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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, MARCH 1, 1900.

An order for 2,000 tons of steel rails for railroads in Norway, the first ever taken by an American company, has been received by the Sparrows Point mill. Expansion can't be stopped.

Theory and Condition.

THEN President McKinley said that the free admission of Puerto Rican products into the United States was a plain duty he spoke from the standpoint of the welfare of the people of that island and he spoke But later developments came into consideration and forced a temporary postponement of free trade.

One of these was the need of an easy means of obtaining revenue for paying the island's current expenses until a systematic revenue plan can be worked out. The easiest way known to man is to put a revenue tax on imports. That was why the Republican leaders in congress, with the president's full assent, proposed to charge upon American products imported into Puerto Rico and upon Puerto Rican products imported, into the United States a duty equal to 25 per cent, of the rates laid down in the Dingley tariff. This was subsequently reduced to 15 per cent. The money thus raised goes into the Puerto Rican treasury; not a penny of it, barring the expense of collecting the part taken in at our custom houses remains in the federal possession. It is calculated that during the two years which this arrangement is to run Puerto Rico will thus receive \$1,250,000 in cash per annum, or enough to pay all her political expenses, with something over for internal improvements. The duty is so small as to represent no hindrance to trade between the Island and the mainland: except for this revenue feature, of which Puerto Rico reaps the entire benefit, it is equivalent

The other development, not foreseen by the president when he wrote his regular message, was the discovery that if congressional assent should be given, or should even seem to be given. to the doctrine that every bit of territory newly acquired by the United States immediately falls under the constitutional decree that "all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States," and not under the article of the constitution which clothes congress with power to 'make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other States," it would be seized upon by the Democratic leaders as an opportunity Malay competition in the Philippines on a free trade basis, and probably result in the defeat of the entire expansion programme. When the president and his advisers discovered this cunningly laid trap of the opposition, they very naturally took steps to avoid it.

to free trade.

the lower house of congress, Puerto Rico, the first new territory to call for congressional action, receives all the substantial benefits of free trade with a good revenue feature thrown in, but the question of its constitutional status is passed upon in a manner to leave Guam or the Philippines, similar or different regulations as the future may make wise. Congress, in other words, does not indorse the Democratic contention that free trade necessarily follows the flag; it lends its weight to the view that territory is "property" in the language of the constitution, to be regulated either on a free trade. a low or a high tariff basis, depending upon the peculiar circumstances of each case. Free trade with Puerto Rico will come. Free trade with the Philippines may never come; certainly it will not come at the expense of the home workingman.

The president in his message outlined the ideal theory; the Republican majority yesterday, with his fullest assent, fitted the theory to the practical condition.

As a racy play, "Sapho," in Scranton, displayed a pace about like that of a superannuated truck horse on a two-minute track.

Intervention in South Africa.

AYS MONTAGU WHITE, the unaccredited representative of the South African republic in this country: "The war will not end until Pretoria falls, and when the British reach the Transvaal capital many thousands of lives will have been lost. The Boers believe that Pretoria is impregnable. As to intervention, the outlook is not pleasing. I see no hope in Europe, unless Russia should take action, and that floes not appear likely. I believe Emperor William would like to stop, the war, but he doesn't exactly know how to go about it. The only hope is in the United States. No other power can mediate, and the administration appears to be lukewarm. Public opinon in the United States seems to count for little, so far as its influence upon the administration is concerned. All these meetings throughout the country, the direct evidence that the sentiment of the people of the United States Tavors mediation, count for nothing

with the administration." Montagu is mistaken. Public opinior in the United States does count for much with the administration; but the latter discriminates between the public opinion which is founded on intelligent study backed by common sense, and the mere effervescence of excitement founded on prejudice

or sentimentality. "These meetings throughout the country"-we are to have one in Scranton next Sundayrepresent only a small fraction of the American people, and while a good many who attend them are in earnest, a good many others go and denounce England because for a number of years past that has been customary among them. Persons of conservative temperament do not see in the South African war any necessity calling for public meetings or impassioned oraory on the part of citizens of the United States. They recognize that peeches which may be delivered argely for partisan effect in, let us say, Scranton, Pennsylvania, cannot possibly impede the forward march of Lord Roberts' victorious army in Orange Free State; and that unless the American people are ready to shoulder muskets and wade into the fray belligerently and assertively they had much better keep cool and pay appropriate attention to their own af-

As to mediation, it is only possible on a friendly basis when known to be acceptable to both belligerents, and the administration is in a better position to ascertain the wishes of the belligerents than are its irresponsible critics. We say on a friendly basis, for we take it for granted that no American out of a lunatic asylum seriously imagines that the United States should endeavor to intermeddle by force in a remote row as to which it has not a penny's worth of direct interest of any kind.

A number of Porto Ricans are in Washington to protest against the tariff measure before congress in their interest. While the new citizens are undoubtedly sincere in the present instance, experience with free trade would doubtless soon teach them that some sort of a revenue will be necessary to pay the expenses of running the government and that none are better able to contribute to this fund than the importers. In any event the affairs of the Porto Ricans will be safe in the hands of a Republican ad-

A Game Worth the Candle.

HE MUCH DISCUSSED bill to increase the foreign trade of the United States by promoting the ocean merchant has been favorably reported to the senate from the committee on comwith certain interesting changes. The changes have had four purposes in view, namely: 1. To encourage the building of new ships in the United States. 2. To induce our citizens to construct freight carriers. 3. To attract present and prospective American ship-owners to the exceptional opportunities upon the Pacific for the development of American trade. 4. To compel vessels to carry at least half cargoes each time they leave the United States on a foreign voyage, their compensation being reduced in proportion to the extent that they fail to carry such cargoes.

In reporting the bill to the senate Senator Frye pointed out that existing vessels are to have the benefit of subsidy for ten years while vessels property belonging to the United after constructed will receive it for twenty years. This is expected to encourage great improvements in shipto hold before native labor the peril of building. Of the \$9,000,000 in annual subsidies provided for, only \$2,000,000 is to go to ships of over 20 knots speed. This limit is expected to stimulate the construction of freighters, which are most needed in the development of our foreign trade. "It is recognized," said he, "that the more rapid expansion of Under the bill passed yesterday in our export trade will be with the Ori-

ent. This will especially stimulate new lines of steamships from our Pacific ports to Asiatic countries. To make it particularly attractive and also possible for our citizens to develop that trade with American-built ships. 30 pg/ cent. of the maximum compencongress free to enact for Hawaii, sation is reserved for our vessels upon the Pacific, while, of course, there is no limit to the extent that they may participate in the other 70 per cent, by increasing the number of ships in our foreign trade."

In order to induce those Americans who have hitherto found it necessary to go abroad for their ships and sail them under foreign flags to expand their present trade with Americanbuilt ships, provision is made for the admission to American register of foreign-built vessels owned by American citizens, on condition that they have tonnage built in American shipyards equal to that admitted to our register. Compensation is withheld until this new tonnage is built, and a forfeit of \$10 per ton required if it is not built. This foreign-built tonnage that is admitted receives only one-half the amount of compensation paid to American-built vessels. All such vessels, and their equivalent tonnage to be built in the United States, are to be excluded from any participation in our coastwise trade. Compensation is also withheld from owners of existing American vessels until they have had built in American shipyards tonnage equal to 25 per cent. of that for which

compensation is asked. By requiring vessels to carry on outward voyages tonnage equal to onehalf of their gross tonnage before they can secure benefit of subsidy the danger is prevented that empty ships will be run simply to mulet the government. A most important change in the amended bill is that which so arranges the subsidy as to make it impossible for any type of ship to receive especial favor, and to prevent the monopoly of any class of trade or route by any one line or by any special type of vessel. Should it appear that any class of ships or any line or any route was more remunerative, right there the greatest competition will center, a result sure to prevent the enjoyment of any undue favor by any ships, lines or routes. During ten years any American citizen or corporation may enter into a contract with the secre-

the United States on the subject of shipping—that the immediate effect of the passage of this bill will be to assure within five years the construction of approximately a half a million tons of the story. Entering our carriage, we continued in a toylol mean of the subject of the same of the new ships in American shipyards, to increase the efficiency of our shipping in the foreign trade at least three-fold in that time, to largely and permanently reduce rates of ocean transportation, to thus increase our export trade, to eventually bring the cost of constructing ships as low in the United States as it is elsewhere, to place at all times at the immediate command of the government effective ships and trained men, to have our mails carried free and to gradually put an end to our present payment of about \$175,-000,000 a year to the foreign shipping doing our foreign carrying.

It is a game worth the candle.

No one will probably be sorry that the \$25,000,000 milling trust has collapsed. If there is one commodity that should be free from the grip of the combine, it is certainly the product that is the main article of food for the millions. The fact that capital has frowned upon the milling trust is an evidence that the world is not so entirely given over to the oppression of the hungry as many would have us suppose.

As Mr. Cushman strode in the hall the astonished doorkeeper looked after him for a moment and then turning to his assistant on the door, said:

"Say, Bill, did you see that? Well, after that I ain't got the nerve to stop anything." suppose.

Barrowe, the kidnapper of "Baby Clark, is said to be insane. The effects of yellow journalism are some times slow, but are usually sure.

The recent state of the elements has been almost sufficient to cause fracture of the goose bone.

Probably the English experienced the greatest satisfaction in making Cronje

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Wasn't That Knd of a Cake.

AN EAST END car was loaded down with shoppers, mostly women, for it was in the middle of the afternoon. Conversation was proceeding at a great rate. It was like a pink tea or a session of the sewing circle. But all at once a hush fell over the fair chatterers. A negro lad en-tered, bearing in his arms an immense cake, three or four decks high, and frosted over from pit to dome, as they say of a theater. There was a profusion of flowers by way of decoration, and deli-cate traceries of gaudy lace completed the embellishments. The cake was so large that the negro could scarcely carry

The cake told the whole story of the wedding, the bridesmalds, the orange flowers, the flower girls and the banquet afterward. Every feminine heart in that car was a-flutter as its owner gazed speechlessly upon the evidence of Finally, when the car stopped to let on

another passenger and everything was very still, one lady took courage to ask the negro where the wedding was going "Whut weddin'?" asked the negro, his

eyes protruding. "The wedding that cake is for."
"Dis ain't no weddin' cake."

"No'm. Dis yeres er cake walk cake." There was a smile that reached from one end of the car to the other, and very soon conversation was resumed as before. -Memphis Scimitar.

Repartee in Congress.

MY OBSERVATION and experience In the house has been that it is ex-tremely dangerous to interrupt a man who is making a speech," observed Rep-resentative Champ Clark, of Missouri. "If he has good control of his mental apparatus, the charces are all in his favor. I once received a stunning blow myself which exemplifies my original statement. It was in the last congress, when the house was trying to fix a time for debating the civil service law. Some gentleman had proposed that the time friends and opponents of the law. Colo-nel 'Pete' Hepburn, of lowa, told the house that he thought the time should should be divided into three parts. One portion should be given to the friends of the present law. There were others who were in favor of a partial repeal only; they should be given a portion of the time. Then Colonel Hepburn said the other portion of the time should be given to the Democrats, who were for total repeal of the law.
"'How do you know that?" I was rash

Because it is wrong, and the Demo crats are always wrong, he retorted. Afterward," added the Missourian, "I crossed over to the Republican side and congratulated Colonel Hepburn. I ofter refer to that incident when I lecture."-Washington Post.

No Commiseration Necessary.

TWO GIRLS met in a dry goods store yesterday. They had evidently not seen each other for some time, as the trend of their conversation proved. "What good times we used to have at the lake," said one.
"Yes, I like our own resorts," replied the other, "better than on the coast. Oh,

say, where is my old flame, Perry? I think the world of that boy." "Oh, he's married." "You don't say! Who to?"

"Well, of all things," replied her friend The conversation drifted, but a short

"Say, Hetty, remarked Perry's wife, "did you meet Johnny— out in San Francisco?" and then added, "He told me that summer he was there that he could not live without me.

"Yes, I met him in Los Angeles."
"Poor fellow! I feel sorry for him. He
is a bachelor yet, I suppose."
"No, he's married." "You don't say! Who to? "Me."-Salt Lake Herald.

Millais' Preference.

THE FIRST MEETING between John Miliais, the artist, and Mrs. Jopling, a pretty society woman of London curred at a private view of the old mas-ters at Burlington House. Mrs. Jopling ters at Burlington House. Mrs. Jopling was walking with a well-known artist when Millais approached: "A good show of old masters," remarked the artist after they had exchanged greetings, "Old masters be bothered. I prefer looking at the young mistresses," said Millais, with a humorous glance at Mrs. Joplin.—San Francisco Wave.

Made Them Forget the Errand. AT THE ANNUAL dinner of the Michigan association Senator McMillan told this story, says the Detroit Free Press:
"Burrows came into my committee room
one day," began Mr. McMillan, "to see
me about an appointment. Bringing his
fist down hard on a table, he declared: enter into a contract with the secretary of the treasury for a period of twenty years to put on a line of ships or class of ships on any route, or in any trade, and obtain precisely the compensation his rivals receive, the number, size and speed of his ships being equal.

It is Senator Frye's opinion—and he is one of the best informed men in

continued in a jovial mood until we were continued in a jovial mood until we were opposite the treasury building, when I ventured to remark:

"By the way, Burrows, what was it we went to see the president about?
"By jove, I forgot all about that,' exclaimed my colleague."

Ceased to Be Surprised. O N THE opening day of the session of the Fifty-sixth congress, says the Criterion, a tall, gaunt man, shambling of gait, with "high-water" trousers, a slouched hat mashed in any old way, and an overcoat that needed brushing, presented himself at the center door of the house of representatives. He started to walk right in, but was stopped by one of the doorkeepers, who said to him, testily:

"Say, don't you know you can't go in there?" "No, I don't know it, my friend; I thought I could," he said, mildly, "Nobody but members allowed in to-

day."
"Well, I'm a member; Congressman
Cushman, of Washington."
"Oh! I beg your pardon; walk right

John Bright's Threat to His Wife. TWO CHARACTERISTIC anecdotes of John Bright are given in Sir Edward Russell's memoirs, which he has published under the title, "That Reminds Me—," Bright was supposed to be a total abstainer, but once when Edward Miall was very nervous at the prospect of having to make an important speech in the house, Bright said:

"Well, Miall, if I were you I'd for once go and have a pint of champagne."

Mr. Miall did as he was told, and the

result may be judged from the narrator's comment that "champagne on an unaccustomed interior is not always a cura-

tive or a tonic."

Bright "rarely had any difference with his wife," but occasionally they were not at one about the children. When they came to a point of absolute dangreement, he used to say:
"Now, I tell thee if thou doesn't do what I wish, I'll go straight to Mr. Gladstone and ask him to make me a knight, to which the answer invariably was:

True Gratitude.

"Oh, anything rather than that."

S OON AFTER the first distribution of committees in the house of represent-atives Representative Foster, of Chicago, was introduced to Speaker Henderson. He had received but one committee appointment and that an obscure one. He remarked: "I am on a fine committee, Mr. Speaker." Mr. Henderson beamed. "I am very glad, Mr. Foster, you like your appointment," he said. "I always like to please the gentlemen of the house." "Oh," raid Mr. Foster, solemnly, "I refer to the committee of the whole. You know I am a member of that." While the speaker was gasping for health the programmer from Chicago. for breath the new member from Chicago added: "At the same time, if you are very anxious to please, I would not object to being in your debt for some other good committee." And the speaker passed his box of Philippine cigars.—San Francisco

CONVENTION CALLS.

First Legislative District. Notice is hereby given that a conven-tion of the Republicans of the First leg-islative district will be held at 3 p. m. on the 20th day of March next, at Co-operative hall, West Side, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislature to represent said district and electing two delegates to attend the Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg on April 25, 1900. The primaries will be held on Saturday afternoon, March 17, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock. According to the rules govern-ing the Republican primaries of this leg-islative district rotice of the date of said primary election must be given by the district chairman at least twenty days before said primary election and each candidate must register with the district chairman his full name and postoffice address and pay his assessment fifteen days before the primary election or his name will not be placed on the official ballot. No votes shall be counted for any person who has not compiled with these

W. A. Paine, Chairman. Attest: Joseph Jeffrys, Secretary. Scranton, Pa., Feb. 22, 1900.

Second Legislative District.

Notice is hereby given to the Republi can voters of the Second Legislative dis-Notice is hereby given to the Republican voters of the Second Legislative district that a primary election will be held on Saturday, March 17, 1800, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of electing two delegates to represent said legislative district in the coming Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg, and to nominate a candidate for the legislature. The convention to compute the vote will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 1990, at 1 o'clock p. m., in the court house in Scranton. In accordance with the rules governing this district the candidates will be voted for directly by the voters at the polls. Each candidate must register with the district chairman his full name and postdistrict chairman his full name and post-office address and pay his assessment twenty days before the election or his name will not be placed in the official ballot, neither will any votes cast for him

The district vigilance committees in the various precincts will conduct the election and the result will be reported by the return judge to the district con-vention, which will be composed of the return judges of the various districts. A written notice containing further in-structions will be sent to the members of the said district vigilance committee.
Frederick W. Fleitz, Chairman.
Attest: Walter E. Davis, Secretary.

Third Legislative District.

In pursuance of a resolution of the Republican standing committee of the Third Legislative district of Lackawanna county, adopted at a regular meeting held on Saturday, the 24th day of February, 1900, the district convention will be held on Tuesday, the 10th day of April, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the arbitration room of the court house, Scranton, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislature and electing two (2) delegates to represent said legislative district in the state convention to be held at Harrisburg on April 25, 1900, and transacting such other business as shall be brought before it.

Vigilance committees will hold primary elections on Saturday, the 7th day of Third Legislative District.

elections on Saturday, the 7th day of April, 1900, between the hours of 4 and 7 p. m.

Each election district shall elect one person, a qualified elector of said district, to act as a member of the legislative standing committee for the next ensuing calendar year, whose name shall be

certified to on the returns to the district

convention.

Candidates who have thus far regis-Candidates who have thus far registered their names with the secretary at 903-904. Mears building. Scranton, Pa., and those who are desirous of registering will observe the requirements of rule 6, which reads as follows: "Each candidate must register his full name and postofice address with the chairman of the legislative standing committee, and shall pay his assessment to the district chairman at least twenty days before the primary election, or his name will not be printed on the official ballot."

Saturday, the 17th day of March, 1900, is the last day for registering and paying the assessment.

the assessment.
T. J. Matthews, Chairman.
Attest: J. P. Watkins, Secretary.
Scranton, Pa., February, 28, 1900.

0000000000000000 in Woman's Realm 0000000000000000

THE FACT that a clergyman at Bethlehem has announced to his congregation that five hundred maidens are
included therein who should be married
by the men of his congregation is attracting considerable attention. He incidentally remarks that the girls are
pretty and modest and agreeable as any
in the state and that the men are too shy
or too stingy to propose. He, therefore. in the state and that the men are too shy or too stingy to propose. He, therefore, as an encouragement to more enterprise promises to perform the ceremonies for nothing and it is stated that his words are already resulting in the announcement of numerous engagements.

There is no doubt in the world that the same condition exists in every church in this city and while it isn't at all certain that the young women would be environe.

this city and while it isn't at all certain that the young women would be anxious to have the minister interfere in their behalf as regards masculine apathy to their attractions, yet we all know any number of men who would marry if somebody should suggest that as a proper course for them to pursue they need somebody should suggest that as a proper course for them to pursue they need only a little encouragement from some disinterested person to make them accept the idea with alacrity. It will not do for the suggesting to come from the girls themselves. Oh, dear not but a kind friend, a clergyman, for instance, might thus easily be the medium of making two hearts happy and at the same time securing a fee for himself, the latter consideration, of course, not weighing in the matter.

TILE awful statement recently made by Mr. Bok is true that women in business have been tried and found wanting and are rapidly going back to domesticity and therefore safety and pro-priety there should be a boom in the mar-riage market and a corresponding depression in the divorce quotations. According to some eminent thinkers the increasing number of divorces is chiefly due to the fact that women are tired of keeping house and home and yearn for office and business life.

Now Mr. Bok's theory should show re-

suits. He gives the startling informa-tion that the number of women filling hospitals and insane asylums with nerve nospitals and insane asylums with nerve broken victims is vastly on the increase and that the profession of typewriting so largely taken up is death to women as it injures the spine and produces untold horrors of nervous diseases. Hence, achorrors of nervous diseases. Hence, according to his theory the girl of 1900 must revolve back to where her great grandmother left off in the early century and have marriage as her only prospect in life since men are refusing to employ her in a business capacity.

It is a rather doleful outlook for the college girl, the high school maiden and women in general who have been preparing themselves for a business career. At any rate the times are now declared to be good and it is certainly the cler-

to be good and it is certainly the cler-gyman's opportunity for encouraging

REFORMERS, as a rule, like to do their R reforming with a very long pole and formaldehyde pervading the atmosphere, probably with the memory in their minds of the proverb: "He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon." In the modern rendering the long spoon or pole is transformed into a newspape

"THERE ARE different ways of doing penance through Lent," remarked a professional man yesterday. "In the case of women they seem to mostly take it out in dental work."

JINGLES.

"He dreams of me," the maiden thought, As his abstracted glance she caught. But, for a fact, his mind was set On ways by which he cash might get.

"She thinks of me," .the man declares-"Such musing mood her fond face wears," But, truly, just beneath the rose, The damsel's head was full of clothes. -Indianapolis Journal

Returning from the Club. Although "night's candles are burnt out," And bright the sun's first ray, Along the milky way.

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Scranton, Pa.



A merchant whom I know always has a supply in his desk at the office. I have seen them in his traveling bag. In a drawer of his dining-room sideboard there is a constant supply. Once I saw some in his fishing kit; for he is something of a sportsman, and he generally can fish one up from his waistocat pocket on occasion. The Tabules seem to be with him in about as constant demand as tobacco with a sailor. I asked once how he could have such frequent use for KIPANS TABULES, and he told me this: If something in business annoys me it upsets my stomach, but a Tabule taken at the time neutralizes the bed influence. When I travel I am age to be troubled with constipation, but a Tabule at night insures a pleasant and healthy movement in the morning. If I drink a glass of wine too much, or cat a dessert that has a tendency to upset me, a Tabule is an antidote. When fishing in the sunshine threatens a headache, a Tabule cures the tendency; and what is good for me is often just as great a boon to a chance companion. For the reason I always have them within reach. They don't cost much, and they never do any harm. I would no more think of depriving myself of their beneficial ministrations than I would of going without my frequent bath or occasional cigar. Since I first learned about Ripans Tabules and their wide application, I have had fewer sick days and life has more aunshine in it."

FINLEY'S for Inspection FOULARD SILKS AND

We have just opened our spring line of New Foulards, and take pleasure in calling your attention to the same, representing, as they do, the CREAM of the best manufacturers' line for 1900. Differing from last season when most everything shown was in Blacks and Navys, this season's line comes in colors and shades more appropriate for a summer garment and comprises the New Blues, Greys, Heliotropes, Fawns, etc., etc., both in the "Natural Foulard" and "Liberty Satin" finish.

Our Challies

Are too handsome to describe and our assortment NOW is far more extensive than in any season heretofore, but on account of the scarcity in all the finer grades, this condition will only last for a limited time, and early buyers will get by far the best selection.

See our exhibit this week.

510-512

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