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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends on current topics for publication, provided these must be for the public good and not for the sake of controversy. All contributions should be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.
SCRANTON, JUNE 16, 1900.

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

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

- State.
Congressmen-Langer & GALUSHA A. GROW; ROBERT H. POEDERBERG;
Andison General-E. H. HARDENBERG.
County.
Congress-ROBERT W. MOYER;
Judge-ROBERT W. MOYER;
Sheriff-JOHN L. TULLOCH;
Treasurer-J. A. SCRANTON;
District Attorney-WILLIAM E. LEWIS;
Prothonotary-JAMES L. BROWN;
Clerk of Courts-DIOMAS P. DANIELS;
Recorder of Deeds-EDMUND BOONE;
Register of Wills-W. K. HUNTER;
Jury Commission-EDWARD E. STURGES.
Legislative.
First District-THOMAS J. MEYER;
Second District-JOHN SCHNEIDER, JR.;
Third District-EDWARD JAMES, JR.;
Fourth District-P. A. PHILLIPS.

If the best man is nominated at Philadelphia his name will be Charles Emory Smith.

'You're Another.'
MERRY WAR is now in progress between Controller Bird S. Coler, of New York city, a Tammany appointee who, after he got into office, decided to be true to his oath regardless of consequences, and the boodler element in Tammany who have not been able to use him as they had hoped.

On Wednesday Mr. Coler delivered the principal address at the commencement of the Illinois state university, in the course of which he argued eloquently for a higher standard of public honesty and incidentally remarked: "The old system of stealing from the public treasury has passed away, and a safer and more profitable plan of bartering political influence for cash or stock in corporations has succeeded." This is taken to refer, among other things, to the fact that Mayor Van Wyck, also a Tammany official, has been revealed as the owner of a big block of ice trust stock, which he got cheap on borrowed money, the ice trust being now a beneficiary of city contracts. A petition for the mayor's impeachment is pending before the governor and the case against him is generally conceded to be serious. But mark the sequel.

At the very moment when Coler was addressing the university students at Champaign, Ill., one Jacob W. Mack, reported to be a substantial and reputable citizen of New York city, was preferring charges before the governor against Coler. His bill of particulars alleges that in July, 1898, the comptroller advertised for proposals for city bonds aggregating \$12,688,992.36. He awarded the bonds to the Produce Exchange Trust, which represented a syndicate. In which, it is alleged, the firm of W. N. O'Connell & Co. was interested. The comptroller, before a member of said firm. The bid of the syndicate was 191.94. There were thirty-one other bidders, who bid for a par aggregate of \$8,386,000, at approximately 198. It is charged, moreover, that to enable the favored syndicate to get the bonds at a low price the comptroller frightened off other possible bidders by giving out statements to the effect that the city was already bonded beyond the limit of 10 per cent., which, if true, would invalidate the bonds. It is claimed that the favored syndicate must have made a million dollars out of the deal.

The case is familiar. Accuse a crook in politics and he invariably tries to make out that his accuser is another. It is fortunate that before a charge will come for review before a governor like Theodore Roosevelt, who advocates everything else is a friend of fair play. He will probe them to the bottom and the public can rest assured that irrespective of politics exact justice will be done.

The Oregon Republican majority, as back districts report, now exceeds 11-500 for the head of the state ticket and 3,000 for congressmen. Mr. Bryan can safely regard the Pacific coast as part of the "enemy's country."

Famine Stricken India and Africa
IN VIEW of the awful reports which come from the famine-stricken districts of India of suffering and starvation outraging all efforts which have been put forth in the way of relief, Mayor Moir has in a letter to Mrs. W. M. Phinney, of Green Ridge, publicly intimated the relief movement in Scranton and urged citizens to hand contributions to the various pastors of the city, to the Young Men's Christian association, to the Young Women's Christian association or to himself, promising that the latter shall be promptly acknowledged and accounted for. The truth also has a famine relief fund, or contributions may be sent to Messrs. Brown Bros. & Co., 59 Wall street, New York, to be forwarded to India under the auspices of the Committee of One Hundred.

Mrs. Phinney hands us a copy of the Bombay Guardian, of April 18, which is given up to pictures and descriptions of heart-rending famine scenes. Here is an extract offering practical advice as to what should be done: "There is a grand opportunity for some of the manufacturers of oat meal, corn starch, corn flour, shredded wheat, wheat cream, Quaker oats, granola, tinned condensed milk, Horlick's food

or other prepared foods, to send generous donations. Besides the manufacturers, wholesale and retail dealers could send cases of them, too. Many a weary missionary wearing out her life to prepare some delicacy for a hundred orphan boys or girls with famine some month or some other awful effect of famine, would be cheered and helped and perhaps her own life might be saved for the work by a good supply of such delicacies, which could be so easily prepared.

As it will be November at least before any crops can be grown in India, and inasmuch as millions of people on the verge of starvation will have to be supported until that time and many long afterward, Mrs. Phinney requests us to say that she is collecting a hoagsh-head of prepared foods for immediate shipment to India and those wishing to contribute to it are directed to communicate with her as soon as possible at 1523 Mansey avenue.

In East Africa a condition prevails which, although involving fewer people, is in degree quite as pitiful as the famine in India, although less has been written about it. In the Christian Union for March, Rev. F. W. Krieger, stationed at Nairobi, British East Africa, in a letter dated Dec. 21, 1899, tells of a famine which had even then reduced the natives to utter want, so keen that many were dropping dead in the fields while others could with difficulty be restrained from eating the seed grain planted to overcome the famine. Undoubtedly the conditions in India are most severe, but as they are more widely understood perhaps a little benevolence diverted to South Africa would not go astray. These various appeals touch the chords of common humanity and merit from Americans especially immediate and generous response.

An exchange cruelly calls attention to the fact that this is the season when "degrees" are distributed right and left, by institutions of learning, with little regard to the fitness of the gift. In the case of many small colleges, these degrees have been made so cheap that the degree of LL. D., for instance, is liable to become like the much-abused title of "Professor," almost a term of reproach. There is undoubtedly a large need of reform in this direction.

Townsend Vs. Lochren.
MUCH ADO was made by the Democratic party a few weeks ago because in an obiter dictum handed down by United States Judge Lochren, of Minnesota, commissioner of pensions under Cleveland, the view was held that the constitution projected itself by its own force over Porto Rico; that the moment the American flag went up over that island in obedience to the ratified treaty of Paris Porto Rico became an integral part of the United States, subject to every restriction as well as to every guarantee of the federal constitution—a contention which, if affirmed by the Supreme court, would overthrow the law under which Porto Rico is now being governed as a territory, abolish all tariffs and surround with appalling difficulties the whole experiment of expansion.

We now refer to Judge Lochren's opinion because another Judge of the United States courts, co-ordinate with him in rank as well as in professional reputation, has directly ruled just the opposite from Judge Lochren's dictum. In the United States circuit court sitting in New York, District Judge Townsend on Thursday, in the appeal of an importer whose imports of Porto Rican tobacco had been pronounced dutiable at the custom house, decided explicitly that the treaty of Paris, which left to congress the determination of "the civil rights and political status" of the territory it ceded, is constitutional and in full force. "The people of Porto Rico," says Judge Townsend, "are not to be incorporated into the Union by the treaty, but in status quo. Nor has there been an extension (by congress) of our laws or institutions over the island. But at least one of these acts, brought about by treaty or legislation, is necessary before an application of the constitution in Porto Rico. Until then the island remains, to use the language of the Supreme court, 'part of the United States, but still a foreign country.'"

Continuing, the Judge, as reported in the New York Sun, went on to say that "the appellants deny the authority of the United States under the constitution to hold sovereignty over subject territory which it does not make a part of itself under the constitution. Other nations may, they say, but we may not, and the treaty is void so far as it contemplates such a thing. No treaty has ever been adjudged invalid for such cause. If the contention is valid we cannot hold the territory without imposing on it at once the burden of our uniform revenue and tariff laws, and the treaty provision for ten years' free trade between the Philippines and Spain is void; the treaty which ceded Louisiana to us was unconstitutional because of the discriminations provided for in that territory in tonnage duties to be imposed on French and Spanish ships; the Florida treaty was in the same case. The natural and apparent meaning of the treaty of Paris is that Porto Rico is acquired, but not incorporated, and that the uniformity clause of the constitution does not yet apply. The power to acquire territory without incorporating it is an ordinary attribute of sovereignty. The independent states possessed it and delegated it to the federal government, which now possesses it exclusively. The argument that a government based on the consent of the governed prevents us from 'ruling subjects' does not apply if we admit that the inhabitants of Porto Rico without incorporation of their territory in the United States may have all the civil and political rights of the inhabitants of the territories. Perhaps the negative provisions of our constitution, which protect civil rights, do apply, but if they do it is because we cannot violate the principles of government imbedded in our institutions; not because Porto Rico is a part of the United States." Judge Townsend concludes:

"That we have the power to govern without the obligation of uniform taxation may be an unfamiliar proposition,

but it is so because we have never before had occasion to use the power to the same extent. The constitution makers may not have thought of it, yet, as we have seen, it is an incident of full sovereignty commonly exercised at the time the union was formed; one which is now prohibited to the states, and so must have passed to the federal government with the power to make war and treaties to which it is incident. For the framers of the constitution intended that instrument not as a limitation upon the freedom of the new sovereign in acting for the states in foreign affairs; not as a check to growth, but as the organic law of a nation that can live and grow. To deny this power to govern territory at arm's length would be to thwart that intention to make the United States an unfettered sovereign in foreign affairs.

For if we waive our sovereignty we must intend, by those who framed it, we are now, charged with territory which it would be the greatest folly to incorporate at once into our Union, making our laws its laws, our citizens its citizens; our taxes its taxes; and which, on the other hand, international considerations and the sense of our responsibility to its inhabitants may forbid us to abandon. The construction of the constitution which would limit our sovereign power would force us into a dilemma between violating our duty to other nations and to the people under our care on the one hand and violating our duty to ourselves on the other. That construction would in such case imperil the honorable existence of our republic. It could not have been intended by those who framed our constitution that we should be born a cripple among the nations."

Weekly Letter on Municipal Affairs.

II. "PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING."

THE day for fancy prices for electric street lighting has passed. The biggest money has been made in this line. The reformer has been the cause of the downfall. His slogan has been and is, "public ownership of all utilities." It sounds well and appeals to the popular mind. Prejudice against corporate interests pushes it along. The people urge its adoption everywhere. They say it has passed the time for private ownership. They say that if not success, disaster or indifferent results have one and the same effect. Simply to fan the flame of popular approval. Without attempting to analyze results, or to form a discriminating judgment the people decree municipal ownership a success.

Corporations are awakening to the need of doing something in self defense to check the growth of this sentiment. President Caboon, of the National Electric Light association, gave the warning cry in the opening sentence of 116 addresses at the last session of that body. "I doubt if there are in this whole association a dozen members who realize fully the gravity of the present situation for the private ownership of public utilities. The question is taking on a new form. Heretofore franchises have been granted haphazard, and little, if any, effort has been made to analyze results, or to form an opinion as to whether it is wise to give out any one line of policy with regard to either the granting of franchises or the operation of companies under those franchises. Massachusetts has taken a step, in a long one, in the direction of what the future will bring about, and that is, the regulation of all public utilities, and the compelling of all such corporations, by their private or municipal owners, to a board of commissioners an account in prescribed form at definite intervals. We cannot take the stand that it is against public policy that this should be done. It would simply be a case of kicking against the pricks. There lie open before us two paths: Municipal ownership or private ownership under state regulations."

What ever the explanation, the result was favorable to the city. And public ownership sentiment continues to undermine the interests of the corporation, particularly so in the west. Although the profits in the business have been lowered to what seems to be the minimum, yet the corporations multiply and appear to thrive. They eagerly seek for business even under these conditions.

As it is not to be supposed they are in business for their health, there must be a reasonable share of the profits in the business have been lowered to what seems to be the minimum, yet the corporations multiply and appear to thrive. They eagerly seek for business even under these conditions.

The smaller cities have been among the first to adopt municipal ownership. Very few of the larger ones have indulged themselves in this direction. Chicago, Detroit and Allegheny are notable exceptions. For the sake of comparison a group of twenty-five cities has been selected from among those served by private corporations and those under public ownership.

Table with 3 columns: CITY, No. of lights, Price per lamp per hour-cent.

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1901 CALENDARS FOR THE NEW YEAR.
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