

The Scranton Tribune

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

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O. P. BYRBE, Business Manager.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St.
S. S. FREELAND,
Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Matter.

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 contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, MAY 10, 1900.

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

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State.
Congressmen at Large—G. M. S. A. GROW.
ROBERT H. FORKNER.
Auditor General—E. B. HARDENBERGH.

Legislative.
First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS.
Second District—JOHN SCHUBERT, JR.
Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR.
Fourth District—P. A. PHIBBS.

The will of a majority as expressed in a regular party caucus is not a duty, but an obligation. The legislative candidates who are not willing to go with the majority of their party in the election of a United States senator strike at the foundation of party organization and have no claim to regular support.

Scranton as a Weather Headquarters.

THAT SCRANTON is no mean city is again demonstrated, this time in the designation of it by the United States department of agriculture as a full-fledged meteorological station, with authority and facilities for making weather predictions of its own. This will necessitate the establishment here of a regular observation bureau, in charge of an expert, and amply supplied with all the clerical and financial resources to make the weather business hum. Considering the varieties and periodical intensity of Scranton weather, the observer will need to be a very versatile man.

Seriously, the advantages of the contemplated improvement are many, and they will rapidly receive appreciative recognition. The science of meteorology, while not yet perfected, is rapidly approaching a degree of coherence and system which makes errors in prognostication infrequent. Very rarely nowadays are the weather signals deceptive, and as soon as thorough observations can be taken in this immediate locality and tabulated for expert study, the ratio of accuracy will be likely to be still further increased. By reason of the peculiar location of Scranton with respect to the topography of Northeastern Pennsylvania it is a natural center for meteorological observation and the fruits of scientific investigation will be awaited with interest.

To Secretary Atherton, the first mover in this matter, as well as to all others instrumental in furthering the idea, the community will be indebted.

Contrary to the general order of events the ice trust is making things warm for Tammany in New York.

Illinois Republicans.

THE NOMINATION for governor by the Republicans of Illinois of Richard Yates, of Jacksonville, son of the famous war governor, comes as the happy end of a factional controversy which threatened to harm the national ticket next fall.

Governor Tanner was for Judge Haney, of Chicago, the candidate of the Lorimer-Jackson Cook county "machine." Tanner's object in supporting Haney was to use the strength of the Chicago organization in defeating Senator Cullom for re-election. Tanner at one time had been Cullom's closest lieutenant, but when opportunity offered threw the senator in order to make a deal with the Chicago "machine" as a result of which he was elected governor. Once in that office he tried to build up a dynasty of his own and a few months ago came out openly as a candidate against Cullom for the senatorship.

The state convention at Peoria was the tribunal before which this factional war was carried, or a verdict, consisting of 187 delegates, it fairly represented the sentiment of the party, and when Charles C. Dawes, a friend of Cullom, was chosen permanent chairman by 77 plurality, it was evident that the Tanner programme would not go through. The nomination of Yates, who was not compromised toward either faction, assures party harmony and leaves Cullom the leader in the race for the senatorship.

The war ended some time ago, but the senate does not seem disposed to ask for the resignation of the war tax collector for some time hence.

Gas Versus Steam.

ACCORDING TO London W. Bates, one of the world's foremost authorities on hydraulic engineering, and a gentleman whose professional work keeps him in close touch with mechanical achievements in the principal European industries, there is one phase of industrial development in which the United States is not keeping abreast of the procession. He refers to the manufacture of gas engines, which, as produced at Liege, Belgium, and by the Westinghouse people in a number of other European cities, have established their superiority over the ordinary steam engine to such an extent as to promise a revolution in industry.

The Liege company claims to have made gas engines of several hundred horse-power which will extract out of

coal from 50 to 100 per cent. more power than is derived by the steam engine. As applied to steamship navigation this means an immense lightening of the dead load now represented in the enormous coal tonnage required for a trans-Atlantic voyage; and as applied to blast furnace construction it means that the coking ovens may yield ample power from the secondary products while sustaining themselves handsomely by sale of the coke for ordinary commercial purposes. The anxiety of the more modern American steel plants to acquire bituminous coal deposits fit for coking-making becomes apparent when the possibilities of the gas engine are studied in connection with the production of coke.

Mr. Bates twenty years ago was one of a gang of surveyors who were at work upon the Northern Pacific railroad; today he is one of the largest engineer contractors in the world and is both wealthy and famous. The native qualities which made possible his great success in so short a time will insure that the gas engine, under American supervision, will do things that competing nations will not find it in their power to equal.

It is entirely proper that the public should have complete information as to the composition of oleomargarine and that that article should be made to stand in the open market on its own merits and not permitted to be sold by misrepresentation. If it has merit it can survive this fair test; if not, the sooner it is suppressed the better. Let every tub rest on its own bottom.

Mediation in South Africa

IN VIEW of the manifest intention of the Democratic campaign managers to manufacture political ammunition out of the visit of the Boer peace commission to the United States, by representing to the country that the administration is unfairly partial to England and indifferent to the Boers, it may be timely to consider just how the attitude of the United States government with reference to the belligerents in South Africa squares with the requirements of international law.

It has been announced that the Boer peace commission comes to this country to invoke the good offices of the United States government with a view to bringing about peace in South Africa and it is asserted that the United States government may under the provisions of the general treaty negotiated at The Hague peace conference put forth its good offices without subjecting itself to the charge of unfriendliness toward either belligerent. Article 3 of that treaty provides that "powers, strangers to the dispute, have the right to offer good offices or mediation even during the course of hostilities," and stipulates that "the exercise of this right can never be regarded by one or the other of the parties in conflict as an unfriendly act." It is in this section which the Boer commissioners refer.

Article 5 of the same treaty depicts their hope by saying distinctly that "the functions of the mediator are at an end when once it is declared, either by one of the parties to the dispute or by the mediator himself, that the means of reconciliation proposed by him are not accepted." In March last, at the request of the Boer government, a request which had been declined by every neutral power in Europe, the United States approached Great Britain with a proffer of its good offices in mediation and was informed in unmistakable terms by the British prime minister, Lord Salisbury, that England would not accept the intervention of any power. This notification exhausted the possibilities of friendly mediation. There remains but one other kind: intervention by force.

The United States intervened in Cuba by force upon the ground that the atrocities of Spanish rule so near at hand constituted an insufferable source of annoyance, irritation and offense. Had the same atrocities been a few thousand miles distant the idea of forcible intervention would probably not have taken serious form. Such atrocities do not figure as causes of the South African war except in so far as the Boers are alleged to have made accusations and unjust discriminations against the English-speaking elements within their territory. The immediate cause of the present war was an act of invasion committed by the Boers upon territory indisputably under British sovereignty. Such a situation does not appeal for American intervention by force; nor, if it did, have we at present the force, either military or naval, to make it effective. With the remnants of a war still on our hands in the Philippines it does not appear likely that the Democratic politicians can work up enough Democratic excitement in this country to drive us into another aimed at a power of the magnitude of Great Britain.

There are powers having neighborhood interests in South Africa which we have some and they are neutral. They would hardly recognize our right to set up as a regulator of South African affairs.

A Choice of Evils.

IN VIEW of the widespread feeling which exists among a most excellent class of persons in favor of the abolition of the army canteen, it may be timely to repeat what Chaplain Pierce, of the Philippine service, said on this subject in his recent report to the adjutant general. It is a reputable testimony direct from the firing line.

"When I first saw Manila," the chaplain writes, "the streets were practically lined with little nipa huts, perhaps about twelve feet square, in which the natives were selling at a merely nominal price, not only fruit and tobacco, but also native gin. These 'gin houses' should certainly be included in the number of drinking places existing at the beginning, and their number was very large. The character of this native drink was so fiery and vitriolic that its effect upon such of our men as used it was deplorable. It became my duty to bury two soldiers who never recov-

ered from the effect of drinking it. One of them had been in the service about eighteen years and received from his officers, in personal conversation with me, a commendation so flattering with regard to his character for sobriety and soldierly honor that it might be coveted by any man. He had never been a drunkard, but this native poison was so virulent in its effect that he became maddened, and, having recovered his reason at the time of his death, our authorities set to work to restrict this traffic by a system which finally resulted in its prohibition. I am not personally an advocate of any saloon, but I am forced to give my testimony that the substitution of regimental canteens, in which only beer was sold, in place of this traffic in native gin, resulted in a most immediate and perceptible improvement in the sobriety of the troops. I should welcome the day when all men, out of the army as well as in it, might find it necessary by their abstemiousness to crush out the market for all malt or spirituous products. That millennial age, however, has not dawned, and my opinion is that it is better to accept such forms of restriction as are feasible than to insist upon a theory which, however ideal, is impossible of enforcement."

"The army canteen is a choice of evils. If the lesser be rejected, the greater will take its place.

Commander Schroeder, the new governor of Guam, expects to take charge of the affairs of the island in a few days. Governor Schroeder is expected to profit by the example of Captain O'Leary, the former executive, and not disconcert the people at the start with overhauls of the constitution.

LITERARY NOTES.

To discuss theology in a manner as interesting as the most fascinating of all adventures which might be regarded as possible; but in "The True Believers," published by the Putnam, David Lubin has done it and moreover has done it in a style so simple and so widely from those most familiar to students of religion. The book's structure may be outlined as follows:

Six workings, explaining the evils and imperfections of the industrial and social conditions under which they labor, meet to discuss those conditions and to seek the cause of those evils. The investigators lead them to the conclusion that the cause of the inequality of which they feel the burden are to be sought in the defects of religious systems. The details disclose truths which crystallize into practical form. The truth-seekers, rich and poor, concentrate themselves to the principles which they had revealed, and believe that their discovery will lead to tangible and potent changes in the world of economics and religion. They formulate their beliefs, they devise methods of promulgating and perpetuating them, and they deliver in the world a system for a new church, an outline of a new social order.

This new church would hardly be accepted as orthodox. It utterly rejects all creeds and dogmas, holds its foundation up to the Golden Rule, and in place of theology substitutes study of the laws of God as manifested in nature, using as accessories of worship a tub of water, a shov of earth and a grain of wheat. It abolishes the life and the laws of which God is the beginning and the end. The manner in which this system of nature study is justified constitutes an interesting and valuable contribution to social conditions as elaborated in theory constitute a study which, once begun, will not be laid aside until the reading of the book is finished.

To H. S. Stone & Co.'s slightly green Tree Library, a series of books representing what may be called the "new" movement in literature, has lately been added a translation by William Archer, of Henrik Ibsen's dramatic epilogue in three acts entitled "When the Dead Awaken." It is a typical specimen of the new school. If looked at in a common sense manner it is as close to rubbish as a literary work can be. An elderly sculptor, after winning fame, would a material system of what he had done and who reciprocally tires of him; at a Norwegian watering place he meets an old dame, now crazy, who used to be his model, and his wife is attracted to a young man who is not handicapped by an artistic temperament. They separate by mutual consent, and the sculptor leads his insane charge up into the mountains, where both are killed in a landslide. All this is supposed by prophets of the new school to be highly symbolical and significant. May be it is.

A contrivance to liberate the hydrogen in the earth's composition, devised by a crazy professor, plays a sensational part in Fred T. Jane's "The Violet Flame," published by Laid & Lee. As the professor aims his apparatus at a certain portion of the earth's surface and presses a button, a violet flame appears and the real estate in question, together with the surrounding territory, suddenly disappears—houses, land, people, everything, are instantaneously annihilated. This goes on until in an unguarded moment the professor, who has been working on the machine through rain, lets his infernal machine run down, whereupon a few enterprising human romancers of "the earth" rapidly diminishing population appear, and the story ends, after which they have a chance to sleep in comparative peace. The book is full of silver.

CONCERNING JURIES.

Editor of the Tribune:

Sir: Your article on "The People's Affairs" is timely and should be emphasized. The impunity with which the laws are trampled upon in our courts is something to awaken all lovers of law and order to inquire why it is thus. Why not have obedience to law here as well as elsewhere in the commonwealth?

A jury may be charged that we have large numbers of certain foreign born people in this section. Yet, that can hardly be urged as a reason unless they have been given power to repeal our laws, for the whole power of this great country is behind the law to enforce it if law is required.

I have read carefully the address of Judge Archibald, and admire the frankness with which he approached his subject. The judge is right, and speaks from the standpoint of one who knows whereof he speaks.

You say in your editorial that the twelve men on the jury who try each case are drawn at random from among all classes of the population. This ought to be the fact. But is it a fact that they are thus drawn? Some after we have scanned the list of jurors drawn, and reflected that they were drawn from the wheel where many other names also were deposited, there arises a suspicion that instead of the selection of names at random from the population, extreme caution in selecting names could not have succeeded better in getting a certain class of persons drawn. How it happens that so great a proportion of the sympathizers of the speaker can be drawn each time as jurors is one of the mysteries that many of us would like our jury commissioners to explain. On the surface it looks queer, and we begin to suspect that it could be explained by some one.

While the judge mentioned the mayor, police, district attorney, judges, etc., I did not notice that he mentioned the jury commissioners. Is it

OSCAR S. STRAUS.



Oscar S. Straus, our Minister to Turkey, has refused to discuss his resignation, and it is officially reported that the President wishes him to return to his foreign post until present negotiations are concluded.

number 55 and represent the leading chiefs of every living Indian tribe. Dr. Grinnell's chapters aim to tell all about the Indians of our time—what their numbers are, where they live, how they subsist and what progress they are making toward the acquisition of white men's ways.

Among the twelve striking papers in the May Form may be singled out for special mention Mr. Clark's article on "British Policy Toward the Boers"; "The Constitution and the Flag," by Hon. Charles Deley, ex-United States minister to China; "Uncle Sam's Legacy of Slaves," by Henry O. Dwight; "The Approaching Presidential Campaign," by Henry Litchfield West; "The Hay-Panama Treaty," by Henry Wade Rogers, of Northwestern University, Illinois; "The United States and the Future of China," by Hon. William Woodville Theobald, the well known writer and diplomat, late assistant secretary of state; and "Journalism in Japan," by T. T. Nakagawa, secretary of the Japanese Legation at Home.

The story of everyday life of a prosperous people and of great warriors of 5,000 years ago has been brought to light by the University of Pennsylvania excavations at Anesit Nipour. Dr. Hilprecht, the famous Assyrian scholar, is the leader of the expedition, and his wonderful discoveries are the subject of the principal article in *Amulet's* for May, Lieutenant Commander Calkins, Admiral Dewey's navigating officer at Manila, contributes much interesting first-hand information in "The Filipino Leaders." The fiction is by Stephen Crane, Brigadier General Charles King, Eugene Wood, C. M. Williams and Howard Fildes.

Governor Roosevelt's familiar face and figure form the frontispiece of St. Nicholas for May, the first article therein being from his pen, "What We Can Expect of the American Boy." In this essay Colonel Roosevelt distinguishes between moral and physical courage, and maintains that both are necessary to a complete and rounded character. Incidentally he praises Kipling's "Captains Courageous" and deplores his "Stalky & Co."

Herrmann, the famous sleight-of-hand performer, was assisted in all his performances by his wife, Madame Herrmann, also an adept in magic, who in the same woman's lightest manner is to explain a number of interesting tricks which can easily be used in parlor entertainments.

The May number of *Everybody's Magazine* is full of information. There is not a dull page in it, nor one which sounds "educational," but no one can read this number without adding materially to his store of knowledge.

CHARLES EMORY SMITH DOES.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

All will be well with the Republican nominee for vice-president if he reaches the stature of a possible president.

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AGENTS
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JOHN B. SMITH & SON, Plymouth
W. E. MULLIGAN, Wilkes-Barre

Illustration of two men in suits sitting at a table, one holding a document.

A Kentucky editor has a friend who talks to him in this way: "I attribute all the disorders of the system to the stomach; when the stomach is all right, we are well and happy. For a long time I suffered from the worst form of habitual constipation. Sleeplessness and nervousness set in, and at times I was so melancholy and out of sorts that life was a burden. An advertisement in our local paper induced me to give

RIPAN'S TABLETS

a trial, and they have completely cured me. I can say for Ripans Tablets, they are, in my opinion, the best medicine for constipation on earth. They accomplished for me what all other remedies failed to do. I am all right now—sleep well and life is worth living. I believe the Tablets put my stomach in shape, and the stomach did the rest. My general health is better than it was for years previous."