### the Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always giad 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 procedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

BCRANTON, MARCH 2, 1900.

The coroner's apparent inability to keep legal engagements has resulted in the falling through of a number of cases begun by him with every promise of thorough investigation and has repeatedly put to annoyance both witnesses and court. The coroner means well, but appears to be unable to keep his fighting boots on long enough at a time to accomplish tangible results. The public is watching with interest his conduct of the Weaver case.

#### As to City Lighting,

HE LETTER of President W. W. Scranton, of the Scranton Electric Light and Heat company, in reference to the city lighting contract, reproduced elsewhere, deserves attentive consideration. Its statements of fact put

the question in a new form. Service at a reasonable price has been supplied by Mr. Scranton's company for thirteen years. There has been just complaint, from time to time that councils have erected lights where they were not needed and have thus been extravagant with the people's money; but the blame for this does not attach to Mr. Scranton nor to any one employed in his interest. The rate charged per lamp has been a fair rate. the statistics clearly prove this.

When the written contract ran .out the Scranton Electric Light and Heat company continued to supply the city from year to year. In view of its large investment in plant, much of which would be rendered valueless by the sudden termination of its business arrangement with the city, it would be no more than fair or the part of the city, if it desired to terminate this argument, to give adequate notice. We doubt that it would goin anything by terminating the contract. That, however, would depend upon the bids. But to be fair the call for bids should specify that the contract, when let, would date at least one year ahead. Then, if another bid should win, Mr. Scranton would have a reasonable time in which to dispose of his plant To cut him off at the drop of the hat would certainly be ungenerous and un

We hold no brief for President Scran ton. If it were a personal matter we should have good reason to say nothing in his behalf. But in a public afthe city Scranton cannot afford to perpetrate an injustice.

We fully agree with the Rev. W. A. Quayle, of Indianapolis, that the exploit of the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., in hippodroming a scheme to run a secular paper for one week, "as Jesus would," is a bit of sacrilege impudent in the extreme.

#### Democrats and the Constitution.

HE CONSTITUTIONAL argument of the Democrats that the clause "all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" does not stand in the light of precethe sagacity of the father of Democracy, Thomas Jefferson, Out of this great tract of land which is now the seat of a mighty republican empire Orleans territory was organized in 1804 and admitted as a state under the name of Louisiana in 1812.

At the time of the Louisiana purchase our tariff gave to goods imported in American ships a 25 per cent. preference duty. The Louisiana treaty gave a similar reduction to French and Spanish merchantmen trading at New Orleans, thus, as Charles A. Gardiner pointed out in a masterly address delivered before the New York State Bar association a year ago, establishing lower duties there on French and Spanish imports by 25 per cent. than elsewhere in the Union. For eight years this condition continued. If the present Democratic reading of the constitution is correct, then during all of this time that great instrument was being wantonly violated by an arrange-Thomas Jefferson's own. It must be disturbing to this great statesman's shade to have his modern followers accusing him by inference in one breath of having ben the champion imperialist of history and in the next breath arguing, as Bourke Cockran tried to argue at Boston the other night, that Jefferson wasn't really an expansionist after all, but simply a victim of appearances.

The fact of this whole matter is that the Democratic party is repeating an old tries. When it runs short of real issues and are not take an aggressive stand its leaders invariably discover a means to appear as heroic defenders of the constitution. They are perfectly willing to read the constitution either way; all they stipulate is that the Republican party must first give them a cue so they can take the opposite side.

The correspondent deputized to keep Aguinaldo in sight has evidently run out of cable tolls.

The act of Lord Roberts in requiring General Cronje to present himself, after his sufrender, at the British camp was a severity invited by Cronje's prior refusal of proffered aid for the and children in the Boer laager. It was what, on the merits of the case, this stubborn old warrior deserved; nevertheless the British victor would

have put himself in a better light before the world's opinion had he shown greater magnaminity to a prostrate foe. The Julius Caesar style of warfare is out of date.

The Tagal insurrection has been suppressed, but the Filipino junta at Hong Kong is still doing business at the old stand. This is but another illustration of the fact that the agitator who operates at a safe distance from danger is the most difficult thing in the world to pacify.

#### Freedom Will Gain.

HE MARCH FORUM contains an interesting article, "Rights and Wrongs in South Africa," written by George F. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, who passed several months in the Transvaal four years ago and equipped himself by careful study for the expression of a fair judgment. Most of his article consists of a review of the history of the relations between the Boers and the English; but here is his conclusion: "The Boers are fighting for rac-

domination, for the enthrallment of industry, for the maintenance of a social condition which is mere semi-civilization. The English are fighting to obtain for British subjects in the Transvaal no greater rights than all white foreigners enjoy in every portion of the British empire and in the United States: the right of franchise on reasonable terms, reasonable industrial conditions, and liberty to be civilized after the manner of Anglo-Saxons." Mr. Becker does not agree with those who think that the Boer community has a right to complete control of its own territory and to be as uncivilized or as tyrannical as it may choose. "There is," he affirms, "an international right corresponding to the right of eminent domain. All rights are enjoyed either by nations or by individuals on the tacit understanding that they be exercised with due consideration for the rights of neighbors and of the greater public. A state may not oppress the subjects of other powers, nor commit injustices under the shelter of pettifogging interpretations of treaties and convention. The Boers want a monopoly of the rights

dom to deny freedom to others." There may be differences of opinion on these points, but it is safe to assume that as a result of this war South Africa will be opened to the letter and spirit of modern civilization. with equality of rights and civil privilege from the Cape to the Limpopo.

of freemen. They are fighting for free-

Democratic campaign orators are al ready preparing to add the fifteen-percent-Puerto-Rico-tariff battle cry to their vocabulary of woe.

#### Cause and Effect.

HAT THE prosperity of last year was very great is a matter of general knowledge; but some figures in the New York correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger, taken from a statement of a leading New York ed on returns made to his by some of the largest mercantile houses in the country, give a new idea of the extent and diffusion of that prosperity.

The statement shows the business o sixty leading houses, in fifteen trades and fourteen different states, in the territory extending from New York to Colorado, and from Georgia to Minnesota. The trades represented are wholesale and retail dry goods, wholesale groceries, tobacco, cigars, silks, hardware, furniture, packing, gloves, clothing, leather, cloaks, collars and cuffs and boots and shoes. These firms have an aggregate capital of \$122,432,000, an average of \$2,156,000 for refers to territory captured or annexed each firm. The net profits in 1899 amounted to the enormous sum of \$35,dents. Louisiana was ceded to the 225,000, an average of \$617,000 for each United States in 1803-a result due to firm. The rate of profit was 28 6-10 per cent.

"There can," says the Ledger correspondent, "be no question of the accuracy of this exhibit, and it is, to say the least, amazing. It reveals the prosperity of the country in a shape that every one will understand and appreciate. There isn't a stock and ond sold on the New York Stock Exchange which pays an annual dividend or interest equal to this. With the exception of the Carnegie company, the Standard Oil company, three or four trust companies and a few mining companies, there are no corporations doing business in the United States which yield a return, on the money invested, equal to these mercantile houses. Think of earning over 28 per cent. a year, when money can be borrowed on call in Wall street at 2@21/2 per cent., and when government bonds are selling on the basis of 1% per cent. a year. The banker from whom I obtained the remarkable statistics in regard to the profits of mercantile houses believes that it is not too much to say that the business of the country last year was done at an average profit of 15 per cent." Republican administration, with na-

tional expansion, is a good thing to continue in power.

That western blizzard melted tears on its way east.

### For - National University.

BILL HAS BEEN introduced

in congress by Senator Depew creating a corporation to be known as the University of the United States, and to have the right to hold real estate, accept legacies, confer degrees, etc. The government of the institution is to be vested in a board of regents, composed of heads of other leading institutions of learning together with the president of the United States, who is ex-officie the head. In scope the proposed university is to confine itself to post graduate and special courses of study, paying particular attention to matters which concern the government. The idea briefly is to provide adequate means for the prosecution of the most advanced research. To this end, congress is asked to make over the twenty acre tract of land formerly used by the Naval observatory, which was originally intended for this very purpose; but

is not asked to appropriate any money There have been many theoretical objections to the idea embodied in the Depew bill, covering mainly the question of the propriety of applying federal funds to an institution of learning directly useful only to a few. The present bill, by waiving the appropriation feature, escapes most of these criticisms. It is evidently Senator Depew's idea that if congress will simply give federal sanction to the project, individual liberality will supply the endowment and we dare say he is right. A national university of the highest grade, broad and progressive in scope, situated at the national capital, where the eminent men of every generation would be drawn toward it and where its opportunities of usefulness would be practically unlimited, certainly ought to make a powerful appeal to the public spirit of cultured Americans of

the leadership over the advanced scholarship of the age. We have never been impressed with the argument that the state should terminate its support to education at the high school door. It is true that the bulk of attendance is in the lower grades, but the scholar who pursues post graduate research is not less a public asset than is the citizen who just escapes illiteracy. The state does well to centralize its energy upon the common school system, which, as has been said, is the nursery of good citizenship. But surely the state can well afford to lend the weight of its official sanction to the project of a supreme school designed to be to the educational interests of the country in a certain sense what the Supreme court of the United States is to the judicial system. Especially can it afford to if it does not

There is a dearth of political leaders in Kentucky at present. The fate of Goebel has undoubtedly persuaded many that it is better in the long run to stick to horse breeding.

cost anything.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

The feud of the Montana millionaires, now being waged in the United States senate is the subject of a dramatic nar-rative in Ainslee's for March. The greatest engineering feat the world has ever seen is described by John Ward, F. S. A., in "The Conquest of the Nile." The A., in "The Conquest of the Nile." The Mammoth dams at Assouan and at Asslout will practically recreate Egypt. An admirable compound of sense and humor is offered in "Fortunes Made in Small Inventions," by Harvey Sutherland. The expenses, the salary list and the receipts, ogether with many unpublished details of opera management, are agreeably treated in "The Rtsiness Side of Grand Opera," by Gustav Kobbe. Full of the smell and stir of the sea is "Tramp Steamships of the World," by Samuel A. Wood; "The Real Howells" is welcome secause in it we see the famous novelist studied as a man rather than as a writer. In addition, there is a striking war story by Stephen Crane; the continuation of General King's novel and stories by Chauncey C. Hotchkiss, Ewan Macpheron and Howard Fielding.

The last few years have proved so rich in geographical discoveries that there has been a pressing need for a resume of re-cent explorations and changes which should present in convenient and accurate form the latest results of geographical work. The additions to our knowldge have not been limited to Africa. Asia, and the arctic regions, but even on our own continent the gold of the Klondike has led to a better knowledge of the region. The want which is indicated will be met by "The International intelligent general reader, and the IIbrary which presents expert summaries of the results of geographical science throughout the world at the present time. This book, which is to be pub-lished shortly by D. Appleton & Co., centains nearly 500 illustrations and mans contains nearly 500 lilustrations and maps which have been specially prepared. It is designed to present in the compact limits of a single volume an authorita-tive conspectus of the science of geograthy and the conditions of the countries at the end of the nineteenth century.

Napoleon Bonaparte appears in the March Century in a new role—that of a temperance advocate. In the second in-stalment of Dr. O'Meara's hitherto un-published "Talks with Napoleon" at Helena, it is recorded that, having a pain icha, it is recorded that, having a pain in his side, the ex-emperor asked his phy-sican to show him where his liver was situated; and the latter, in some re-marks on the causes of inflammation of that organ, mentioned intoxication as one of them. Thereupon Napoleon remarked: "Then I ought not to have it, as I never was drunk but once in my life; and that was twenty-four years ago, at Nice, \* \* \* I drank three bottles of Burgundy, and was completely drunk. O, how sick I was the next day! I wonder how a man who once gets drunk can ever think of

In accord with the expressed desire of Mr. Moody, his biography is now being prepared by his son, William R. Moody, and will be published by subscription from the press of Fleming H. Revell Naturally this will be the work having the approval of the family or being in any sense authorized or authentic. Announcements having appeared of several "Lives," some even claiming to be "official" of "the only work approved by the family and friends," it has become a painful necessity to discredit all such works and to state that any other than the authorized biography referred to will be issued not only without the approval but regardless of the urgent protest of the family and

Everybody's Magazine for March is rich In that sort of pleasant reading that combines instruction with quick and easy interest. Of the important articles is "A Glimpse of the Germ World." by G. W. Winterburn, M. D. This is the "simple explanation" for the month, and takes up the subject of bacteria and the enormous amount of good they do to humanity. It treats of their origin and labors in a fascinating way, and imparts an astonishing amount of information in a manner wheh makes it stick to the memory.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for March is fortunate in its leading feature, which is an elaborate and finely illus-trated account of "The British Army, as Home and in South Africa," by Major-General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States Army. General Miles reviews and analyzes the imperial British military organization in all its branches, and with particular reference to the ob stinate war now engaging all its energie

"A Taste of War in Luzon," is the ti-tle under which Phelps Whitmarsh, the special commissioner in the Philippines for The Outlook, describes his stirring experiences with Colonel Bell in the fighting and forced marches in the northern part of Luzon by which the insurgents' army there was dispersed. Mr. Whit-marsh also furnishes many interesting photographs. The article appears in the March Magazine Number of The Outlook.

The Living Age announces a four-part story, called "Misunderstandings," trans-lated from the French of Madame Blanc, to begin in the number for March 3. The "misunderstandings" referred to arise

from the free and unconventional con-duct of an American girl in Paris, and the story is, in effect, a new "Daisy Mil-ler" from the Parisian point of view.

"Unique, expressive, captivating slang" is the description which best applies to the little volume of "Billy Baxter's Letters" which has been issued by the Duquesne Distributing company of Harmarville, Pa., in memory of the author, William J. Kountz, jr., the bright young Allegheny county newspaper man whose recent death caused a widespread shock.

City Government is the name of a monthly publication issued from Troy, N.
Y., which should be in the possession of every municipal officer and student of city problems. It covers thoroughly the whole field indicated by its title and is each month a compact encyclopaedia of timely knowledge.

In the March number of McClure's Magazine, Walter Wellman tells another story from his recent extraordinary experiences in the Arctic, He will also give the conclusions from his own experience regarding the only feasible way to reach the Pole, telling what it is and what it involves. means and rapidly accumulate an endowment that would enable it to take

> George F. Becker. United States geologist, who has traversed South Africa, tells in the March Forum his views of the Anglo-Boer, war. He credits the Boers with many admirable qualities, but vrong in the present conflict.

> The person who wishes, in reading a story, to be held spell-bound by intensity of interest and intricacy of plot should purchase "High Stakes." by Lawrence L. Lynch, published by Laird and Lee, Chicago. It is enough to make Wilkie Collins, though the second of envy. ins' ghost have a spasm of envy.

Governor Roosevelt's third article or "Cromwell," in Scribner's for March, compares the conditions at the end of the English Civil War with those at the end of the American Civil War. It also do

"A History of the Spanish-American War," by Richard H. Titherington, based upon official reports, Spanish and Ameri-can, and other sources of authentic in-formation, is to be published shortly by The last issue of the Reform club quar-

terly, Municipal Affairs, is devoted to explaining how a city may be made beautiful. The subject is considered from a variety of standpoints by authors of national reputation.

The second number of The Successful American, the monthly journal of con-temporary biography, has appeared and is replete with timely information about several score of the prominent Americans of the day.

A new feature of the Cosmopolitan is the causerie entitled "Men, Women and Events," which gives some of the fresh-est and most accurate personal anecdote and genteel gossip of the time.

The continued popularity of "David Harum" is indicated by the increasing figures, which are said now to have reached 425,000.

#### 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-opera-tive hall, West Side, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legisla-ture to represent said district and elect-ing two delegates to attend the Republican state convention to be held in Har-risburg on April 25, 1969. The primaries will be held on Saturday afternoon o'clock. According to the rules governing the Republican primaries of this leg-islative district rotice of the date of said primary election must be given by district chairman at least twenty days before said primary election and each andidate 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 complled with these conditions.

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

#### Second Legislative District.

Notice is hereby given to the Republican voters of the Second Legislative district that a primary election will be held on Saturday, March 17, 1960, 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 company Republican state convention to be ing Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg, and to nominate a candidate for the legislature. The conheld in Harrisourg, and to hommate a candidate for the legislature. The con-vention to compute the vote will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 1900, 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 polis for directly by the voters at the polis.

Each candidate must register with the
district chairman his full name and postoffice 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

e counted.
The district vigilance committees i 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 Re publican standing committee of the Third egislative district of Lackawanna ty, adopted at a regular meeting held or Saturday, the 24th day of February, 1900 the district convention will be held on Tuesday, the 10th day of April, 1930, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the arbitration room of the court house, Scranton, for the pur-pose 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 Har-risburg on April 25, 1900, and transacting

Vigilance committees will hold primary elections on Saturday, the 7th day of April, 1900, between the hours of 4 and

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 ensuring calendar year, whose name shall be certified to on the returns to the district convention.

onvention. Candidates who have thus far regis-Candidates who have thus far registered their names with the secretary at 503-904. 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.

T. J. Matthews, Chairman. Attest: J. E. Watkins, Secretary, Scranton, Pa., February, 23, 1900.

#### A WAR EXPERT.

Although no man of mighty deeds, He has my admiration keen; He can pronounce the names he reads And knows just what the war map means. —Washington Star.

#### 000000000000000 In Woman's Realm &

COOKING HAS been an established course recently in vogue in many normal and several high schools of the country. As a rule it has been attended with excellent results, from a certain standpoint, as it is said that more girls marry at once after being graduated from schools whose curriculum contains a cooking course than from others not thus equipped. But Philadelphia contains a cooking course than from others not thus equipped. But Philadelphia has decided to pitch out the range, the pots, kettles and pans, neck and crop from its girls' high school. The reason assigned is that the schedule of studies is so full that cooking occupies too much time which can more profitably be devoted to higher education. The reason not assigned is said to be that the girls are tired of cooking and of spoiling their hands with dish washing, burns and other disadvantages connected with the operations, all of which goes to show that girls are pretty much alike in their views of kitchen duties whether the dish washing is a part of the home curriculum in

of kitchen duties whether the dish washing is a part of the home curriculum in the morning or taken with ameliorating features in the shape of a fancy apronand a group of merry companions in the afternoon at school.

The cooking school at the Young Women's Christian association, although pursued under practical plans continues to be as popular as at first and will be later exploited by many Lenten breakfasts and luncheoms by the class members. Arrangements for the second bers. Arrangements for the second course are now being made. It is prob-able that some of the classes will prefer a short series of chafing dish lessons,

O NCE UPON a time this town was U lighted by gas; at least such was the allegation. The company fur-nishing the illumination had a very accurate calendar, being every bit as elab-orate even to the jokes, as the almanac popularly supposed to be daily perused by the farmer. Foot notes relating to the moon were especially complete as to details, although they were not so much in the way of "Now plant potatoes," and "Pole beans today," as stating when that luminary was scheduled to be full. On those nights the gas company made money for not a bit of gas was turned on. Clouds might obscure all light but the moon was promised to shine and if it falled in its contract that wasn't the gas company's fault. Hence there were very many dark nights in Scranton and the unhappy citizens wandered to and fro on the face of the earth making many "by and forbidden paths" to quote from the old time "experience" meeting. Is that what we are again coming to in the mmediate future?

DEOPLE WHO contemplate reading Sapho from the public library are doomed to disappointment. A num-ber of Daudet's books are to be found therein and in fact Sapho was for some time, but the solitary volume which the librarian deemed enough for Scranton's taste in that style of literature long ago was worn out, being as bad outside as in, and it has never been renewed. Hence these tears from some of the would-be readers.

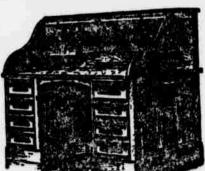
IF YOU WANT a bandanna waist, sleeves and all, you must buy four big bandannas. They cost a dollar each and really when combined, say in blue and white, make a beautiful effect. For a bolero with sleeves over a white or-gandle or silk under bodice three are amply sufficient.

THE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS now has the largest number of in-mates in its history. There are sev-

#### HER STRONG POINT.

She has no dog to fondle, She has no cat to pet; She does not own a parrot, She writes no learned papers To read where women meet, But she can get up dishes Her husband likes to eat, And they are saving money, And find that life is sweet

# OFFICE



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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 "Natu al Foulard" and "Libert 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 imited time, and early buyers will get by far the best selection.

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The Prang Platinettes. Teachers and superintendents desiring for class use in picture study. something that is substantial and inexpensive will find these beautiful new reproductions of great value. We have 100 different subjects to select from. The prices are very reasonable and the assortment is

complete. The Pen Carbon Letter Book



With this book the simple act of writing produces a copy. Any letter head can be used and a copy produced from pencil or any kind of pen and ink. When the book is filled, extra fillers can be purchased from us at very little cost. Two sizes and bindings in stock.

## Reynolds Bros

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I find Ripans gentle and natural in their action and I would not be without them in the house.

My children are generally troubled in the summer time with a variety of complaints, chiefly arising from a disordered stomach. This year I have given them the chocolate coated Tabules, with the result that, even during the hot spell, their health has been unusually good.

Ripans Tabules are, I think, the best possible family medicine, and I have lately heard many friends speak highly of their wonderful curative properties.