

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor. O. F. HYNDLE, Business Manager. New York Office: 130 Nassau St. S. S. VRELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., Second-Class Mail Matter. When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but its rate is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, APRIL 30, 1900.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS. State. Congressman at Large—GALSHIA A. GROW, ROBERT H. POEDERER, Auditor General—E. H. HARDENBERGER.

Legislative. First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS, Second District—JOHN S. HETZEL, JR., Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR., Fourth District—P. A. PHILBIN.

The ablest and best qualified western man thus far named for the vice-presidency is ex-Senator Charles E. Manderson, of Omaha, president of the American Bar association and one of the most charming men in the United States.

It Pays to Be Honest. THE SPECTACLE of a leading Christian nation like the United States arbitrarily nullifying a solemn treaty obligation because the compact has ceased to be pleasant is not a happy one to contemplate, but if the members of congress in both houses who are urging the passage of the Hepburn Nicaragua canal bill shall have their own way, as now seems probable, this will be the spectacle which our highly civilized country will soon place before the world's critical observation.

The Clayton-Bulwer treaty which our state department holds is yet in full force binds us to a partnership with Great Britain in any canal which we may see fit to build on the Isthmus of Darien. It was a foolish treaty to make, but our government made it, and our present president and secretary of state, recognizing the urgent need of an American canal, decided that the honorable way to undo the mistake of the past was to have a frank talk with Great Britain and to see on what terms she would be willing to cancel the old treaty.

It is a question how profitable a business can be built up by a street railway company along the routes contemplated in the ordinance. In the summer time a good patronage might be expected on every route; the prospect as to winter travel is not so clear. However, if the men back of this enterprise are willing to take the risk the public can hardly have any reason to discourage them.

We attach no importance to the argument that competition in the street railway business in this region would be injurious. The public is interested in having as good a service as possible and frequently competition or the possibility of it acts as a wholesome stimulus. In the matter now under consideration it is proper to add that the direct competition is slight. It would seem that the new company might exist without appreciably affecting the receipts of the old one.

Justice Freedman, of the New York city supreme court, has ruled that a labor union has no right to assess its members to provide funds with which to pay allowances to men on strike or to pay pickets or agents engaged in prolonging a strike. This is the first ruling of the kind on record and it will be appealed. The final voice of the courts upon this issue will have widespread significance.

The Mail Tube Question.

AN ITEM in the postoffice appropriation bill as originally reported to the house allowed \$725,000 a year for the transportation of mail in cities by pneumatic tubes or similar devices. In Boston, New York and Philadelphia, \$225,000 a year is now being spent on a pneumatic arrangement for the quick transmission of mail between the main postoffice and various sub-stations, and the arrangement has worked so satisfactorily that it was intended to extend it to other large cities when suddenly charges were made on the floor of the house that the pneumatic tube item was in the interest of a particular company composed in part of former public officials who were planning to enrich themselves at the government's expense.

It is true that there is a pneumatic tube company which is largely composed of former officials and which is anxious to put its patents to profitable account through a deal with the government. As to the character of its methods were not informed. A reasonable inference would be that the company is willing to secure business in the customary ways, including a lobby at Washington if one should be necessary. There is nothing exceptional in this fact nor need it have any weight upon the question at issue.

That question is the value of pneumatic mail tubes to the postal service and it is one concerning which the postoffice department is the proper authority to be consulted and to exercise discretionary power in the making of any contracts. If the convenience of the public can be advanced and the cost is regarded as reasonable, that should determine the matter. As General Bingham observes: "Expedition in the mails is the basis and the secret of increased revenues. You find it running through all the economic questions of today, more especially in the matter of railroad transportation, appertaining not only to your mail, but in the carriage of freight and in the carriage of passengers. If we can move a letter from one particular section to another and have it answered in the same day, it is the largest contribution that can

be made to the postal service and the revenue, for the reason that the delivery of a letter from one section of a city to the other is the cheapest and most economical, so far as expense is concerned, in the delivery of mail matter. In other words, if you give the great cities the opportunity by expedition, whether by mechanical devices or by the increase of subordinate force, as all communications go through the mail at the same rate of postage that it costs to transmit a letter from Maine to the state of Washington, you can readily see how local or city letter matter can be handled at minimum cost, for there is no railroad transportation to pay."

The point at issue in this matter does not immediately concern Scranton, for the reason that if the pneumatic tube system of mail delivery should be adopted it would be many years before the department would apply it to a city of Scranton's size. But the principle is important everywhere and we believe that if discretion as to details shall be vested in the present accomplished postmaster general there will be no need to fear that the government will be swindled.

It is conceded that the next legislature must elect a United States senator and that the man of its choice will be a party stalwart.

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Curtis gives what purports to be a resume of the official instructions to the commission. These have not been made public, hence the accuracy of Mr. Curtis' resume is a matter of faith; but we reproduce it for what it is worth. The instructions are, he says, to determine what portion of the lands and property in question actually belong to the religious orders by purchase or preemption at an early date, and to that they will be given a clear title and undisputed possession; but all property that has been merely occupied by them without the passing of a title will be declared public property and the revenues will be collected for the benefit of the government instead of for the church. Before the occupation of the Philippines by the United States army a considerable amount of this property was conveyed by the civil governor to the archbishop or to the priors of the several religious orders. Those transfers will not be recognized because it is evident that they were made in order to deprive the United States of its rightful possessions.

According to Mr. Curtis, the instructions of the secretary of war to the commission are to treat the church exactly as it is treated in this country, and Mr. Root is said to have quoted for their benefit that article of the constitution which declares that congress shall make no laws respecting religion or interfering with the freedom of worship. The commission is to govern itself accordingly and leave the church to attend to the spiritual affairs of the community without interference or encouragement, protection or resistance from the civil authorities. All church property not actually used for purposes of worship or education is to be taxed like any other real estate, as it is in the United States. Churches and school houses, hospitals, asylums and other benevolent institutions are to be exempted, but no exemption is to be made in favor of the residences of the religious orders nor the plantations or other property whose revenues have been applied to the support of churches and schools. If the refusal to pay taxes the same remedies which are applied as in the United States. After a stated period public notice of delinquent taxes will be made and the property will be sold. There is to be no interference in any manner with the parish schools, but no contributions are to be made from the public treasury for their support. The commissioners are to use their discretion as to what assistance shall be furnished by the government to charitable institutions under the care of the church. That question cannot be arbitrarily settled in Washington. No religion is to be taught in the public schools and no school in which religion is taught is to receive aid from the public treasury.

In view of the political misunderstandings and frictions possible in connection with so delicate a subject, the policy here outlined, if it is the one which the war department has adopted, typifies a good deal of backbone and courage, but it is generally believed that Elihu Root is a man who possesses both.

At the National Mothers' congress, which is to meet in Des Moines May 17, Mrs. Hannah K. Schoff, of Philadelphia, will unfold a plan for the state control of charities based upon a careful study of existing defects in the management of charitable institutions. The paper will be awaited with interest by students of the humanities.

COAL PRODUCTION.

This Country Now the Greatest Producer of Coal in the World.

From the Journal of Commerce. The United States has taken the first place among the world's coal producers and has already taken the first place among the pig iron producers. The significance of both facts is largely enhanced by the vastly greater supplies of both coal and iron that we possess than any of the other civilized and manufacturing nations. It is probable that China has very large supplies of both, but for some years they will not materially affect the world's market. The coal production, in short, for the past three years has been as follows:

Table showing coal production in millions of tons for Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio from 1897 to 1899. Pennsylvania: 1897 116,151,750; 1898 122,496,198; 1899 144,311,750. West Virginia: 1897 196,502,223; 1898 223,282,044; 1899 219,914,697. Ohio: 1897 198,212,235; 1898 69,329,333; 1899 258,300,650.

The production last year was not only far beyond precedent, but was considerably larger than any estimates that had been made during the year. The coal output of the three largest producers in 1898 was as follows:

Table showing coal production in millions of tons for Great Britain, United States, and Germany from 1897 to 1899. Great Britain: 226,301,058. United States: 219,914,697. Germany: 144,283,196.

The next country in the list is France, but she follows at a very great interval and is dependent upon imported coal. Of the increased production of bituminous coal last year, amounting to nearly 2,000,000 tons, over 10,000,000 was supplied by Pennsylvania. Illinois' increase was nearly 3,000,000, and that of Ohio was more than 2,000,000 tons. The increase in West Virginia was 2,000,000 and in Colorado nearly 1,500,000.

The estimated value of the entire coal production in each of the past three years has been: 1897 \$198,004,737; 1898 \$268,000,859; 1899 \$319,436,412. The average value per ton in 1897 was a shade under \$1. In 1898 it was 55 cents; last year it was a little more than \$1.

In a review of the world's coal trade published in England four years ago it was stated that between 1883-85 and 1893-95 the cost of production in the United States had been reduced from 35 to 10 cents, and was then lower than the value of coal at the pit's mouth in either England or Germany. The place the United States occupies in the manufacturing world is indicated by the fact that the cost of production in England must increase with the deepening of the shafts, while the coal area of the United States is so great that little increase from this cause need be anticipated here for many years, while we are already the largest and cheapest producers of coal among manufacturing nations.

SMITH A POSSIBILITY.

Washington Special in Pittsburg Dispatch. An administration circles there is renewed talk of Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith as a vice presidential candidate. He is a personal as well as political friend of Mr. McKinley, and would be acceptable to the president.

HIS GREATNESS.

How big's a "politician," Pa. That people call him great? Is he, like old Goliath, tall. His spear a hundred weight? Oh, no, my son. 'Tis not his weight. 'Tis that he is so tall. The only thing that makes him great is the hugeness of his goal. —Indianapolis Press.

EDMUND ROSTAND.



In the historic circles and out of them the talk just now is the threatened insanity of Edmund Rostand, the talented author of "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "L'Aiglon." The fact that Sarah Bernhardt has made a most phenomenal success of the play of the latter title emphasizes the distress felt in Europe over Rostand's condition.

Outline Studies of Human Nature.

The Untold. "I DIDN'T tell you, did I, Mabel?" said Mr. Cavil to his wife, "that I saw your sister Jane downtown this day week?" "Yes, you didn't," Charles Augustus Cavil, replied Mrs. Cavil. "Why didn't you say?" "Well, you see—"

His Example Was Premature. A BUILDER in Glasgow, having heard that his men did not start work at the proper time, thought that he would drop down about 6.30 one morning to see, says Waverly Magazine. Going up the yard he caught sight of a joiner standing smoking, with his kit unopened. Simply asking his name, which he found to be Malcolm Campbell, he called him into the office and, handing him four days pay, told him to leave at once. After having been the man clear of the yard he went up to the foreman and told him he had made an example of Malcolm Campbell by saying him off for not starting at the proper time.

A Filipino Tartar. LIEUTENANT COLONEL H. H. SARGENT, U. S. A., tells many enjoyable war stories. Once when instructing some men, he asked, "When you are on the skirmish line, and suddenly encounter the enemy, what would you do?" "Fall flat," "And what next?" "Stay there."

WANAMAKER IS BARRED. From the Lebanon Report. The esteemed Scranton Tribune files the vice presidential banner of Charles Emory Smith at its masthead, yet champion Matthew Stanley Quay as "the exponent of party regularity." Presumably the idea is to make sure that the two shows shall always be "under one mammoth canvas." If any paper in Pennsylvania has the brains and ability back of it to engineer such a project, The Tribune is that paper. Indeed, the Report ventures to believe that, if it is at all in the range of possibility, The Tribune might be able to provide a three-fer performance with the Honorable John Wanamaker as one of the stars.

A RECOGNIZED DUTY.

From Chambersburg Public Opinion. It will be the duty of the next legislature to elect a United States senator. The people of the various counties in this grand old Commonwealth should not permit their representatives to return to their respective homes until they shall have elected a senator.

HIS WONDERFUL HOLD.

From the Indianapolis Press. Never since the palmy days of John Kelly, the great Tammany boss, has any party leader held his followers with such cords of real affection as has Matthew S. Quay held the Republicans of the Keystone state.

Wanted to Go on the Stage.

WHEN Lord Kitchener joined the Royal Engineers, now nearly thirty years ago, he was a tall, slim, very handsome young man, says the New York Telegram. The former Sirdar did not at first take to the army, but had serious thoughts of going on the stage, and was one day, while in London, introduced by a comrade to the late George Hovey. Young Kitchener consulted George on the subject of his histrionic ambition. Hovey looked critically at the officer, and remarked: "I could get you an engagement in five minutes as a walking gentleman, but let me tell you, you'd be better off as a sapper in the engineers."

The Fate That Awaits Him.

ACCORDING to the Liverpool Post a local firm, being delighted at the idea that one of its employes was called up to join the reserves, had once volunteered to pay half his wages to his wife in his absence. At the end of the month the man appeared, and the money was at once given to her. "What?" she said, "your pound?" "Yes," replied the senior partner, "that is exactly half; sorry you are not satisfied." "It isn't that I'm not satisfied; why, for years he has told me he only got 16 shilling a month, and—and if the Boers don't kill him I will."

Informal in His Responses.

SOME anecdotes about the late Duke of Cambridge recorded in the Memoirs of the Duchess of Teck, lately published in England, are among the most entertaining things in a not important book. The Duke was a strong churchman, and in a simple way, very religious, but, as a friend of his Royal Highness used to say, "his religion sometimes took rather an unconventional form." He would frequently un-

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FINLEY'S Infants Department. All the little details for our annual opening of "Baby Furnishings" are now complete, and on Monday we will place on sale our spring line of Infants and Children's Hats, Caps, Cloaks, etc., etc, and invite your inspection of the same. Children's Silk and Mull Bonnets. Silk, Mull, Leghorn and Milanese Braid Hats. Children's French Cord "Wash Bonnets" a specialty. French Hand Embroidered Shoes, Bibs and Baby Carriage Pillows. Complete line of Infants Long Cloaks in "Cashmere," "Bedford Cord," "China Faille" and "Benjamine Silk" etc. Ask to see our Golf and Sea Shore sun bonnets in the new mushroom shapes: Sale lasts the entire week. 510-512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE The Neostyle Duplicator..... It will print 2,000 copies from one original writing, drawing or music, and 1,500 copies from any original written on any typewriter. We are agents for the above and have one in use for the inspection of any one interested in duplicating machines. The Planetary Pencil Sharpener, improved, The Star Paper Fastener, improved. We will put either in your office on trial for a few days. Reynolds Bros Stationers and Engravers, Scranton, Pa. We carry the largest line of office supplies in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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