

The Scranton Tribune

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

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short notices from its friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, APRIL 3, 1900.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislature.

First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS. Second District—JOHN SCHETTER, JR.

There is reason to fear that Hon. William J. Smith, representative of the Nineteenth ward in common council, has entered upon his official career with a misunderstanding of the rules of the game. Honorable men do not enter the caucus of their party, participate in its proceedings, and then without warning vote contrary to the caucus decision. The public official who indulges in this kind of politics as a rule does not remain long in public life.

The Reorganization of Councils.

THE ELECTION of William U. Griffiths as chairman of the common council and of Charles Wagner as chairman of select insures an efficient organization of the new councils, which is heightened by the unanimous reelection of Martin Lavelle as city clerk. It is an exaggeration to say of Mr. Lavelle that he is the best informed man in the city of Scranton on municipal affairs, and considering that he is a Democrat and that both councils are Republican his retention in office without opposition is a compliment very unusual in these days of practical politics.

The new councils enter upon their duties at a time when public sentiment is more insistent than formerly upon clean methods in city government. They will need to expect a much more vigilant scrutiny of their proceedings than has prevailed during the recent past. The condition of the city's finances, the need of large improvements consequent upon the city's rapid growth, and especially the demand for economy and simple honesty in methods of legislation combine to give to their deliberations during the coming year a new measure of importance.

The public is not only disgusted with the lax and indifferent ways of the past, but is also in a mood to give emphasis to its disgust if marked improvement in these particulars shall not be exhibited. Log-rolling, the playing of section against section and the carrying into the council chamber of small prejudices and spite—these may be to some extent inevitable but it is well to state at once that the public will expect late of this kind of thing than has been the rule hitherto. Those who shall stand in the way of that expectation must prepare for trouble. Those who shall stand fearlessly for decency and intelligent methods will not, as in the past, have to fight alone.

The citizen who does not understand the ins and outs of the Puerto Rican tariff question can find full information in the speech of Senator Depey, which is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Working Men's Aid Societies.

A RECENT report made by John C. Covert, United States consul at Lyons, France, to the state department presents in interesting fashion a description of one of the sociological experiments which at present are common throughout Europe—the workingmen's aid societies of France.

Their title describes their purpose. Any class of citizens—workingmen, clerks, small or large shopkeepers, girls or boys—can organize a society and have it approved by the government, which appoints its president. The members must be proved able to pay the monthly dues, to give aid in sickness, and to deposit in the government bank. All such deposits are invested in government bonds, which never draw more than 3 per cent interest. The government appropriates enough to bring this interest up to 4 1/2 per cent, which is left to accumulate for an old age pension fund.

Deposits can be made in any village where there is a postoffice or tax collector. One franc, 100 cents, is the least sum received, but, as deposits can be made in postage stamps, many people begin by saving a one-cent stamp, making the deposit when the stamp amounts to 20 cents. Not over \$500,000, \$800,000, can be deposited by any one person in any one year. If a husband and wife deposit in one account the entire pension passes to the survivor. The pension up to \$60.48 cannot be seized for debt, and if it be the result of a gift it cannot be seized, even though it exceed this limit. In 1888 the deposits numbered 2,284,224, amounting to \$8,596,930, and there were \$1,694,000 accounts opened. The grand total of receipts from May, 1851, to December 31, 1898, was \$311,278,424. In 1898 there were 12,000 of these societies with 2,500,000 members. They have distributed over \$135,100,000 to needy members, have on hand over \$37,500,000, and pay annual pensions to 60,000 aged people.

There are two kinds of capital arising from these deposits, "reserved" which is set aside for the benefit of the depositor, and "accumulated" which goes into the general fund at the death of the depositor. All deposits unclaimed after one year also go to the general fund. The results allowed under the proposed capital plan are considerably

higher than those resulting from reserved capital. The pensions vary, of course, according to the amounts deposited, and it is not possible to give detailed instances of the workings of this system, but a saving of two cents a day, or \$0.35 per year, for 16 years, yields at 50, reserved capital, an income of \$26.83, or of \$40.14 under the alienated capital plan. At 55 the respective incomes are \$30.53 and \$42.57, and at 60 they are \$63.88 and \$98.28. If a father deposits 100 francs, \$19.30, for a child three years old, the pensions at 50 under the two plans, will be \$7.51 and \$9.84 respectively; at 60 \$17.75 and \$21.92, and at 65 \$26.82 and \$36.67.

The plan differs in detail rather than in principle from many forms of industrial life insurance common in the United States. Its chief interest from an American standpoint is the illustration which it gives of one of the means whereby the French government does so much to encourage that spirit of thrift among the common people which is the predominant characteristic of modern France.

Authoritative announcement has been made by Chairman Payne, of the ways and means committee, that this congress will do nothing for the relief of the men who have been wrongfully overcharged by the government in its tax upon alcohol used in the arts. But Mr. Payne has been known to change his mind.

Better Postal Facilities.

IN COMMENTING upon the success of the effort to obtain a branch post office for the West side and upon the endeavor which is to be made by the congressman from this district to secure the inclusion of Lackawanna county within the limits of rural free delivery, the Times expresses a hope that something may also be done to secure the benefits of free delivery in Jermyan, Archbold, Olyphant, Dunmore and Taylor. Our contemporary is doubtless aware that the rules of the post office department provide for the extension of free delivery in boroughs automatically, based upon the volume of postal business done in them. It is not probable that exceptions can be secured to such rules, but we feel sure that Congressman Connell, who is giving to the question of improving our postal facilities a great deal of careful attention, will have nothing undone which can contribute to the convenience of the inhabitants of those thriving boroughs.

In the meanwhile, the question of rural free delivery is one which interests inhabitants of boroughs scarcely less than the residents of the townships themselves, inasmuch as the successful development of rural mail facilities tends to increase the exchange of business between the boroughs and townships by bringing the people of the latter into closer touch with the markets of the former and stimulating wants which are now dormant because of the infrequency of mail communications. Wherever rural free delivery has been tried long enough to cause its advantages to be thoroughly established, the result has uniformly been additional prosperity in both country and town, and we see no reason to doubt that this would also be the effect in Lackawanna county.

Mr. Webster Davis, like Mr. Macrum, appears to be suffering from the weight of an untold secret.

The Shipping Bill as Amended.

THE SHIP SUBSIDY bill as finally amended in committee and reported to the house provides that vessels launched before January last can for ten years, and vessels launched after that date can for twenty years, under certain conditions, receive subsidies from our government not to exceed \$5,000,000 in amount in any one year. The subsidy can be earned by those vessels only which are engaged in the foreign trade of the United States or in trade between the United States and ports belonging to the United States which are under the navigation laws of the United States.

Sail and steam vessels are to receive on each entry not exceeding sixteen cents in one year, one and one-half cents per gross ton for each 100 nautical miles not exceeding 1,500 outward bound, and the same distance homeward bound, and one cent for each additional 100 miles, provided that full compensation shall not be allowed, unless the ship shall have cleared from a United States port with cargo to the amount of fifty per cent of her gross tonnage, tonnage space sold by the year or for any period of time, and space devoted to passengers and mails to be deducted. In addition to the above compensation steam vessels are to receive graded allowances, based on their size and speed, the lowest being four-tenths of a cent per gross ton for each one hundred nautical miles sailed outward bound by vessels of more than two thousand gross tons, and with a speed of eleven knots and less than twelve, and the highest being two and three-tenths cents per gross ton for each one hundred nautical miles sailed outward bound by vessels of more than ten thousand gross tons and with a speed of twenty-one knots or over.

An amendment makes the graded rate for homeward bound voyages 80 per cent of the outward bound rates. The effect is to reduce the compensation that would have been allowed by the original bill. In the original bill no vessel slower than fourteen knots was to receive graded compensation. The limit in the amended bill is eleven knots.

The expenditures in any one year are limited to \$9,000,000, as in the original bill, but an amendment is inserted providing that no more than seventy per cent shall be expended in any one year in respect of vessels engaged in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf trade, except in case the vessels in the Pacific trade shall not require the whole amount of thirty per cent of the \$9,000,000. A new section is inserted limiting the compensation under the act to vessels of class A1, and another new section provides that vessels launched after January 1, 1900, shall receive full compensation for the first ten years, and that for the next ten years there shall be a successive decrease of five per cent

of the original rate each year, provided that this reduction, as a reduction caused by pro-rating the \$9,000,000, shall not be united, but that the one shall be applied that will make the largest reduction. The section enumerating the vessels not entitled to compensation under the act is amended so as to include vessels carrying passengers or cargo which, under the laws of the United States, could not lawfully be carried by a foreign vessel; vessels carrying any passengers or cargo from the Atlantic or Gulf coast of the United States to the Pacific coast of the United States or to the Isthmus of Darien, Central America or Mexico, or from the Pacific coast of the United States to the Atlantic or Gulf coast or to the Isthmus of Darien, Central America or Mexico; and vessels constructed for and used for carrying mineral oils or other liquid cargo. An amendment entitles vessels from the Great Lakes to ports outside of Canada and Newfoundland to compensation.

The great question underlying the foregoing details is whether it is worth while for the United States, in its endeavor to restore her banished ocean commerce, to try the plan of direct subsidies so successfully tried by the other maritime powers. It is evident where conceded that we want to find a means of escape from paying to foreigners, year after year, \$180,000,000 or thereabouts in annual freight on our goods which their vessels carry from ports of landing to ports of sale. The only means of escape is to induce our people to build vessels of their own and do the carrying under the American flag. This inducement does not now exist for the reason that foreign vessels, enjoying benefit of cheaper labor, cheaper materials and government subsidy, can underbid our shipowners so that the latter cannot do business. The subsidy plan aims to protect them against this foreign competition so that they can once get fairly started in the ocean-carrying business; after that it is believed that they can take care of themselves.

It is good Republican doctrine, which means that it is good common sense. One of the saddest commentaries on the degeneracy of the community is found in the fact that for a week past an exhibition that would shame the benighted denizens of Terra del Fuoco has been in progress on one of the principal avenues of the city, and has attracted a flourishing business. Persons who will pay money to witness such an exhibition as that given on Lackawanna avenue are but a grade above the exhibited freak that eats live snakes. It ought not, in any civilized country, to be necessary for the police to put a stop to such disgusting performances; the common sense of the people ought to stop them by refusing to patronize them.

The fact that the principal agitation against the proposed tariff for Puerto Rico comes from the speculators rather than from the people should be a sufficient guarantee that the measure will be beneficial to the country in the end.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Adelina Patti has taken up the zither-banjo, and plays her own accompaniment frequently when singing before her intimate friends. The wife of President Loubet, of France, celebrated her New Year's day by giving \$10,000 to her poor friends. Denis Hordkuffin, a public contractor and an ex-almshouse man, died. He had come over from Ireland when a boy, and from the bottom rung of the ladder had climbed through a series of failures and successes until at last he was rewarded with riches in a reasonable amount and political preferment beyond the dream of his ancestors. The funeral was made notable by the many beautiful floral offerings sent by the business and political friends of the deceased.

When the widow came in for a farewell look at her honest spouse she had enough of feminine curiosity left to glance up, between the spasms of her lamentations, at the flower designs that surrounded the bier. "Arrah, Dinny, dear, yez oud only one 'er the' arties that they hev bring yez," she moaned. "O me! O my! Here be a pillow of daisies, Dinny boy, yer yez t' shilpe on in paradise. An' yer hev t' gates o' jar that 'll let yez in ter glory (snuffle, snuffle). An', O me! O my! Here be t' golden harpp made o' postes, Dinny dear, but they didn't know as yez waz t' musician on t' accordeon, at all, at all (more snuffle). Yez 'll hev t' learn th' harpp, Dinny boy."

The widowed lady continued to take in the adornments of mourning-room with a tearful appreciation of the honors done her "Dinny" in the hour of death. Suddenly she espied near the foot of the casket a large anchor of lilies. Not having any nautical knowledge enough to understand the poetic significance of the emblem, and being particularly sensitive to the subject of her husband's humble origin, she lost her temper and forgot her grief in this impassioned inquiry: "Who 'th' divil sint that pick?"—Detroit Free Press.

Bound to Have a Difference.

IT IS TOLD of a retired farmer that after returning from a continental tour on which he had long set his heart, he was narrating one evening to his friends the does eyes he had visited "the majestic Lake Geneva and trodden the banks of Blue Leman," relates the New York Tribune. "Excuse me," interrupted the doctor, "Lake Geneva and Lake Leman are synonymous." "That, my dear sir," replied the farmer, "I know very well; but are you aware that Lake Leman is the more synonymous of the two?"

A Logical Deduction.

A GRANDFATHER well known in the English house of commons, was chatting amiably with his little granddaughter, who was snugly ensconced on his knee. "What makes your hair so white, grandpa?" the little miss queried. "I am very old, my dear; I was in the ark," replied his lordship, with a painful disregard of the noted truth of the late Josiah D. Whitney, of Northampton, Mass., all of whose sons became prominent in the republic. The two best known of the brothers were Josiah Dwight Whitney, the geologist, and William Dwight Whitney, the philologist.

In Woman's Realm

THE NEWS that Paul Leicester Ford is to marry a Miss Kitchener, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is a surprise to many who have believed the famous novelist, would never marry, owing to the fact that curvatures of the spine has produced serious deformity. His bride-to-be, who is a very pretty girl, evidently valued the social and talent of Mr. Ford beyond mere physical grace and strength. The famous author has a handsome head and deep brilliant eyes. His ideals of womanhood are high to judge by most of the feminine creations of his pen, but they are not, on the whole, as satisfactory as the men who have lived in his books. In the "Story of an Old Love" which the average woman reader usually accepts as to some degree containing his own personality, the heroine is a vague, angelic being whose "eyes were too dreamy for the daytime." The women in his long novel, "The Honorable Peter Stirling" are indefinite and elusive, while Janice Meredith is distinctly objectionable as the type of any generalization of American women. It will be interesting to read a new book from Mr. Ford's pen since love opens up a different future from the public had planned for him.

When Not to Keep Books. SHE DECIDED that the only way to run a house economically was to keep a set of books; she made all necessary purchases, including a bottle of red ink, and started in. It was a month later when her husband asked her how she was getting along. "Splendidly," she replied. "The system is a success, then?" "Yes, indeed. Why? I'm \$60 ahead already." "Sixty dollars?" he exclaimed. "Heavens! You'll be rich before long. Have you started 'bank account'?" "No—yet." "What have you done with the money?" "Oh, I haven't got the money, you know. That's only what the books show. But just think of being \$60 ahead!" "Um, yes. But I don't exactly see..." "And all in one month, too?" "Of course; but the money? What has become of that?" "I don't exactly know," she said, doubtfully. "I've been thinking of that, and I think we must have been robbed. What do you think we had better do about it?" He puffed his pipe in solemn silence for a moment, and then suggested: "We might stop keeping books. That's easier than complaining to the police."—T. E. McGrath in Woman's Home Companion.

The Value of a Stimulus.

BEFORE Lord Roberts left Cape Town he called into his office a certain colonel, and charged him with a certain mission, relates the New York Post. "Now," said the chief, "how soon can you put this through. I know you'll do the best you can."

"Well," replied the colonel, "I'll try to do it in forty-eight hours." "Well," Lord Roberts repeated, "I know you will do the very best you can, and with a pleasant smile he dismissed the officer. Outside the door he met Lord Kitchener, with business-like abruptness. "Oh," said the colonel, "I have just seen the chief; he wants me to do so and so." "When are you going to get it through?" "Well," said the colonel, "I promised to try and do it in a fortnight."

"No, colonel," was Kitchener's reply, "if this is done within a week we shall have to see about sending you home. And done it was."

Questioned His Sobriety.

MAJOR Hayford Thorold, who is now in South Africa, second in command, First battalion, Duke of Wellington's regiment, tells a story of his experiences in Matabeleland in 1896, when sent to restore order in a little township called Gweru, 843 1/2 miles from Bulawayo. On arriving there he found the acting commandant (an ex-storekeeper) in a state bordering on delirium tremens; so he had him locked up. The commandant, however, managed to break out and make his way to the acting commandant's office, whence he dispatched the following wire: "Chamberlain, London: 'Man here named Thorold questions my sobriety. Who is Thorold? Wire at once to avert bloodshed.'"

PERSONALITIES.

Neither of the three British soldiers who have won prizes in the battlefields has a son or daughter. Lord Kitchener is unmarried and Lord Wolseley's only child is a daughter. Queen Victoria has conferred a New Year honor on the late Sir Robert B. Archibishop, an Italian linguist, who has been appointed a member of the privy council, which gives him the right to prefix his name with "Right Honorable."

Mrs. S. S. Platt, president of the General Federation of Women's clubs, says the general federation biennial meeting, to be held in Milwaukee next year, will be the biggest thing of the kind on record, with over 3,000 women in attendance. Serena E. Payne, chairman of the house of representatives committee, has a voice which is the envy and despair of most congressmen. In carrying power it has no equal, and though every syllable is heard over the house the tone are never harsh or wearying.

Ann Ruth Seneca, an Indian princess, is studying medicine at the Medical-Chirurgical hospital in Philadelphia. She took a classic course in the Carlisle Indian school, where she developed her love for nursing the sick. Two of her brothers were on the Carlisle football team.

Chicago women have started a movement to present General Joseph Wheeler and Elizabeth Lee each with a sword costing \$100, and to petition congress to make the two renowned southern fighters major generals. Miss Annie Malrie De Rube is the champion of the project.

By the will of Caroline Brewer Croft, who died in England some time ago, almost \$100,000 goes to Harvard university, to be used for the investigation of the disease of cancer. Mrs. Croft was much impressed with the horrors of incurable diseases, and during her life had given much money for the treatment of cancer. Colonel W. S. Metcalf, of the Twentieth Kansas volunteers, who has just been commissioned a brigadier general by brevet for meritorious services in action at Gulgento river, near Luzon, is said to be the best pistol shot in the volunteer army. He has practiced with a revolver for over twenty years.

Miss Estelle Reel, superintendent of all Indian schools in the United States, is at work on a bill to be introduced in congress having for its object the removal of the children of all Indian children. She is firmly of opinion that these wards of the nation should be taught useful trades, so the end result may be able to earn their own living. Charles Algernon Parsons, the inventor of the Parsons steam turbine, was born in London in 1854, and is the fourth surviving son of the late Earl of Rosse, of Birr castle, Parsonstown, Ireland, well known as the builder of the Roscoe telescope. Mr. Parsons was graduated from Cambridge in 1876, and the year after entered the works of Lord Armstrong as an apprentice. James L. Whitney, who has been elected librarian of the Boston Public library to succeed Herbert Putnam, the present librarian of congress, is a member of the noted family of the late Josiah D. Whitney, of Northampton, Mass., all of whose sons became prominent in the republic. The two best known of the brothers were Josiah Dwight Whitney, the geologist, and William Dwight Whitney, the philologist.

ALWAYS BUSY.

THE NEWS that Paul Leicester Ford is to marry a Miss Kitchener, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is a surprise to many who have believed the famous novelist, would never marry, owing to the fact that curvatures of the spine has produced serious deformity. His bride-to-be, who is a very pretty girl, evidently valued the social and talent of Mr. Ford beyond mere physical grace and strength. The famous author has a handsome head and deep brilliant eyes. His ideals of womanhood are high to judge by most of the feminine creations of his pen, but they are not, on the whole, as satisfactory as the men who have lived in his books. In the "Story of an Old Love" which the average woman reader usually accepts as to some degree containing his own personality, the heroine is a vague, angelic being whose "eyes were too dreamy for the daytime." The women in his long novel, "The Honorable Peter Stirling" are indefinite and elusive, while Janice Meredith is distinctly objectionable as the type of any generalization of American women. It will be interesting to read a new book from Mr. Ford's pen since love opens up a different future from the public had planned for him.

THE discussions over pure water and milk, good sewerage, etc., have shown up a number of vagaries which exist in the popular mind. Architect Holden, in his recent address, told of some of these oddities. One was the universal notion regarding stationary wash basins. The old system was unambiguously menacing to health, where the sewer gas could rise into the room, but the modern plumbing when the ventilated system is used really obviates all danger. People often scrupulously put the stopper in the drain pipe at night when sleeping in a room, which they entertain suspicions about the plumbing and allow water to half fill the wash bowl, entirely overlooking the fact that the overflow vents remain open, still allowing an escape of gases if any exist. Persons of an extremely cautious turn of mind, who travel much, have been known to carry a supply of little corks, with which they painstakingly close up these small orifices. As these number about fourteen, the traveling man who is so careful of his health as this will probably find little time for ruining his soul with poker playing, which a Philadelphia salesman once says is the besetting temptation of the traveler, who by indulging in his evenings on his hands. The caring wife may therefore assist in the moral protection of her traveling husband by insuring that his negotiations shall be accompanied by little round pegs which he must religiously place in the holes of the stationary wash basin every night.

THE annual gymnastic exhibition of the Young Women's Christian association will be held at the high school auditorium, Tuesday evening, April 3. Miss Mickle, the physical director, has prepared a most interesting programme for the occasion, and no doubt the large hall will be filled with an enthusiastic audience.

ONLY IN JEST.

Leveling. "Fugillim," said the solemn man, "brings man to the level of the brute." "Worse than that," said the man with the red nose. "It often brings him to the level of the floor."—Indianapolis News.

Joint.

"Been having an encounter with rheumatism, old man?" "Yes, a joint debate."—Detroit Journal.

Not a Failing.

She's drink one of his failings? The wife—It's not a failing. It's his great success.—Baltimore News.

His Thinker.

He—I always say what I think. She—Oh! Then that must be the reason that you often sit around for an hour at a time without saying a word.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Behind the Engine.

Quinn—Which is the swiftest animal? DeFonte—Well, I've heard of an elephant making a mile a minute. Quinn—Preposterous? Where was this wonderful elephant? DeFonte—On a circus train.—Chicago News.

Art and Utility.

"Her fan adorns your studio wall. Does this gift wear love's aureole? I asked you to get me a picture, not at all; it covers up a stovepipe hole."—Chicago Record.

How These Girls, Etc.

Mildred—What a beautiful brown hair Hatfield has! Martina—Yes, it's a perfect chestnut.—New York Press.

Unprofitable.

New Golfer—Did you learn to swear in dialect? Old Golfer—No, it isn't worth a cent. By the time you have learned you will play so well that you have no occasion to swear.—Detroit Journal.

The Unfashionable Creed.

"Uncle Christopher, what was the primitive church?" "Well, it was a church which valued its poor members as much as it did its rich ones."—Indianapolis Journal.

Thoughtful.

Did your grandmother remember you in her will? "Yes; she had a clause in there instructing the executors to collect all the beans she had made me."—Baltimore News.

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