

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 communications shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MARCH 6, 1900.

If the report is true that the introduction of the army re-organization bill has re-opened the Miles-Corbin feud, the public will be justified this time in insisting upon a settlement which will settle.

Misunderstood.

ASSUMING that the newspapers of the Mississippi valley correctly reflect public opinion, it is evident that much misapprehension of the pending legislation for Puerto Rico still exists. The Chicago Times-Herald has been looked upon as an "administration organ"; its editor was one of the men who made Mr. McKinley president. Yet that outspoken journal does not hesitate to say, and many other Republican papers in the middle west are saying in substance the same:

"No two million dollar sop of customs rebated for the use and benefit of distressed Puerto Ricans can drug the conscience of the American people or lull to sleep the suspicions that insist that gross injustice is being done to Puerto Ricans because the sugar and tobacco trusts dread Cuba and the Philippines looming in the future. President McKinley's mistake is big with the possibilities of serious disaster for his party in this year's elections. It may not jeopardize his own re-election and election, but it puts a whip in the hands of every Democratic speaker with which to scourge Republican congressmen wherever they appear for re-election. What answer, for instance, can Congressman Mann, Boutwell and Foss make to the charge that they preferred to serve the ulterior interests of the sugar and tobacco trusts than to obey the dictates of their plain duty?" as pointed out by the president last December?"

The Times-Herald is undoubtedly honest in its opinion; but it has thus far failed to explain to its readers just what the "gross injustice" consists of. Is it gross injustice to Puerto Rico to give her the \$2,000,000 of revenue collected while she was being held under military rule? No sensible man can say yes. Is it gross injustice to levy upon her exports to the United States a revenue tax equal to 15 per cent. of the duties in the Dingley bill and then to give her this revenue to apply to the expenses of her government and to start her educational development and public improvements? If so, where does the injustice come in? Puerto Rico cannot be governed without payment of taxation. Most of her people are so poor now that they cannot pay a direct tax. What easier way has the ingenuity of man devised for the raising of revenues than by putting a small charge on goods passing through the custom-house—a tax paid in the first instance by the wealthy importer and, if charged back at all by him upon the consuming public, charged back in such a manner as to make the charge almost imperceptible to the individual consumer?

Now as to the sugar and tobacco trusts—what are the facts? In the warehouses of Puerto Rico these trusts have during the past few months accumulated stocks of sugar and tobacco in anticipation of the opening of our ports on a free trade basis which, under the provisions of the bill passed by the house on Wednesday last, cannot get in without the payment of \$250,000 customs duties. Where do you suppose the trusts stand on this question? Are they in favor of a bill that assesses them a quarter of a million dollars when they had figured upon getting these accumulated stocks into the United States duty free?

It is one thing to cry "gross injustice"; it is another thing to show a warrant for that cry. The Republican assaults of the Payne Puerto Rican tariff bill are piling up a lot of campaign thunder for the Democratic spellbinders this year, but they have not yet disclosed a scintilla of justification for their attitude of alarm.

Prophetic.

HERE IS, says a London dispatch, a practically universal sentiment in Great Britain in favor of permitting Canada and the other colonies which have helped in prosecuting the South African war to have a voice in determining the settlement. "Englishmen apparently are convinced," the dispatch adds, "that the growth and perpetuity of the empire depends largely on the ardent loyalty of the colonies, and they believe that such loyalty can be secured only by inviting the fullest possible participation in the affairs of the imperial government. The whole trend of English aspiration today is toward a concentrated realm, as opposed to a sovereign state with great outlying colonies."

It is said possible because after years of patient preparation the colonies are now at last fitted for integration with the empire. Their attachment from the rolls of dependents to the ranks of co-partners in the bond of the common cause. In a narrow sense the Dominion of Canada had no need to send troops to South Africa. The grievances of the United States did not directly affect them. The African conspiracy to dominate South Africa and to delineate its fertile plains and endowed mountains to an oligarchy reproducing in the twentieth century the ideas and ideals of the seventeenth did not menace a single Canadian of prominence. Canada could easily have kept out of the affair and justified her non-intervention to the world. But the best evidence that British administration is not the tyranny that it is sometimes represented to be is shown in the fact that not only Canada but every other colonial constituent of the British empire whose inhabitants have risen to the plane of the English language and the English law and institutions quickly rushed with offers of men and money to the defense of the imperial standard and has looked upon this war as its own.

The spectacle is prophetic. It teaches that the end of that empire is yet a long way off; and it enables far-seeing Americans to look forward to a time when in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines the Stars and Stripes will command from the body of the native people a similar devotion.

Evidence is constantly coming to the surface to indicate that the spirit of old Kentucky is only slumbering. Two car loads of army equipment, five cannons and two Gatling guns were among the incidentals that have preceded Governor Taylor to London, where he expects to establish state offices.

The South and Expansion.

THE POSSIBILITY is alarming some of the orthodox Democrats at Washington that the forthcoming Democratic convention in Georgia may take counsel of its own convictions rather than of the political necessities of William J. Bryan and declare unequivocally for expansion. The sentiment of Georgia is overwhelmingly in favor of expansion; the leaders of the Georgia Democracy are for it, and it is nothing but their fear of getting out of tune with the next Democratic national platform which causes any restraint of their real sentiment.

One of the foremost Democrats of Georgia is John Temple Graves, editor of the Atlanta Journal. He divides with Clark Howell the mantle of the late Henry W. Grady as the chief exponent and spokesman of the new south. Mr. Graves is an out-and-out expansionist. He is for it because he believes it is the will of Providence and that in its direction lie our finest opportunities. But he is also for it from the standpoint of the selfish and sectional interest of his section; and on this sub-division of the subject we may well quote his words:

"The great staple and material productions of the South would expand and flourish in the mighty markets of the East. The colossal trade of China and Japan and the unlimited markets of the undeveloped but teeming Orient mean as much and more to the gulf and southeastern states than any other section of the republic. If it be argued that the recent concession by European powers of an open door in China gives to us all the commercial opportunity that we desire there, it is a truthful and logical answer to say that the open door was swung wide at the bidding of our naval base at Manila. It would have opened to the diplomatic touch less easily, if at all, but for the superb possession won by our navy in the Pacific, and it would not be likely to remain open if we should haul down our flag, withdraw our troops, and become a mere cruiser in Pacific seas without this magnificent archipelago to give us the dignity and standing to enforce our interests there."

But more directly, this incomparable interest in the Pacific ocean has made the isthmian canal a certainty. This great enterprise has been tossed about for twenty years in congress and never was assured until Dewey's guns gave us a new and unanswerable argument for its completion. And this isthmian canal, when completed, will make these gulf and South Atlantic states almost the exact geographical center of the vast currents of national and international trade, fructifying and enriching that section with unparalleled development and prosperity. The commercial interests of the South in the Greater America is obvious and transcendent."

This view is certain to spread rapidly among the people of the gulf states. From the remarks of President McKinley at the banquet of the Ohio society the other night, it is easy to see that the president's critics have not been able to persuade him that he is an imperialist.

Shall the Federal Constitution Be Revised?

IS THIS constitution of the United States in need of revision? Should there be another great constitutional convention? The idea at first suggestion seems to verge on sacrilege, yet we are seriously told by a special writer in the Washington Star that it is getting a hold upon one of the most thoughtful men in public life.

"There are," says this writer, "few men in congress, aside from those who are utterly indifferent to anything except merely temporary policy, who do not agree that the present tendency is to break away more and more from the restraints which the constitution has been regarded as putting upon the policies of government. This is justified upon the grounds of necessity arising from the growth and development of the nation. It is argued that if the framers of the constitution had any conception of the nation to be built upon the foundation they laid the conditions existing at the time of the framing of the constitution did not admit of its being made broad enough to meet that nation's needs for all that time. Not to speak too irreverently of that great instrument, it was of necessity a patchwork in which each of the states or colonies contributed a patch, and the doubts and anxiety of the time found expression in the color of the patches. What once stood out in glaring colors has now faded; time has reduced the whole fabric to a common

shade, but that shade is indistinct and gradually becoming colorless.

"Comparatively few men among the class responsible for government today, in either the legislative or executive branches, and perhaps in the judiciary, have much respect for the narrow restraints of the constitution. A suggestion of their existence with a right to be respected provokes outbursts of impatience in every debate in congress. The only open question appears to be whether the restraints which are deemed inconsistent with our present national character and a hindrance to expansion shall be ignored and allowed to become a dead letter, or whether the problem shall be dealt with more directly by a reconstruction of the constitution to suit it to the changes that have come about during its honored existence of more than a hundred years. Those who are inclined to the idea of a reconstruction by a constitutional convention at some time in the near future are influenced by the belief that the inevitable result of trying to overcome difficulties by avoiding or ignoring or by new and strained interpretation of things which conflict with present and future political needs will be the development into a condition of having only an unwritten constitution, as has Great Britain, the written instrument becoming obsolete; and that we will have a new constitution in fact, though not of record. They feel that if we are to retain a written constitution the changes in it made necessary by new conditions should be made in writing in order to preserve stability of our institutions."

The probabilities are that the Star's contributor is drawing somewhat heavily upon an inspired imagination. That the present constitution is sufficiently elastic is shown in the fact that constitutional warrant can be found by any reasonably clever interpreter for the most antithetical policies. There may now and anon be specific amendment. One is now pending which has in it much merit—the proposition to prohibit polygamy within American jurisdiction. Another amendment may become necessary in time in connection with our newly formed territorial responsibilities; one specifically asserting the power of congress to fit the boot to the foot. But the main bulk of the great charter is eminently satisfactory. If we can always have broad-gauged men on our Supreme bench there will be little real trouble on this score.

Cecil Leslie, the advertising agent of the celebrated Franklin syndicate, is now in the toils at New York. Whatever his motives, the results, or the final disposition of his case, it must be admitted that Leslie was a first-class advertising man.

In the absence of other topics, the wise acres are now speculating upon the chances of a war between Great Britain and France. It will happen when France is ready for suicide.

Mr. Kohlssat in the role of furnishing ammunition to the enemy is a new illustration of the adage that politics makes strange bedfellows.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Not a Classic Congressman.

A CERTAIN member of the house of representatives, nameless here for ever more, met a newspaper correspondent in the lobby the other day, says the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, and mysteriously invited him to accompany him to his committee room. The correspondent cast a cheek of tobacco into the gutter in anticipation and followed the statesman to the seclusion of the peace designated.

"Carefully," said the member, looking about as if he were afraid of eavesdroppers, "I am present. 'I want to ask you a question in confidence.'"

"Oh," responded the correspondent in a tone of disappointment, "is that what you wanted?"

"Yes; and if you can give me the information I am after you will do me a great favor."

"All right," said the correspondent, recovering his wonted spirits, though the other kind were lacking, "what is it? Go ahead with your rat killing."

"Well," began the member in a manner reminding one of the preface to a book, "I had one of the boys look over a speech I am going to make just to see what he thought of it and make a suggestion or two to improve it, if necessary, and he's got something into that I am not up to."

"What is it?" asked the correspondent in the meanwhile.

"Well, I'm fairly well up on the Bible, and when I come across the sentence 'anywhere from Dan to Beersheba,' I know what it means, but when Dan and Beersheba are also known as Dan and the other one, I had that in the speech, but he said it was a chestnut by this time, and it would sound more like a cast-out-of-the-times and literary culture to change it to 'from Title to Colophon,' and I told him 'all right,' but didn't let on. Now, you are a friend of mine, and I want to ask you about this. As I said, I'm up on the Bible, but I don't know the classical business a little bit, and while I can kind of catch 'Title to Colophon,' I don't know who in thunder Colophon was. Do you know?"

Where Bulk Was an Advantage.

WILLIAM M. EVARTS, with all his wit and brilliancy, was once outwitted by Senator David Davis, who weighed over 300 pounds, and whose figure was nearly the same in circumference as it was in the perpendicular, relates Harper's Weekly. He and Everts were retreating each other about personal size at a dinner one evening, and finally Davis said:

"If you will let me choose the course, I will bet you a hundred dollars that within three yards I can beat you in a race of one hundred feet."

Everyone at the table laughed and said:

"Take him up, Mr. Everts."

The wager was laid, and Mr. Davis was asked when he was ready to which he replied that he was ready at once. The whole party then adjourned to the course chosen by Senator Davis. This proved to be an alley between two houses just three feet in width and a hundred feet deep. He stepped into the mouth three yards, said "Go!" and walked quite leisurely.

Mr. Everts could get neither past him nor under him, and he called Davis back to the street and paid the bet.

Couldn't Fool Anybody.

A GERMAN TOWN girl, Toga youth, who were married last week, have brought to a stern realization of the truth of a certain old proverb about the plans of mice and men. After the doubts and anxiety of the time found expression in the color of the patches, what once stood out in glaring colors has now faded; time has reduced the whole fabric to a common

of fooling the public. "We mustn't let people see that we have just been married," warned the groom. "We must act as though we have been married a long time, and nobody will suspect." The bride agreed to this, and at the hotel an observer might have thought they had just indulged in a stiff and cold and studiously polite were they.

But in the seclusion of the bridal chamber the bride's mind turned to the marriage certificate which had become an object of the greatest interest. The bride suggested that she place it under her pillow "to dream on," and this plan was carried out. They left the hotel the next day and went to Atlantic City. It was not until they got to Atlantic City that the bride discovered that she had placed the certificate under her pillow at the hotel. The bride admitted that she had left it under her pillow at the hotel. This trifling incident was misinterpreted by the groom, who was rushing to the hotel office, he called upon the waiter over the long-distance telephone, explaining his predicament, to the amusement of the waiter, who completely forgot to give the certificate to the groom, and there was a lively exchange of telegrams between the bride and groom, the bride giving an assurance that the certificate had been found and would be forwarded to Atlantic City by mail.

Since then the bride and groom have begun to play the idea of trying to fool the public.—Philadelphia Record.

Sent Goebel to His Fate.

THE MOST trifling incident in Kentucky, as elsewhere, may lead to momentous events, a fact illustrated in an incident told by M. E. Gable in the Parisburg Times. The election commission, the creature of the Goebel law, had decided that William S. Taylor, Republican, not William Goebel, Democrat, was elected governor. Goebel was in his room at the Capital Hotel, Frankfort, preparing to go to bed. Urey Woodson, a member of the Democratic national committee for Kentucky, dropped in. Goebel declared that he was done with his fight for governor and that he was going to take the first train next morning back to Covington to resume the practice of law. Woodson now left the room, intending also to go to bed. For some reason, however, he first went down to the hotel lobby. There he incidentally told a friend what Goebel had said. The friend rushed frantically to Goebel's room and made him promise not to go home next morning. Then he got to work on the wires. Next day nearly a hundred Democratic leaders from over the state flocked to Frankfort. They insisted that Goebel be dropped. The result is known. Goebel will be dead a long time. His state is in turmoil. The results, the end, the sorrow, the troubles—who can say what they shall be? "Great God," said Urey Woodson, the day his friend was borne to the cemetery. "If I had only known he had that night, instead of to the hotel office."

Suggested the Grocery.

ADMIRAL VON DIEDERICH, the new executive of the Imperial German navy, is not the cold, calculating personage depicted by the American press. He is a well-read and cultured man. In the summer of 1898 at Manila, relates the Saturday Evening Post. Those who know him well describe him as a highly educated, highly cultured and highly educated man of good nature. At Ceylon, while eating breakfast for the first time, one of his staff who was a naturalist, said: "The admiral is supplying bread, fruit, also produces a nutritious oil or vegetable grease."

"The admiral looked up. 'Why not call it the bread-and-butter fruit tree?'"

CONVENTION CALLS.

First Legislative District.

Notice is hereby given that a convention of the Republicans of the First legislative district will be held at 12 o'clock on the 23rd day of March next, at Co-operative hall, West Side, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislative district office of said district and electing two delegates to attend the Republican state convention to be held in Harrisburg on April 25, 1900. The primaries of this district will be held at 12 o'clock on March 17, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock. According to the rules governing the Republican primaries of this legislative district, notice 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 candidate for any person who has not complied with these conditions.

W. A. PALME, Chairman.

Attest: Joseph Joffe, 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, 1900, 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 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, 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 polls. 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 on the official ballot, neither will any votes cast for him be counted.

The district vigilance committee in the various precincts will conduct the election and the result will be reported by the return judge to the district convention, which will be composed of the electors of the various districts. A written notice containing further instructions will be sent to the members of the said district vigilance committee.

E. FLETCHER, Secretary.

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 6th day of April, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the court house of the county, Scranton, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the legislature and electing two delegates to represent said legislative district in the state convention to be held at Harrisburg on April 25, 1900, and transacting any other business as shall be brought before it.

Vigilance committees will hold primary 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 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 registered their names with the secretary at 98-99, Meads building, Scranton, Pa., and who desire the privilege of registering will observe the requirements of rule 4, which reads as follows: "Each candidate must register his full name and postoffice 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. 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.

JUSTICE FOR PUERTO RICO.

From the Philadelphia Press.

President McKinley has cut the ground from under the objectors to the Puerto Rican tariff at a stroke. He ends the chorus of criticism over the "oppression" of Puerto Rico by proposing to give the island the entire sum, \$2,000,000, paid on imports from Puerto Rico in the past eighteen months, since Puerto Rico came into the possession of the United States. This is twice the amount of revenue of Puerto Rico under Spanish rule, which about one million dollars in silver was annually raised by taxation. In other words, Puerto Rico starts with a gift from the United States treasury of twice its usual yearly income for all purposes. This windfall comes without warning or expectation. It rights the wrong which President McKinley was unable to rectify under which the delay of congress has left Puerto Rico paying full duties for the island's entire produce, and for the United States. It carries a step farther the principle that the duties levied on colonial products on entering the United States should be assumed for the benefit of the colony. It closes the crying cry which the United States was treating the island "worse than Spain."

What Spain did in its last year, as reported in the "Statesman's Year-Book," an impartial authority, was to levy taxes of \$1,001,000 and expend \$751,000 in the island, the remainder, \$250,000, being Spanish profit on its colonial possession. The United States in eighteen months has paid all the cost of its army and navy, which Spain levied on the island; defrayed the salary of its military governors, which Spain paid from Puerto Rico revenue; poured in supplies, public and private, to aid the sufferers by the hurricane, and now gives the wrong which Spain inflicted on the island a right.

Mr. S. QUAY.

From the Washington Post.

Mr. Quay, in our opinion, has been the victim of a persecution without parallel in the history of our country. The leaders of the attack upon him were men notoriously open to ever accusation of political chicanery which they themselves had hurled at Mr. Quay, without one tithe of his personal ability and power. The primary elections which have taken place since Mr. Quay was defrauded of his rights in the Pennsylvania legislature show that he retains among his supporters an overwhelming majority of the party, and it is safe to assert that, were the people of Pennsylvania to declare themselves at this juncture, he would be chosen to succeed himself almost by acclamation.

PATIENCE.

I put her letter by, because, With dimming eyes, I needs must pause To fashion somewhat of her smile From memory, a little while;

To feel again the gentle touch That made me wonder overmuch If such a soft caress of love Were not for ransomed ones above

Instead of for my earthly bliss— This handclasp sweeter than a kiss.

I put her letter by a bit To muse and marvel over it

As something rare beyond the ken Of common thought and mortal men;

As something that the tender years Have traced with not ungrateful tears.

A sweet good-bye, it is, to say She'll meet me "later in the day."

And still I wait! And still I wait! The years have gone—the day is late!

A shrine of myrtle for her dust— A letter yellowed with the rust

Of tears—a prayer to understand Her signal from the peaceful land.

I put her letter by—I know His promise will be kept, and so,

Through misty eyes my soul shall smile And wait in patience yet awhile.

—Chicago Record.

Railroad Men Get Ready for Inspection

We have now a full line of all makes of Watches that we guarantee to pass. Buy your Watches of an old reliable house. Not some agent who will open shop for two or three months and then skid out. We are here to stay. Our guarantee is "as good as gold." Prices as low as any.

MERCEREAU & CONNELL
130 Wyoming Ave.
Coal Exchange.

Heating Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, Plumbing and Tining.

GUNSTER & FORSYTH,
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The Hunt & Connell Co.

Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas and Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware.

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General Agent for the Young's District.

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HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

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FINLEY'S FOULARD SILKS AND CHALLIES

We have just opened our spring line of New Fouldars, 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.

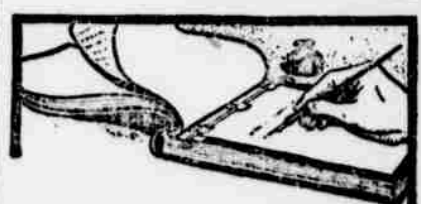
See our exhibit this week, 510-512

LACKAWANNA AVENUE

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 Post 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.

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Roll Top Desks, Flat Top Desks, Standing Desks, Typewriter Desks, and Office Chairs

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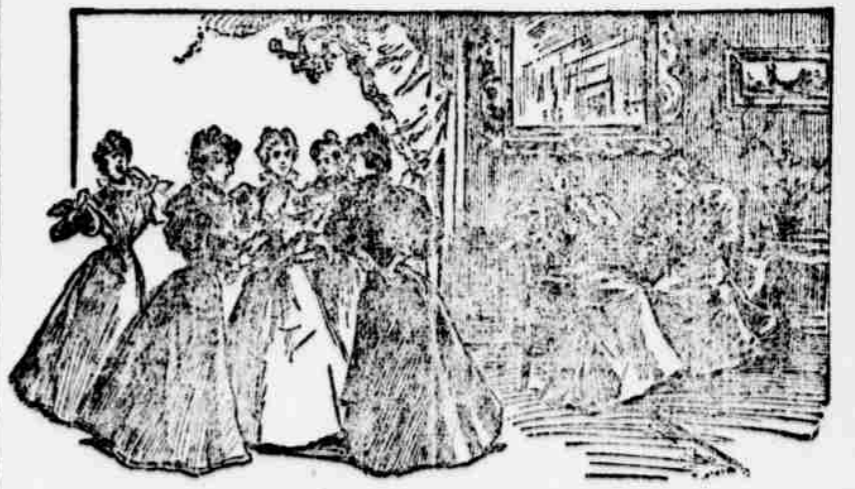
"KORRECT SHAPE."

More friends every day. The cause—easy to buy, easy to wear.

\$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00.

Lewis, Rully & Davies,

24-34 Wyoming Avenue.



EVA: Every afternoon about 5 o'clock I begin to yawn and yawn and I yawn and gape and yawn till bed-time. If I nip one yawn in the bud the next follows almost immediately and is bound to be a regular jaw-breaker.

MAY: I had such an experience myself one time, and I remember asking the doctor whether one should try to keep from yawning, and he said no, that the act of gaping gives to the blood more oxygen and acts by mechanical pressure on the heart and lungs. If one has chronic yawning it is a symptom which should cause the affected one to look after her general health, for it is a sure sign that something is wrong.

MRS. MOORE: It is pretty well understood that yawning is an ailment that comes from indigestion or lack of tone in the system and may be cured by taking a Ripans Table before retiring. After a few days of this treatment the tendency will disappear.