

The Scranton Tribune

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

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

The following table shows the price per inch insertion, space to be used within one year:

DISPLAY	Run of	Siding on	Full
500 inches	25	375	40
5000 "	25	375	40
10000 "	18	175	19
20000 "	15	17	18
30000 "	13	165	18

For each of these, resolutions of confidence and similar items, the number of lines of advertising The Tribune makes a charge of 5 cents a line.

Rates for Classified Advertising furnished on application.

SCRANTON FEBRUARY 19, 1901.

Another day of miserable service is to be recorded against the Scranton Railway company. The infrequency and overcrowding of its cars yesterday during the busy hours were shameful.

Prize Story Competition.

A ANNOUNCED elsewhere, The Tribune has decided to offer a series of prizes in a local short-story competition. The prizes, while not large, are sufficient to furnish an incentive to the bright young men and women of Northeastern Pennsylvania who may be possessed of some literary ambition. The Tribune's purpose is to awaken interest in the legends and traditions of the mining industry, as well as to encourage the literary talent latent among its readers.

In connection with almost every mine in the valley there exists a mass of superstition, romance, and commingling of fact with fiction, which, if properly incorporated in literary form, would undoubtedly possess instructive interest, not only to many persons living in this region, but to the great majority of persons at a distance who are utterly unfamiliar with social conditions in and about the coal mines. It is not expected that the competition now started will exhaust, or more than touch the surface of this field, and therefore it is intended, if the contest shall develop encouraging signs, to follow it by other prize offers until a respectable local literature may be built up. Such a literature, while not uninteresting to the people of today, would in years to come, when the business of digging the dusky diamonds shall have passed into history, be invaluable.

It may be worth while to say further that we shall care less for literary form than for good substance. Let the writers of our valley see what they can do to reflect the spirit of the mining industry—its sacrifices, its heroism, its sense of loyalty and fellowship, and its peculiar pathos wit and humor.

The Republicans of the Sixteenth ward should not forget today to vote for Joseph Kline for alderman. For a generation he has been one of the stalwart Republicans and energetic business men of the ward, and the party owes him its undivided support.

Beneficial.

UNDoubtedly the adjournment of the legislature from Friday of last week to Wednesday of this will be found to have been advantageous in the opportunity afforded to bring the members into mental touch with what their constituents are thinking as to how legislation has been trending at the state capital. It may be taken for granted that in consequence of these wholesome communings with the people a majority of the law-makers will return to Harrisburg fully determined:

(1) To put the air brakes on every scheme to manufacture superfluous new offices or to increase, without clear necessity, the pay of men now holding state office.

(2) To halt the foolish attempt of a few nervous politicians to override by statute the constitutional freedom of the press, although this does not mean that the present intolerable license of yellow journalism should not be abridged when means to do so can be found that will not be worse in operation than the disease.

(3) To respect the enlightened sentiment of the people in favor of genuine ballot reform; and

(4) To practice in every grant of state funds the closest economy consistent with good government.

It is but fair to add that a legislature is not to be judged by the fool bluffed introduced before it, nor by the biased reports circulated about it in newspapers eager to discredit the political organization by which it is believed to be controlled. It must be judged by the measures which it sends to the governor. No bad bill has gone to him yet; and it will be time to snort when one gets that far along.

Complaint is made because the judges in an adjoining county have to work on an average of 46 weeks in the year. We know of several editors who esteem themselves lucky to get off for a fortnight's vacation annually after fifty weeks of toll.

The political writer of the Philadelphia Press seems to be worried by the halucination that the new federal court bill has been framed in the interest of some particular individual for Judge. Undoubtedly when the bill becomes law, the question of selecting a judge will receive attention. No doubt there will be some good-natured strife among the friends of several aspirants; but far more important than the question of a partic-

ular jurist's promotion is the question of facilitating the business of the people in the federal courts, and in bringing justice within easy reach of every man, woman and child. The Press can take it for granted that this is the real motive behind the bill.

The way to make Scranton prosperous in the Twentieth century is not to encourage war between capital and labor or to applaud every strike that occurs, regardless of merit or demerit. That, on the contrary, is precisely the way to stagnate business and narrow labor's opportunity for steady employment.

Is the Ripper Constitutional?

IT IS AN interesting circumstance that while the chief objection urged against the ripper bill is that it confers appointive power upon the governor, those who are using this objection in the manufacture of hostile public opinion privately confess that should the bill become law they have no hope of overthrowing it in the courts because of that clause. Their expectation is that if the bill in its present form should be taken before the supreme court it will be found defective, not in the giving of the appointive power to the governor, but in extending the period of gubernatorial appointment 'one year beyond the next ensuing municipal election. Upon this expectation they base their hope of successfully attacking the completed measure, but it is evident from the earnestness with which they are preparing to combat the bill's progress through the house that they do not feel wholly confident of maintaining their contention in the courts.

Thought It Was a Funeral.

ONE DAY, when George Ade was out walking with his family in the park of Kyoto, Japan, he observed coming down the street the head of a great procession. At once, he paused to watch the procession pass. On they came, gaudy in apparel, but grave in face, flaunting flags and great banners on which were Japanese inscriptions. The mournful chant which preceded their approach was broken only by the hooting of a tom-tom and punctuated by the symbols chanted. As the weird and solemn procession approached, Mr. Ade uncovered and bowed his head reverently, it being his custom and settled principle invariably to show the highest respect for the rites and ceremonies of the peoples with whom he comes in contact. He is a firm believer in the doctrine, "When in Rome do as the Romans do." His face was very grave.

The procession was long—nearly a block in length—but Mr. Ade remained unmoved during the entire time of its passing. Once or twice he glanced at the guide out of the corner of his eye. He thought he saw on the man's face a slight smile, but, as he was not particularly interested in the ceremony, he paid no attention to it. When the procession had passed he replaced his hat and addressed himself to the wondering guide.

"Buddha?" he inquired.

The guide looked more puzzled.

"Shinto?" then asked Mr. Ade.

"I do not understand," the guide finally said.

"Was that a funeral procession?" inquired Mr. Ade.

"It's Dene."

"This was altogether too much for the president. He went off into a fit of laughter, long and loud."

Outline Studies of Human Nature**President Mistaken for Dewey.**

"WE SHOULD have seen the president a few weeks ago, writes The Congressman's wife in the Saturday Evening Post. It was a very pretty sight. Little Leonora Page, a child of 5 or 6, came one day to the office of Senator Towne, and was received all starched and frilled with her best and prettiest manners to the fore. Her old black mammy nurse was with her, and it was evident that Leonora had been instructed to be very polite, and not to sit down in the presence of the mistress of the white house unless invited to do so, and also to answer all questions propinquously. Both the president and Mrs. McKinley received the child. They did all they could to make her feel at home, but Leonora was evidently a good deal awed. At last Mrs. McKinley, observing the years of the old black mammy, prodded her to sit down, and the child, too, but Leonora said admiringly to her nurse in an undertone, and holding herself bolt upright: "No, mammy; servants must not sit."

"Why, Leonora," said Mrs. McKinley, much amused, "mammy's an old woman. And you sit down yourself!"

"Yes, yes," returned the child gravely, "but then I'm a girl."

"I'm sorry," said Mrs. McKinley smiling broadly. Then Mrs. McKinley took out her watch, which contains a portrait of the president. She held it out and said coaxingly:

"Leonora, you cannot tell me of whom this is a picture?"

"I'm sorry, I drew my ear and scanned the open watch. A bright look swept over her face.

"Oh, yes, I know who it is!"

"Well, who is it, Leonora?"

"It's Dene."

"This was altogether too much for the president. He went off into a fit of laughter, long and loud."

Wanted—A GOOD DRIVING HORSE.

THE BRANCHES of the Mississippi have an aggregate length of 13,000 miles.

The greatest river is Niagara, which sends over 200,000,000 tons of water an hour.

Egypt exported last year 65,000 tons of sugar, 55,000 tons of which came to America.

The city of Bombay, India, has a Sarcophagus club, composed of Hindus, Parsees and Mohammedan women. The club motto is: "The world was created for women."

An automobile and an express train in Italy had a race of forty-four miles going out from Rome. The automobile was the winner, though it was considerably impeded by traffic.

While the population of Maine increased during the past decade only from 661,089 to 694,166, the cost of government increased 5 per cent., the cost of the state government has nearly doubled during the last four years.

The Turkish language is said by scholars to be the softest and most musical language of modern times, being better adapted to the purpose of musical notation and recitation than the Italian.

The German language is said to be the language of the most musical nation in Europe.

The German naval programme, which, according to the original announcement was not to be completed until 1916, is now, it seems, to be finished earlier.

In that year Germany will have at least forty-two very large cruisers and twenty-eight small cruisers.

Cattlemen are considering the advisability of re-seeding the Black hills and eastern Wyoming ranges, where native grass has been nearly killed by overcropping of cattle. It has been found that five grasses and two alfalfas will grow in this semi-arid climate.

Michigan, Michigan, is the record of 1900, claims to be the greatest peach-growing section in the world. The number of acres cultivated last year was 4,753 and the total yield of peaches was 140,992 barrels, being more than half the entire Michigan crop, Van Buren county, with 6,000 barrels.

Colored people are still willing to have the disadvantage of emigration to Monroe in West Africa. Only recently sixteen adventurous men of the race sailed from New York for that country, where land will be given them by the Liberian Colonial Society of Birmingham, Alabama. More of these contemplate going to Liberia in a few weeks.

The German army is in the lead of the Dead Sea has been noted. The ruins of El Balah, that stood like an island near the river Jordan, is now completely under water. A broad lagoon has formed on the north side of the Jordan delta. The water does not sink bottom, and it is assumed that the whole bottom of the Dead Sea has been washed away.

The Germans are claiming that, in spite of all our boasting, they are increasing their production of pig iron faster than the United States. This seems to be the fact. The German output of pig iron the past year was 8,551,742 tons, representing an increase of 15 per cent., since 1890. The United States' output last year was 13,789,242 tons, representing an increase of 50 per cent., since 1890.

Near Rio Grande City, Tex., an immense deposit of iron pyrite has been discovered. Pieces of it ignite quickly and give out a strong flame, which lasts for a remarkably long period. It is said to be scientific, and it is believed that the whole pyrite will burn.

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