

The Scranton Tribune

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LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor. O. F. BYXBEE, Business Manager.

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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 8, 1900.

The legislative interests of Scranton, its hospitals, charities and city affairs, are too important to be entrusted to inexperienced men. Representatives Farr and Scheuer deserve to be re-nominated and re-elected; and their return to Harrisburg will be to the public's distinct gain.

Slandering the Administration.

THE CHARGE that the recent change in policy toward Puerto Rico was due to "trust" influences naturally appeals to Democratic organs like the Scranton Times which delight in ascribing unworthy motives to political opponents. It is futile to pay attention to such innuendo. The charge is unsupported by proof, is clearly partisan in motive, and can safely be left to the sober judgment of the people. Those who are anxious to believe ill of the president of the United States and his advisers will believe it regardless of what may be said to the contrary; and those who are unwilling to accept such assertions without proof will await the proof or, failing its production, visit upon the vilifiers the contempt they deserve.

As Senator Lodge has made plain, the pending bill gives to the inhabitants of Puerto Rico privileges in excess of those enjoyed by the inhabitants of our domestic territories. They are to have every legal privilege enjoyed by American citizens anywhere; but unlike the citizens of Arizona or New Mexico they are not to pay one tax on articles covered by a revenue tariff and another for territorial purposes. The only tax put upon them is one amounting to 15 per cent. of the duties provided in the Dingley tariff law; if this should be removed, its equivalent would have to be paid by them in the form of a direct tax, which is the hardest kind of a tax burden to bear. On this subject Congressman Daisell well says:

"It is absolutely necessary that money be raised to run the government of Puerto Rico. Money is necessary for schools, internal improvements, and for the administration of justice. There are three ways in which that money can be raised—by direct appropriation from the Federal treasury, which makes Puerto Rico a charity nation, and against which the Puerto Ricans themselves protest; by putting a mortgage on the island, borrowing money at a high rate of interest, and turning Puerto Rico over to the bondholders. The committee on ways and means did not believe that the American people would approve of starting Puerto Rico upon her career saddled with a debt. The only method left, therefore, to raise money is by taxation. To extend the United States revenue system to Puerto Rico would be to ruin the island. The people are not in a situation to respond to revenue taxation. It was therefore determined to impose taxation of the least obnoxious kind, namely, the tobacco tax. This is the least felt and imposes the burden where it can be most easily borne. Puerto Rico's exports are principally of three kinds, coffee, sugar and tobacco. The coffee and sugar comes in free, tobacco and sugar. The tobacco and sugar of Puerto Rico in the warehouses are owned by the tobacco trust and the sugar trust. The committee thought it would be a beneficial act to the island to make those two trusts contribute by way of duties to the help of the poor Puerto Ricans. The claim that people are advocated by the tobacco trust and the sugar trust is too ridiculous to merit consideration. Everybody with any sense knows that it is in the interest of these trusts to have their raw materials come into the United States free of duty. \* \* \* The cry that the bill is robbery of the Puerto Ricans is ridiculous. The Spanish rule they paid all sorts of taxes, a tariff on their products going to Spain and Cuba, export taxes, license, transportation taxes and perhaps others. Some two or three years ago a commission of distinguished Puerto Ricans was formed to devise a scheme of tariff reform for the island. Their report asked for two things, a protective tariff to build up their industries being the first. This bill gives them the protective rates of the Dingley bill. They asked, secondly, for a treaty with the United States, which should reduce our duties 50 per cent., so that in point of fact the Puerto Ricans are today getting much more than what they themselves asked for two years ago."

We do not again allude to the constitutional reasons which prompted the administration to await a decision from the Supreme court on the power of congress to legislate for the territories before making permanent laws for Puerto Rico; these, we imagine, are by this time well understood. The point now in need of emphasis is that the Republican leaders have been misrepresented; that the outcry against them rests on misconception of the facts; and that the duty of all patriotic citizens, regardless of party, is to shut their ears to mistaken clamor and take steps to inform themselves as to those facts. The Republican party can well afford to trust its case to an intelligent investigation.

A number of citizens residing in the Seventeenth ward are hoping that the Schuylers court sewer ordinance, which provides for the sewerage of their portion of the city at their own expense, will be expedited on passage so that the coming summer will put an end to the cesspool abomination which now menace their health and the city's health, but which at present are a necessary evil. This matter has been too long delayed.

"The purpose of the president," according to Judge Taft, the head of the new Philippine commission, "is to give to the people of the Philippine islands the best civil government which he can provide, with the largest measure of self-government consistent with stability. He seeks only the welfare of the

Philippines and the betterment of his condition. The incidental benefits to the trade of this country arising from the new relation must be made subservient to the interests of those who have become our wards." If this is imperialism, make the most of it.

If the sugar trust could save the duty on its raw material through free trade with Puerto Rico, do you suppose it would fight to put a tariff on it?

A Manly Letter.

IN A MANLY letter to Senator Davis, Adjutant General Corbin invites the fullest investigation of his military record since he entered the army. It has been alleged that during the civil war, when General Corbin was lieutenant colonel of the Fourteenth Colored infantry, he acted in a manner unbecoming a soldier. He was fully tried by court martial at the time and honorably acquitted but enemies have persisted in casting this old accusation in his face and he now says: "I desire to place myself at your command in aiding you to make a searching examination of my record as a soldier, with a view to ascertaining all the truth, and I wish to say in all earnestness, if a search reveals to you a suggestion of unworthiness, I will close the discussion, so far as I am concerned, by authorizing you to present my resignation from the service to the president." Continuing, he says:

"I will gladly give you any assistance in facilitating an examination of the records made, day by day, from the time when, as a lad of 19, I left my father's farm in southern Ohio and entered the volunteer army. I am now closing my thirty-eighth year of continuous service; a service, modest though it has been, I claim to have been honest and faithful. My services in the volunteer army covered nearly four years, having in that time held commissions of six grades, from second lieutenant to and including that of colonel with leave of brigadier-general, from all of which I was honorably discharged. Not only this, but General Grant, while secretary of war at interim two years before the outbreak of the war, had been of record in the war department, conferred upon me by authority of the president two brevets, one of major, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Decatur, Ala., and another of lieutenant-colonel for like service in the battle of Nashville, covering the exact dates forth in the specifications fully the charges tried. Following my discharge from the volunteer service I was appointed a second lieutenant in the regular army, and in July, 1868, was appointed a captain in one of the new regiments, and, so far as I am aware, without the solicitation of any influence outside of the military service. I had been an officer of the army for the fourteen years before I had the honor of the personal acquaintance of any member of congress or any one else in touch with the authorities in Washington. My first ten years in the regular army were spent with my company in the then remote western states and territories of Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, having in that time marched in different expeditions against hostile Indians and changes of station from Fort Riley, Kan., (then the western terminal of the railroads leading to the west), to Fort Brown at the mouth of the Rio Grande, the distance traversed and the difficulties of this service being fully understood only by those who have had the experience. During all these ten years I was never absent from duty a single day from any cause whatever. I served fourteen years as a captain of infantry and in the adjutant-general's department, nine years in the grade of major, seven years in the grade of lieutenant-colonel and two years in the grade of colonel, and at the time of my appointment as adjutant-general, was the senior colonel in the department. Your attention is also invited to the fact that the president termed me the commission of major-general of volunteers, which I had the honor to receive in connection with the re-organized number by law might be given to officers serving with troops in the field. I have now served in the regular army more than a third of a century, and I have been absent from duty from any cause less than thirty days."

This manly letter will win for General Corbin the sympathy which properly goes to men who are hounded without cause. What the influences are that have introduced a state of feud between Corbin and certain other officers of the regular army stationed at Washington, notable among them, if common report be true, the major general commanding, civilians do not have the means of knowing; but it is earnestly to be hoped that the investigation which has been proposed by the senate in connection with the army reorganization bill will go to the bottom of the situation and clear it up, once for all.

The announcement that Mr. Cleveland has gone upon a fishing trip is a refutation of the assertion that it is necessary for our ex-presidents to have the gout in order to get their names in the papers.

The "Blacklist" is Illegal.

THE DECISION of the Supreme court the other day asserting the illegality of the "black list" in a case involving a combination of wholesale produce dealers which pledged themselves not to sell goods to any person in debt to any member of the combination is manifestly good law and good common sense as well. A retail dealer in Philadelphia owed one member of the "combine" a bill of \$90. The creditor posted the debtor on a blacklist which shut off his supply of produce and for a time practically extinguished his business. He sued and the lower court gave him no redress, claiming that action should lie for the recovery of special damages, which must be proved.

The court of review overthrew this point, holding that the infliction of damage is self-evident from the nature of the blacklist; that the combination so to restrain trade is unlawful and that the fact that a man owes a debt does not give another man or a combination of other men a license to ruin him. There are regular channels for the collection of debts and for the punishment of fraud if fraudulent practices entered into the contraction of the indebtedness. To ignore these channels and to set up, extra judicially, an arbitrary and highhanded tribunal for the enforcement of collections in a manner suggestive of coercion by blackmail, very properly impresses the Supreme court as not to be tolerated.

This decision will commend itself to intelligent judgment. It is true that the professional "dead beat" constitutes a standing provocation to resort to drastic means of collection; and if the black list principle could be confined to this class there would be very

little objection to its application. Unhappily, the wrath of the blackliester is liable to fall upon the just and the unjust indiscriminately and the only way to protect the honest debtor is to require fraud to be proved in regular actions for recovery or punishment or both.

The assertion of Judge Taft at Cincinnati the other night that he was not originally an expansionist and would be happier in spirit if the United States were well out of its new territorial complications, but that he was satisfied that we had got into them through choice by our government of the only honorable alternatives growing out of the unexpected developments of the Spanish-American war, and that, being in, and apparently in to stay, the call of duty is to make the very best of the situation, presents a view of this problem sharply contrasting with the querulous fault-finding and ineffectual vituperation of the professional "ants."

Robbery by Slander.

AN IMPORTANT question in law and morals is raised in the indictment by a New York grand jury of six men charged with depressing the stock of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit and other corporations by foul methods. The presentment of the jury sets forth the facts which are essential to a correct understanding of its action.

It appears from the presentment that in the summer of 1899 the stock of a number of corporations whose securities were dealt in on the exchanges were selected as the object of attacks of a novel and dangerous character. Paid advertisements were inserted from week to week in leading newspapers in New York and Boston attacking the value of the stock of these companies, asserting with the utmost positiveness in the case of one of them, whose stock was then quoted above par, that it would fall to 90, to 50, to 20; that the advertiser spoke from accurate inside information, advising the sale of such stock and promising definite information if inquirers would write to an advertised address. Letters were sent broadcast over the country in response to inquiries made in answer to such advertisements, reiterating the statements as to the value of the stock and stating that it would fall much lower; that followers of the advice given by the advertiser had made thousands of dollars, and urging the quick and confident sale of such stock short. Telegrams by the hundred were sent broadcast through the United States advising the sale of the stock for a 30 point drop at the opening the next morning, and coincident with that telegraphic advice, an absolutely false rumor or statement was suddenly and widely disseminated by word of mouth, by telephone and by private wire that the company was about to go into the hands of a receiver, that the papers applying for such receivership had been seen, one rumor going so far as to give the name of the person who had been agreed upon for receiver. Enormous short sales of stocks followed, causing great loss to many persons. The presentment continues:

As the market price of the securities of a corporation must depend upon the belief of those holding or dealing in them that they are valuable, these constant and diversified attacks undoubtedly made a most depressing effect, tending to shake the faith and confidence of the community, and among those who are influential in the financial world should be aroused the necessity of bringing to the attention of the authorities all instances of manipulation of the prices of stocks by such methods and that the district attorney in turn should make strenuous effort to convict and punish the guilty parties. A resolution of the district attorney will surely follow will be the best means of suppressing these insidious crimes which threaten not only the interests of specific individuals, but also the general welfare of the community.

It has been held that no law was violated in the pursuit of these tactics. That will be a question for the courts to determine. But if the law does not provide a sufficient remedy for this kind of conspiracy to rob by means of slander it needs very little argument to convince the average man that the law should be amended.

"The truth is that we have never treated any people who have come under our flag with such generosity and consideration as we show in the proposed legislation for Puerto Rico. The citizen of Arizona or New Mexico pays the duties on every imported article which he consumes, and all internal revenue taxes, and what he pays goes into the treasury of the United States, while he is left to tax himself in addition for all the expenses of the territorial government. In the case of Puerto Rico every dollar of taxation raised by the United States, directly or indirectly, from the island or its products is paid into the island treasury. The United States under this bill will not take one cent of revenue from the island of Puerto Rico, while it taxes the inhabitants of the states. It is difficult to see how a more liberal and generous arrangement could be devised."—Senator Lodge.

If the anti-expansionists wish to prove that the United States recognized Aguinaldo or the Filipino government, they will do well to avoid bringing official documents into the controversy.

It begins to look as though many of the "Sapho" companies that started on the road under such favorable conditions a few days ago would have to walk back.

Puerto Rico may prove another illustration that those who make the most noise are not always the people who pay the tax bill.

Three Years of William M'Kinley

John J. Ingalls, in New York Journal.

THE most extraordinary phenomenon of President McKinley's administration is the subsidence of social discontent. The threatening food of unrest and exasperation born of misfortune and adversity, which culminated in the nomination of Bryan, ebbed with his defeat. Socialism, communism, cheap money and the other driftwood, rubbish and debris of that deplorable epoch, left the refuse of an inundation, now lie stranded and decaying on the shore, or were swept into the sea of oblivion, and the stream of national affairs flows undisturbed in its accustomed channel. Coxe's noble literary martyrdom has been mustered out. The copiousness of Debs, Herriot and other apostles of anarchy, preachers of pessimism, acolytes of despair, is gone. Their crazy rant that once excited mobs to uncontrollable frenzy will now be heard with amused contempt. Demagogues are out of a job.

Something has scattered plenty o'er a smiling land. Employment is abundant and wages rise. Agriculture embarrasses the farmers with its riches and burdens the fleets of the world with its abundance. Commerce has risen beyond precedent. Manufacturers multiply and replenish the earth. From Cape Nome to Puerto Rico, from Manila to Maine, forges blaze, stacks smoke, wheels revolve, spindles hum, and electric lights turn night into day. It is an illuminated chapter from the romance of prosperity. Even the per capita, that mysterious and menacing spectre whose shadow has so often darkened the feast, has increased from \$247 when McKinley was inaugurated to \$324 at the close of the third year of his administration. The most rapid growth of money in circulation in our history, and very largely in gold. Whether this prodigious change is due wholly or in part, or not at all, to the policy of the administration is immaterial. It has happened. It may be cause and effect, or it may be coincidental; but the millions who were ground between the upper and the nether millstones of adversity in that dismal interval after the collapse of 1893 know that it has taken place. They are not inquisitive as to how it came to be. What they desire is its continuance.

As soon as the farmer has a bank account he ceases to be interested in abstract questions of finance. The capacity to draw a check makes him conservative. The artisan who owns his own workshop has contented occupation at living wages thinks less of communism and the redistribution of the assets of society. Such a condition, while conducive to tranquillity and happiness, is not favorable to reform. A people contented and prosperous by the fruits of their own industry, and inured to the fact that it is more difficult to resist than to endure. For this reason the encroachment of monopolies is now insidiously destroying competition and opportunity in every department of commercial and industrial activity. The workman, usually so prompt and vigorous to resent injustice and oppression, submit to the extortions of the trust which has recently so enormously increased the price of paper, almost without a murmur of protest. With combined effort they could wring the necks of these malefactors and throw their carcasses on the compost heap of mammon, where they belong. This trust levies its blackmail on education and religion, on the school book and the Bible, on the newspaper, literature and libraries, on free thought and a free press, which are the sentinels and guardians of liberty. Of all the unforgotten crimes of the money power this is the most indefensible and infamous. If the Republican party does not have the courage to do its duty and certain that some other party will.

The president's career from the beginning is a striking illustration of the immense value of pure, high, stainless personal character as an element of success in public life. He wears the mantle of him who hath his quarrel just. He has escaped calumny. All our recent presidents, with one exception, have been reputable enough, but McKinley has been more than this—he has lived up to his ideals. He has made his golden rule the law of his conduct. He has been loyal to his home, faithful to his friends, magnanimous to his adversaries, constant in his devotion to duty. He has paid his tithes of anise, mint and cummin; he has not omitted the weightier matters of the law, his defects and limitations are recognized, but no one doubts his patriotism, his sincerity, his determination to do right, his love of justice. He is safe and sane; a planet and not a meteor. His opponents respect him, and the people, regardless of party, honor and trust him. Even caricature, the Roentgen ray of satire, which brings the hidden and secret infirmities of character to the surface, has discovered no flaws, and the lampooners have fallen back on the schoolboy irony of depicting him as the marionette in a Punch and Judy show that moves as the strings are pulled by stronger men, which scarce provokes a smile. This faith and confidence of the people have been a shield to the president in many emergencies where he might otherwise have been vulnerable.

The Spanish war was not a party question. It was the people's war. They knew the president was opposed to it. He desired to avoid blood, and so he sought a peaceable settlement; but his motives were never impugned, and congress gave him fifty millions to prepare for the conflict. No war of modern times has been followed by more momentous consequences, and none, on land, has been less prolific in heroism or glory. The private soldier fought magnificently. American soldiers always do, but Shafter's ham-mock and backboard campaign, and his purpose to retreat at Santiago; the horrors of Montauk, the Egan episode, the eccentric contracts of Alger are matters to which the historian will refer neither with pleasure nor pride. But no one holds the president responsible. Still less will they believe that because he waits to learn their wishes he is infirm of purpose, or that he proposes to overthrow constitutional liberty and set up an empire on the ruins of the republic.

Political issues, like poets, are born and not made. They are organic and not invented. They are not kept in stock like canned goods in a grocery store in mid-winter. The Republicans hold the affirmative on every great question before the American people. They have redeemed their pledges and are not encumbered

with ancient platforms. They will re-nominate President McKinley, as the Democrats will re-nominate Mr. Bryan, by acclamation. One will stand on a declaration of principles for 1893; the other on the Chicago platform, with cotillions and postscripts drawn from a grab-bag, reaffirming undying hostility to government by injunction, which is a nightmare; to imperialism, which is a chimera, and to the gold standard, which is the cornerstone of the financial system of the world. Standing at the gateway of the fourth year of his administration, the president and his party have ample grounds for congratulation, both in the prospect and the retrospect.

In Woman's Realm

A LETTER HAS been received from a member of the Green Back Women's club, in whose good work already accomplished in this city all public spirited people are in sympathy. Space is gladly given to the interesting portion which refers to the attitude which the Economic Section desires to assume with respect to the movements undertaken:

The article in the column of Wednesday seemed to open a fitting opportunity for the members of the Economic Section of the Women's club to briefly explain to the general public the object of their work. To those who have felt that we have departed from our sphere in undertaking by agitation, to bring about improvement in the sanitary conditions of Scranton, we would say that we would have been glad to have seen this work done by the men of our city, but in most cases their business duties, in their young and active years have been too great, that they have scarcely had the time to discover how serious were the condition and how necessary the improvement. The mother who has the care of the household and the interests of her children at heart is naturally the first one to give thought to these matters, and when other means seemed wanting, is it a wonder that the women took the question up? In every case where business men or organizations have been called upon to take the lead in suggesting improvements we have been treated with great respect and courtesy, and we have generally found ready assistance when we have been so generously endowed by nature and where the wealth of our citizens is so plainly manifest in our magnificent structures, that there should be no lack of interest or support toward making all corners clean thereby giving us the wholesome condition, which by a little care, would go far toward making our city a more beautiful one. We did not find our section for the pleasure to be derived from it, nor to create antagonism, though we did not expect every one to agree in our plans nor support us. We have endeavored before taking up any subject to inform ourselves upon it, and to obtain advice from the best possible authorities. We have been very hard and have fallen upon a few, but it has been done for the benefit of all of the citizens of Scranton, whether they have favored or opposed us, with the hope that the near future will see a decided improvement in the sanitary conditions throughout the city.

THERE IS an endless procession of Lenten fads this season. One of the newest was exhibited by a charming girl yesterday, as with a number of other girls she was chatting in her pretty room. "See my 'darn box'?" she suddenly remarked. Some of her listeners glanced at her expectantly, but a newly-faded mending basket or the latest thing for an Easter trifle. Nothing of the sort. Just a little white pasteboard box which had probably come to her from a batch of wedding cake. Now it had a small slit in the top. "Every time I say 'darn' in goes a five-cent piece," announced the pretty girl. "By the time Lent is over I shall be enabled to endow a hospital. Yes, I know it's horrid to hear a girl say 'darn,' and I mean to break off the habit. I begin to realize what it must mean for Jack L. to stop smoking cigarettes. I wonder that anybody ever reforms."

Then the girls all began talking about their various pledges of self-denial through Lent and there was certainly an interesting list.

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FINLEY'S

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR AMERICAN WOMEN

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I began to use Ripans Tabules about two years ago. Up to that time I had been troubled with indigestion since five years previous. After eating my stomach would become distended and food become sour, with frequent belching. I was also troubled with palpitation of the heart. While my appetite was usually good, I dreaded to take food. I was induced to try Ripans Tabules by seeing them so much advertised in the papers. After I had taken two or three Tabules that fullness disappeared, my bowels became regular and I have never felt the least symptoms of palpitation of the heart. I have taken them twice a day after meals up to about fifteen days ago, when my supply gave out. Though I have taken nothing since then, my digestion has been all right. My present occupation is farming, although I spent several years teaching. My age is thirty-one years.