

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the contents are subject to editorial revision.

THE FLY RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

Table showing advertising rates per inch for different positions and lengths of time.

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For Classified Advertising furnished on application.

SCRANTON, MAY 21, 1901.

Caution compels the admission that the specimens of landscape gardening about the public grounds in the central city are to-day as devoid of artistic inspiration as a stack of railroad ties.

For a Nine-Hour Day.

THE MOVEMENT for a nine-hour day seems to be widespread and its beginning, undoubtedly, its future will depend upon the ability of its leaders to keep to the line of peaceful methods and scrupulous respect for vested rights.

To employ the proposition to give for a nine-hour service a wage equal to what they have been giving for a ten-hour service involves less a discrimination to advance wages on new business than to lose money on unfinished contracts. One industry that we know of has contracts on its books which it will take two years to fill. They were estimated on the ten-hour basis. To estimate them on the nine-hour basis would mean a considerable loss, running into the thousands of dollars. This, we imagine, is the chief obstacle to a general concession of the demands now made.

It cannot be denied that most fair-minded people deem nine hours of faithful skilled manual labor enough to ask of any man, save in rare emergencies. The ideal arrangement is eight hours, and there is very little doubt that eventually American industry will adjust itself to such a basis, in which case it will only follow the example set by the Federal and most of the state governments, as well as by many large private corporations.

But movements of this kind take time and patience and very careful leadership, which is willing to look at the problem from all sides and standpoints. The present demand claims to have given a year's notice. This, we believe, is in dispute. But one year's notice is too brief to permit of the necessary adjustments. The sensible plan would be to exempt contracts already entered upon and apply the rate to new contracts beginning at a specified date in the future. On that basis the demand would have very general public sympathy and support.

So far as the local aspects of the strike are concerned, it appears that Scranton has been more severely affected than any other city. Here, not only the mechanics, but also the practically all the workmen, blacksmiths, remakers, boiler-makers, blacksmiths and help are generally having been called out, ostensibly under the belief that the strike was equally sweeping in other cities. But such does not seem to be the case. In many other places the mechanics alone have made demands, and pending efforts at arbitration, are remaining at work. Thus it would appear that Scranton has been most unfortunately discriminated against. Here, it is not arbitration first and strike only as a last resort, but strike on the drop of the hat. That does not bode well for local prospects. There is certainly need of careful counsel.

The Pan-American Exposition.

THE FORMAL dedication of the Pan-American exposition with appropriate ceremonies brings that great enterprise officially before the notice of all the people and justifies a few words as to its inspiration and purposes.

In the last few years there have been numerous expositions, good and bad and middling, until the idea of an exposition has ceased to have the merit of novelty, and has lost many of its early elements of interest. Indeed, useful as these various exhibitions have been in various ways, there has of late arisen in the public mind a dread lest this particular form of commercial speculation should come within danger of being overdone.

Such a fear cannot hold with respect to the Pan-American exposition, for it is not only planned on new and original lines, but it has as its inspiring motive, by purpose, with which every intelligent American must cordially sympathize.

We have seen in our recent relations with Cuba that the Spanish-speaking and the English-speaking inhabitants of the American hemisphere, although joint heirs of free institutions and brothers in destiny, do not understand each other as they should. They are not only apart in language but they have widely separated ideas and ideals and while the trend of their politics tends to bring them together the prejudices tends in exactly the opposite direction. This is unfortunate and not only can but must be remedied.

The Pan-American exposition is a

most ingeniously devised expedient of rectification. It supplies an entirely new and attractive bond of common interest and a most felicitous opportunity of arriving at a helpful mutual understanding. It is not a Yankee, but an all-American enterprise, in which the sister American republics have due representation and participation; a literary, artistic, social and economic congress of the whole hemisphere where representative citizens of every American country meet on a congenial level of equality to consider what is of interest to each and therefore of profit and instruction to all.

It may incidentally, and we trust that it will "make money." Its projectors desire a better fate than financial loss. But it cannot fail to be a great aid to New World amelioration and advancement, and a potent impetus in the spread of friendly feeling among the people whose destiny has placed alongside of each other in the work of civilizing and developing two of the world's richest continents.

Opponents who rejoiced a few days ago at the announcement that Mr. Quay had decided to retire from politics are now haunted by the fear that the senator intends to establish political headquarters.

The Traveling Library Work.

THE PLANS of the Young Men's Christian association in the anthracite region, spoken of by us fully a few days ago, in so far as they propose the use of "traveling libraries," are in line with what has been for some years successfully carried out in some states for the benefit of the people in village and rural communities away from all the usual public library facilities and where few persons can purchase many books.

It is not to the credit of the Pennsylvania legislature that the bill for an appropriation for such traveling libraries in this commonwealth has failed to be defeated. It is therefore all the more a happy move in the Young Men's Christian association of this section of the state to make provision for such work of enlightenment among our cosmopolitan population.

New York state, which was the first in this educational field, beginning the work in 1892, has been able to make her traveling libraries serve every portion of her territory at an annual expenditure of \$25,000. She has been followed with as great success by New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. Two railroad companies, the Boston and Albany, and the Baltimore and Ohio, have adopted the system for the benefit of their own employees. Illinois has followed to the point of following the good example of the five states named, the University of Chicago has undertaken the sending out of traveling libraries in that state.

Quite apart from this work, yet related to it in aims and methods, but in the special confines of town or city, is the system of making the public schools branch stations of the public library, supplying each school with a stated number of books at the opening of the school year, and changing them at certain periods in the year, each set going the rounds of the schools in succession, with simple, unexplicated methods for their distribution to the pupils. This plan, as told by Mr. Green in a recent article in "The World's Work," originated with Mr. S. S. Green, the public librarian of Worcester, Mass., in 1879. Detroit and Cleveland, Buffalo, Milwaukee and Cleveland are named by Mr. Green as having followed Worcester in carrying out this system, with admirable and fruitful results. There probably are others. In all these cases it should be mentioned, the pupils can also obtain books, on special cards, direct from the library and the use of the reference section of the library is increased under this system.

The good results achieved by these two related plans, both of which have long passed the merely experimental stage, give arguement of good fruit from the seed sown in the anthracite region of which we speak.

A memorial to one of the most brilliant of American women, Margaret Fuller, Countess d'Ossoli, is, after the lapse of more than half a century, to be set up near the scene of the shipwreck on Fire Island, in which she, with her husband and little son, met death. That was in an awful storm, July 19, 1850. The memorial, writes Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, is to be set up at Point of Woods, five miles from Fire Island Light, just where the wreckage came ashore after the ship went to pieces. It is to be a colonial pavilion, in the walls of which shall be set a bronze memorial tablet.

Prof. Clark, of the Northwestern university, who attacked the free college women in general by the assertion that college-bred girls as a rule do not make good housewives, has modified his claim by a statement that the college-bred girls who can speak five languages and at the same time retain knowledge as to the proper shade of brown for the crust of the tomatoe fried doughnut, are more numerous than he had first supposed.

After having for nearly six years been a tenant of The Tribune, during which it met every contract promptly, the Times yesterday demitted itself in a home of its own on Spruce street and appeared printed with its own type on its own press, a 24-page double-supplement issue. Our contemporary has been notably successful during its career as a tenant and we trust that it may prosper still more now that it has become full owner of its appliances.

It is noticed that Mr. Bryson pauses occasionally in his work of jotting down the names of new subscribers and takes time to brandish his snicker-snee at the money devil.

No one has accused the man who lived under a 2,000 volt shock at Sharon the other day of being a book agent. The world is certainly growing better.

The Sultan of Turkey has wisely headed off the postal ultimatum.

THE PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION OPENED

(Continued from Page 1.)

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