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, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MAY 24, 1901.

Rev. Dr. Lansing assures us that our interpretation of his remarks of last Sunday concerning brewers' children misapplied his thought and thus did him an injustice. He says he spoke his life-long opinion of brewers generically, having in mind the business rather than the men, and that his reference to the children of the brewers was absolutely without the intention of an individual suggestion; it being foreign to his mind to wound any particular person or family. We give this prominence in fairness to Dr. Lansing; who, it may be proper to add, also denies having charged the newspapers with being under saloon influence.

The First County Controller.

UNDER THE new act empowering the governor to appoint to serve until the next general election controllers for counties with more than 150,000 population, Governor Stone has designated Edward A. Jones, of Archbald, to fill this responsible place for Lackawanna county. The salary of the office is $4,000 a year and its duties in a general way correspond to those which the city controller performs in reference to the city administration. The county controller, in short, will be the watchdog of the treasury, holding a check over every other department of the county government. He will combine in one office with enlarged powers the functions heretofore devolving upon the county auditors, but will give his entire time to the work and make it thorough.

The fitness of Mr. Jones for this recognition at the hands of the Republican party is conceded on all sides. Individually he is a man of sterling worth, whose career from its beginning has been progressive and creditable. Politically he is no less deserving, for since he became a voter he has been active and loyal in party service, serving faithfully for ten years as a member of the Republican county committee; for six years as chairman of the Fourth legislative district, and twice as a delegate to the state convention. These positions, with three years as councilman in Archbald and five years as a director of the Blakely poor district, represent his participation in office-holding, all being places of labor and responsibility without reward. He will unquestionably make a first class controller.

It would be unfair to pronounce all oil investment companies hazardous risks. Some have credentials, bank references and proofs of merit which entitle them to favorable attention and confidence. But the sensible investor will always look before he leaps.

Edison's Latest.

SOME TIME ago it was said in the newspapers that Thomas A. Edison had invented a light-weight storage battery which promised to revolutionize the propelling of vehicles and boats. Then came reports that this announcement was premature and that while Mr. Edison had been working on the storage battery problem he had encountered insuperable difficulties. Now in an authorized interview printed in the New York Sun the West Orange wizard confirms the original statement. He says:

"The present types of storage batteries deteriorate very rapidly. In the experiments I have made with the new battery there has been no evident deterioration. Another advantage is, technically speaking, its large storage capacity per unit of mass. In other words, it is less cumbersome, and yet promises greater power. Lead batteries weigh from 125 pounds to 180 pounds per horse-power hour. The weight of my battery is only 55 pounds per horse-power hour. Again, the old battery takes from four to five hours to charge. The new battery can be charged in half that time, and, moreover, can also be discharged with greater rapidity than can the old batteries. The fault with the lead types is that when you want more power, when you are climbing a hill, for instance, in an automobile, you cannot get it without great deterioration. This trouble I have obviated.

"Careless treatment will not affect my invention. As a general rule the public do not understand how to care for batteries. In the case of the existing batteries it requires electrical knowledge to understand them. I realized that a practical battery must be one which the average individual could easily manipulate. All you have to do with the new cell is to fill it with water. As regards cost I believe that after factory facilities now in course of progress have been completed I will be able to furnish the cells at a price per horse-power hour not greater than the prevailing price of lead cells. This will really mean a great reduction in expense, because while the lead batteries will only carry a vehicle about thirty miles the new one will go seventy-five to one hundred miles with one charge. Practically, therefore, it means that you will be able to travel the longer distance for the same price as it hitherto cost to go about thirty miles.

"The problem I set myself to solve was how to use electricity for heavy trucking. The deterioration and particularly the weight of the old batteries prevented their profitable use for the transportation of merchandise and big loads. With the light battery there is a great future for electric trucking. Apart from the lessening of weight, an extremely important factor, it will be possible for a truck to be taken out in the morning and kept at work all day without recharging. I have been experimenting for four or five months with this battery on trucks. I have run the trucks over all kinds of roads and up and down heavy grades, with the greatest success and without deterioration of the batteries. I might call attention also to the fact that the battery besides being valuable for river and street traffic can be utilized in connection with tidal power. The lead cells did not accumulate power quickly enough from the rise and fall of the tides to come within the commercial limits of tidal power but the rapidity with which the new battery can be charged overcomes this drawback."

As described by Dr. Kennelly before the American Institute of Electrical engineers, the new battery discards the old-time lead, zinc and sulphuric acid process and uses iron and nickel in a bath of hydroxide of potash. A light frame is stamped out of sheet steel, 24-1000 of an inch thick. It measures about nine inches high and five inches broad. From this are cut out long, narrow holes, three rows of eight each. The holes are upright, three inches high and half an inch wide. Into these are fitted shallow sheet steel boxes, a tenth of an inch deep, and full of minute perforations. Each of the twenty-four boxes of the positive plate incloses a briquette, composed of finely pulverized iron and graphite in about equal proportions, and compressed into one solid cake. The pockets of the negative plate contain briquettes of pulverized nickel combined with graphite and similarly solidified. Between adjacent plates is inserted a plate of perforated hard rubber. Mr. Edison is of the opinion that all chemical action which would destroy his plates has been averted and that the battery will practically last forever.

A battery weighing only 55 pounds per horse-power hour is feasible for nearly all kinds of light vehicular traffic. With a battery weighing only 240 pounds Mr. Edison has run a carriage 75 miles up and down heavy grades without recharging. If he can keep this up and reduce the cost, the automobile problem will have been solved.

It begins to look as though some of the base ball stockholders will wish that they had owned Northern Pacific instead.

The Chinese Indemnity.

ONE OF the most difficult matters in connection with the pacification of China, the one alone which stands in the way of the rehabilitation of the Chinese government, the withdrawal of the foreign forces, and the resumption of international trade, is the settlement of the indemnity on a basis fair to China and fair to the governments which have demanded compensation for the massacre of their subjects and the ruthless destruction of the property of the missionaries by the Boxers. This sum in round numbers amounts to $300,000,000. China demurs to the bill, but she cannot resist its payment.

The question is, how can this sum be raised without prostrating China and exasperating the people to a more infuriated pitch against the "foreign devils." The United States and Great Britain are willing, even eager, to make the collection as indirect and as little onerous as possible. Germany, it seems, is desirous of pressing her account to the last tael with summary insistence. It cannot be denied that the murder of her minister, Count Von Ketteler, makes such an attitude not unjust, no matter how unreasonable it may appear to those who desire to see the frankenstein of massacre and revolt laid in the Celestial empire. But some consideration should be shown, surely, to the millions of passive and peaceable Chinese who have taken no part in the revolutionary atrocities with which the Boxers are identified, but who may on the other hand be driven into fierce action if they are made to suffer roundly for the sins of the miscreants who originated the trouble.

The resources of China are surely ample enough to guarantee the payment of the indemnity in full if its collection is only judiciously adjusted. No doubt the plenipotentiaries of the foreign governments at Pekin have found the Chinese higher officials difficult, perverse, and mendacious in negotiation. It has always been so and will continue so until the Chinese government acts more in accordance with the ideas of Western civilization. Until that time arrives, if it ever does, the foreign ministers should exercise unlimited forbearance and stole patience in dealing with an intractable and inscrutable race. We know next to nothing of the psychology of the Chinaman. He knows a good deal more than he pretends about us.

Lord Cranborne, speaking in the House of Commons the other night, said that the British government is unalterably opposed to raising the import duty ten per cent, as security for the payment of the indemnity. Great Britain and the United States are the only two countries whose trade with China is at all considerable. Taking into consideration the chaos into which Chinese commerce has been thrown this country and England would in the end be sufferers by the enforcement of an indemnity tariff. Germany is waiting upon the course of events in the East, and it might suit her purpose to compound her indemnity at an auspicious moment for preferential trade treaties, territorial leases or what not. Neither this country nor Great Britain can permit its trade with China to be jeopardized by a ten per cent import duty.

The Chinese merchants at the treaty ports have been almost ruined. If their trade is to be resuscitated it will require encouragement and fostering rather than the imposition of additional imposts. The Oriental can do without our goods much more complacently than we can do without his trade.

The only condition, according to Lord Cranborne, upon which the British government will permit an increase in the customs duties is to facilitate the abolition of the likin dues. These likin dues are imposed arbitrarily where the regular maritime customs duties are not in vogue and are a source of inconceivable fiscal debauchery and plunder. They retard foreign importation and strangle native enterprise.

The British government proposes that the Imperial government should issue indemnity interest-bearing bonds covering thirty years or so, which will be guaranteed by certain sources of revenue, each government receiving bonds to the amount due to it. Nothing could be fairer or more feasible.

The law abiding dealer will now do well to beware of the oleo that resembles colored butter.

More Polar Adventure.

THE LOVE of adventure holds its own. Some one not long ago wrote an article to ask what was going to satisfy it when all of Africa had been mapped out and the North Pole discovered. He thought the time for both was close upon us, and there would be no new worlds to conquer. It is scarcely worth while to worry yet, even if Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, who proposes on June 17 to start on his expedition to the Arctic with the avowed intention to "raise the stars and stripes on the North Pole" should succeed in doing so.

It may be recalled that a great many gold seekers, hunting "lost mines" that some one has come across by accident in Rocky mountain or Sierra wanderings, have returned baffled in their quest, and sometimes with sad stories of having found the bones and relics of others baffled likewise. There is no small portion of South American and African territory where adventure enough may yet be found for the ordinary mortal, and some in Australia, too. Then there is the Antarctic continent, the land of mingled frost and fire, of glacier and volcano, even if Peary or Baldwin or some one else shall reach the North Pole. No, it is scarce worth while to worry yet. Even Alpine climbing will suffice for a multitude of active seekers for adventure, to say nothing of Alaskan peaks and Himalayan ranges.

Mr. Baldwin has been in Greenland with Peary and was with Walter Wellman in his effort to reach the North Pole by a sudden dash from Franz Josefland. He made valuable meteorological observations. He will go this time with a full equipment of scientific photographic apparatus, and with "adequate supplies for three years for forty men, fifteen Siberian ponies and four hundred dogs." He says he expects to reach the pole and return within twenty-seven months. But if he does not return by June, 1903, William Ziegler of New York, who is the financial backer of the expedition, will send further supplies to Franz Josefland, and Mr. Baldwin will try again, from that point, to solve the mystery of the Arctic seas.

The Vaughan bill to increase by 50 per cent, the salaries of the more over-worked judges, which has passed the senate, is criticised in some circles because it will add $65,000 a year to the expenses of the Pennsylvania judiciary. Most of this sum has resulted from amendments widening the bill's original scope. As introduced, it applied only to counties with more than 150,000 and less than 1,000,000 population; as it stands, the minimum limit is 80,000. It may be that in some of the counties with between 80,000 and 150,000 population there are judges for whom the present salary of $4,000 a year is ample; but it can be taken for granted that few men fit to be on the bench will be overpaid if the rate is raised to $6,000. In counties like Lackawanna, the $4,000 rate is pitiably inadequate.

Sir Arthur Sullivan is to have a monument in St. Paul's cathedral, London. It is further proposed to endow a scholarship, to bear Sir Arthur's name, in the Royal Academy of Music, and to erect a statue of him on the Thames Embankment; and the London dispatches add that American subscriptions will be invited.

There appears to be a noisy element at Havana that would be willing that Cuba should go down to history as the thankless child of the Western hemisphere.

Some of the inhabitants of Scotland evidently think that if Mr. Carnegie's gift is accepted the country may in time become educationally top heavy.

King Edward's experience with Shamrock II. may have given him an inkling as to the feelings of the boy who stood on the burning deck.

Faith Curist Luther Raison, who has gone to jail rather than pay a fine of $500, gives evidence of having faith in his own medicine.

SCHOOL FADS.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

Protests against the increase of studies in the schools is sound. There has never been any defense of the policy that would hold. The more respectable one, which is practiced openly on behalf of educational science, is that it has a broadening effect; but this plea takes no account of the resulting thinness. The product is a stretch-like mind, which can contain nothing, and the poor youthful victim is pretty surely destined to an eternity of emptiness.

Knocking out fads means knocking out salaries which aggregate several hundred thousand dollars every year, and hence the strenuous cry for breadth. Any shallow-pated wobbler will expatiate earnestly and almost eloquently on breadth if the thinness of the pupil's mental hood contributes to the thickness of his own leaf and stricia. There are thousands of boys and girls and men and women who have dabbled, say, in modern languages in the Chicago public schools and brought nothing away but a few half-remembered words out of which they could not possibly frame a sentence. The same time spent in a spelling drill would have been of infinitely greater value.

Information and Entertainment, Too

ACCORDING to scientists, first-born children exceed later born children in height and weight, while children born in summer are liable to be taller for their age than children born in winter.

The merchant marine of the world has reached a total of 28,084,708 tons, of which 11,261,354 tons are British, 5,750,521 American, 2,650,073 German, 1,350,567 French and 1,040,812 Norwegian. Great Britain has 646 war ships, with a tonnage of 1,235,410, and a large number of new ones building. Thus her fleet is a little stronger than that of France and Russia combined. France stands second on the list with 428 vessels, with a tonnage of 714,196; Germany has 253 vessels built and building, with a tonnage of 411,800; Russia 359 ships built and building of 362,580 tons; the United States 96 vessels built, with a tonnage of 309,600, and 55 building, with a tonnage of 247,450; Japan 125 vessels, with a tonnage of 250,850.

A point in law said never to have been passed upon before has been decided by the Maryland Court of Appeals, which held that the publication of a letter dictated and typewritten containing libelous matter is legally complete, although its contents have not been made known to any person other than the stenographer. A libelous communication dictated to a stenographer, according to the court's view, enjoys no greater privilege or immunity than that made to any other confidential amanuensis. This decision, the Philadelphia Ledger thinks, "should have a prohibitive influence upon persons tempted to write scurrilous, blackmailing and libelous communications through an amanuensis. Such communications though made only to the stenographer, subject the person inspiring and dictating them to the penalties of the libel law."

In 1900 the American fire loss was $155,000,000, and the insurance loss, $80,500,000. Here is a daily destruction of $430,000 on which the recovery is only $220,000. The average annual property loss for the last ten years is estimated at $411,022,588, of which an average of $80,247,000 per annum was paid by the insurance companies. Thirty years ago the country was appalled at the overwhelming loss in the Chicago fire, and yet the annual expectancy of fire waste in the United States, based upon the experience of the last ten years, is now about equal to the estimates in the loss of that great conflagration, and, unless some check can be applied, the average destruction of values by fire in the United States is likely soon to reach a round half million dollars daily.

Within the next few weeks a presidential proclamation will be issued opening for settlement the reservation at present occupied by the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache tribes of Indians, and which is situated in the extreme southwestern part of Oklahoma territory. Its area is 4,658 miles, and it contains 2,968,893 acres. The act of congress under which this country is thrown open for settlement provides that the following allotments shall first be made: 160 acres each for about 2,000 Indians; 480,000 acres of grazing lands to be held in common by members of the tribes; about 320,000 acres for schools, colleges and public buildings, and 50,000 acres for the Fort Sill military reservation, leaving approximately 1,628,893 for homesteads. On this basis there will be about 10,000 homesteads of 160 acres each open to settlement. It is asserted by persons who know that for rainfall and freedom from drouth this section of country soon to be opened will compare favorably with similar areas in Iowa or northern Missouri. Any citizen of the United States who is the head of a family or who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is twenty-one years of age, and who is not the owner of 160 acres of land may make a homestead entry in the reservation. Veterans of the civil and Spanish-American wars are entitled to credit on their homesteads for time served as soldiers. Any person who, having attempted but for any cause failed to secure a title in fee simple to a homestead under existing laws, or who made entry under what is known as the commuted provision of the homestead law, is qualified to make a homestead entry upon said land. There will be a period of registration, lasting thirty or forty days, prior to the opening, during which each applicant for these lands will be required to show by written proofs that he is qualified to make homestead entry and actually desires to do so as a means of securing a home. If his proof is satisfactory he will be registered as a qualified applicant and given a certificate to that effect and he will draw a number which will determine the order in which he will be permitted, at the opening, to make a selection of land. The work of registration will continue until the qualifications of all applicants and the order in which they will be permitted to select lands have been determined. The drawing will be under the supervision of a non-partisan commission. The numbers placed in the box before the drawing commences will more than cover the number of people who will apply to register. No advantage will be obtained by being the first to register and all will have an equal chance of drawing the first number.

Persons officially engaged in searching for remedies for injurious insects all over the world have banded themselves together in a society known as the Association of Economic Entomologists, says Dr. L. O. Howard in Everybody's Magazine. They are constantly interchanging ideas regarding the destruction of insects, and at present active movements are on foot in this direction of interchanging beneficial insects. Entomologists in Europe will try the cowbug summer to send to the United States living specimens of a tree-inhabiting beetle which eats the caterpillar of the gipsy moth, and which will undoubtedly also eat the caterpillar so common upon the shade trees of our principal Eastern cities, which is known as the Tussock moth caterpillar. An entomologist from the United States, C. L. Marlatt, has started for Japan, China and Java, for the purpose of trying to find the original home of the famous San Jose scale—an insect which has been doing enormous damage in the apple, pear, peach and plum orchards of the United States—and if he finds the original home of this scale, it is hoped that some natural enemy or parasite will be discovered which can be introduced into the United States to the advantage of our fruit growers. Professor Berlese, of Italy, and Dr. Eich, of Germany, will attempt the introduction into Europe of some of the parasites of injurious insects which occur in the United States, and particularly those of the woolly root-louse of the apple, known in Europe as the "American blight"—one of the few injurious insects which probably went to Europe from this country, and which in the United States is not as injurious as it is in Europe.

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AND
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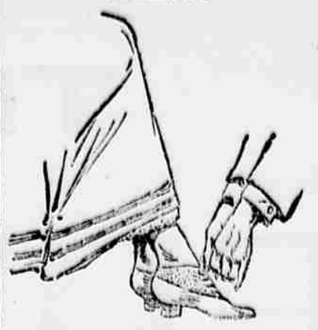

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At 50c, Instead of 65c

Irish Linen Damask, 66 inches wide, full bleached, heavy weight and very sightly cloth; also German silver bleached Damask at this same price—63 inches wide, soft finish; splendid value for the money.

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