

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, but its rule is that these must be signed, and the publication of the writer's name and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of Paper, Single Copy, Position. Rows for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000.

For cards of thanks, resolutions of condolence and similar contributions in the notice columns, the Tribune makes a charge of 5 cents a line.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, MAY 11, 1901.

The country would have considerably greater faith in the protestations, made at the Chamber of Commerce in New York city on Tuesday last by well known labor leaders, that "the unions want industrial peace," if every day did not bring new strikes and orders for strikes.

Stock Jobbing.

NOTHING that can be said in press or pulpit about stock market "pamphlets" in the nature of admonition against speculation, will have any effect. The desire to gamble is inborn. Some have it more than others, but all have enough of it to be tempted at some time in life; and the only education worth anything in the direction of helping to resist that temptation is that taught by experience. The burned child dreads fire.

The law of averages still holds good. Push a valve up beyond its firm foundations and when it falls, as fall it must, it may fall below the level of its real worth, but it will come back again. The men who speculate on margins are liable to get pitched on stocks fluctuate as they have fluctuated this week, but no man who holds securities as he would hold the title to a piece of real estate, for bona fide investment, need fear that the pulsations of the tickers of Wall street in furry periods offers any criterion by which substantial values must be judged in the long run.

Let the gamblers exult if they will. The happy fact remains that the foundations of this country's prosperity are too broad, deep and firm to be seriously affected by anything they can do. It is the producers, not the gamblers, who make wealth. They are still busy.

And Uncle Russell Sage remarked, "I told you so."

Quay's Ballot Plan.

SENATOR QUAY'S ballot reform proposition, that the election officers shall hand to each voter a ticket of such party and an envelope, to go into the booth, put in the envelope and seal either to him or one taken from his vest pocket, the envelope then to be numbered by the election officers and deposited in the ballot box, is received with surprising favor by the insurgents.

The Pittsburg Times says there is "good sense in it" and that it "opens the way to a much better and simpler method of voting than the present cumbersome system." The Philadelphia Ledger admits that "there appears to be much good in it." The Philadelphia Record, while feeling that it might be open to ready abuse in the preparation of tickets and envelopes and violation of the constitutional provision regarding the numbering of the ballot, admits that it would be "a fair method and less liable to fraud than the present ballot law."

In Behalf of Peace.

NOTICEABLE step is that taken by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, representing the United States on the International Peace Commission on the International Peace Commission of Women, in issuing a call asking the women throughout the country to arrange for meetings in behalf of international peace and arbitration, to be held May 18. The call says: "Notwithstanding the threatening conditions since the holding of The Hague conference and the many possibilities, it is certain that a matter of grateful consideration that, as a result of the conference, the Permanent Court of International Arbitration will convene at The Hague on the second anniversary of the conference—May 15."

What disputes, if any, are to be submitted to that court does not appear. If such meetings as those called for by the International Peace Commission should, however, be held in all civilized countries a public sentiment would thereby be fostered that at no distant day might compel nations to make of the Court of International Arbitration a body exercising authoritative power. The time is not yet.

A great deal was sent by cable across and under the Atlantic ocean not long ago about Shamrock II, the new British "challenger" for the America's cup. It appears to be worth while to mention that the new American "cup defender" has been completed, named the Constitution with all due ceremony, and launched. Also, that however confident the owner of Shamrock II may be that this time he will sail away carrying the cup to his own land, the Constitution's owner and builders are equally sure that he is mistaken.

Washington correspondence announces that Captain Charles D. Sigbee, who was in command of the battleship Maine when that vessel was treacherously blown up in the harbor of Havana, has made formal application for assignment to command the new battleship Maine when completed. It is

leaved appeal to them. The Post is greatly afflicted over the people of El Paso's enthusiastic approval of the president. The Ledger thinks we shall accomplish the pacification of all the Philippine islands in time "if only those first taken will remain assimilated"—the context and entire spirit of its article showing its hope of more trouble in the islands. They want the American people to accept their utterances as patriotic. The American people are not a nation of fools.

Mr. Schwab, president of the United States Steel corporation, has been giving the boys of the country some good advice in the way of suggestions that they strive to win by merit rather than by influence of others. Every young man no doubt would find much encouragement in contemplation of Mr. Schwab's remarks but for the stubborn fact that there are not steel mills enough to go around.

To Save Life at Fires.

ON WEDNESDAY last, at a great fire in an uptown New York apartment house, at least a score of lives were saved by the new life-net of the fire department of that city. Men and women whose retreat through the blazing buildings was cut off, and who could not descend on the fire escape because of our rushing flames and impenetrably black smoke, jumped from the heights—some of them from the sixth story—into the life-net held by half a dozen firemen and escaped without injury. Many others were saved by scaling ladders.

The net, as described, "is circular, about twenty-four feet in circumference—that is, about eight feet in diameter—and is attached to a metal rim by springs." The device, we think, is a new one in this country, although it is very singular, indeed, that it should be so, since for many years there have been in use in London and there found of the utmost value in saving life. Every fire department ought to be thoroughly equipped with life-saving appliances.

Bulletin regarding the condition of Shamrock II are to say the least becoming a trifle tiresome.

Forgery as Humor.

PROFESSOR CROOK, of Evanston, Ill., over whose reported statement to his students that he had never kissed a woman and never done various other harmless things, many newspapers have been making merry, has at last been stung by the whole performance into emphatic denial. He has sent to the Chicago Record-Herald this letter:

Evanston, May 6. To the Editor: The stories which have recently been printed about me are absolutely false. I have never said to students or to others what has been attributed to me. I tried to see the numerous sides of the reports until the letter with my name attached was published in some issue of April 27. This letter was a forgery. You have been imposed upon and I am greatly injured. I have kept silent so far, hoping that the forgery might be discovered. I trust you will have some one who can help me to accomplish this result and vindicate me. Yours very truly, A. R. Crook.

A "practical joke" is always odious. No other human being ever resorts so intensely "to a practical joke" when directed on himself, as does the person who finds pleasure in annoying or tormenting other people by means of them.

What particular satisfaction it has been to some forger and fabricator to torment Professor Crook by setting him in a ridiculous light before the whole country, no one but the forger knows. But he should be discovered by the papers he chose as his medium and punished by having his identity disclosed. He deserves the scourge of public contempt he has hidden himself to turn, undeservedly, on another.

Indiana people are making converts for Mormonism by persecuting the missionaries from Utah. In Indiana, as elsewhere, it is easy to demonstrate that the best way to make any freak religious belief grow is to fight it.

Information and Entertainment, Too

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XLVIII.—Municipal Street Lighting in Chicago.

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The operation of this plant for the past thirteen years affords the best example of municipal ownership of electric lighting that can be found in the country, and at the same time it is the largest. In order to avoid all argument and difference of opinion as to what percentage should be added to the cost of operation on account of depreciation, the total amount of money paid for construction, operation, repairs and renewals of all kinds during the thirteen years has been placed in one sum. This is the only equitable means of arriving at the total cost of the system. With this sum \$2,750,000, which the city has constructed and maintained the plant.

In order to ascertain just what the rate has been in the city in that particular it is necessary to determine the cost of lighting for the same period under private ownership, which has been shown to amount to \$2,750,000. The difference between this sum and that which the plant has cost to operate and maintain, which interest should be returned, and which should be charged to the plant's debt on the account, is the charge interest on the capital cost of the plant, which is the only equitable means of arriving at the total cost of the system. With this sum \$2,750,000, which the city has constructed and maintained the plant.

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It also represents a forced reduction on the price paid for rental lights, which would never have been secured without the operation of the municipal plant.

The taxes which might have been paid to the city had the investment been made by a private corporation have not been taken into consideration, for it is almost impossible to estimate what they would have amounted to. But, based on what a large corporation paid during 1900, the amount of tax which would have been paid on the investment of \$2,750,000, which would have been saved through our plan, and which would have been paid for rental lights to build and operate the plant as it now exists.

This is a practical demonstration of the results obtained by the city of Chicago, and should receive more consideration than the theoretical statements of private corporations, who have no interest in the public good, but whose figures show the forced cost of producing an arc light under private control. The following table shows clearly what has actually been accomplished by the operation of this municipal lighting plant.

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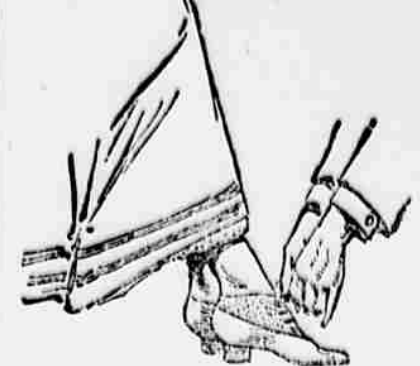
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