"Roaring Brook" then—was more beautiful than the present generation can imagine. How I wish I could see the celebration up there over the laying of the first Atlantic cable—a dinner on the pleasure and fireworks from rafts in the channel. How I was impressed by the eloquence of a young Connecticut lawyer, E. N. Willard by name, who made his debut in an oration and shook the folds of the flag over his head as he gloried in the Stars and Stripes. I have heard the judge orate many times since, but first impressions are the deepest, though we know he is not quite when he gets well started.

Then the daily battles with the Hyde Parkers at the swimming pool in the Lackawanna, under where the Linden street bridge now is—how the blood warms as I think. As I look back I recall the old quotation: "There were giants in those days" for then walked our streets those upon whose carry work was upbuilt the Scranton of today. Colonel George W. Scranton, J. A. Scranton, J. C. Platt, J. J. Albright, Dr. Meroun, Mr. Archibald, Ira Trippe, Judge Merrill, my father and mother, and others passed on. I recollect E. P. Kingsbury— young, handsome and sprightly—and to-day I meet him on the streets, not quite so young, not quite so sprightly, but still E. P. Kingsbury. I wonder if he ever realizes what a link between the old and the new he is, and how much it is to me. At the old High school, under Professor Lawrence, were the sons,

W. W. Scranton—the wondrous possibilities of the meter not yet thought of— Walter Scranton, I think; Harry and J. J. Albright, Jr., Woodrow Archibald, now judge, and others, among whom a little later was Fred Gunster, whose death has so lately saddened those who knew him so well. He was my intimate in young adventures and together we fished, swam, skated and walked. A gentle, pleasant, faithful friend, thirsting for knowledge and marked for the future.

The years have passed, the stalwart men of old have become memories as ever must be, and as I sit at my desk in the tenth story of the Mears building, I can look down on the court house, where was then a wooded swamp; the Board of Trade building, the city hall, the building of the Colliery Engineer and see the innumerable jets of steam up the valley as far as eye can reach, and I wonder. And as I look up the avenue at the old house soon to be replaced by the beautiful building of the Young Men's Christian association, I rejoice at progress but also sadden over years "gone."—George Sanderson, Scranton, Feb. 7.

THREE OF 'EM.

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Mr. F. A. Franklin, a traveling salesman, says: "About six months ago I bought my first box of Ripans Tabules and was so pleased with the result that I have since bought them in various parts of the State. Being a traveling man, and compelled to drink all kinds of water and eat all kinds of food, I find the Ripans Tabules are the best aid to digestion I have ever tried."



OFFICE FURNITURE Roll Top Desks, Flat Top Desks, Standing Desks, Typewriter Desks, And Office Chairs. A Large Stock to Select from. Hill & Connell 121 N. Washington Ave., ALWAYS BUSY.



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