

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 the rule is that those must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the condition precedent to their appearance is that the contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of (Singles), Full (1000), and Price per inch per week. Includes rates for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000 lines.

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SCRANTON, JULY 30, 1901.

Governor Stone missed a great chance to silence insurgent clamor when he failed to name on the new capital commission John Wanamaker, Tom Wanamaker, E. E. Van Valkenburgh, E. A. Coray, Jr., and the editor of the Wilkes-Barre Record.

The Water Question.

IN HIS letter to the recorder, meant, however, for councils, withdrawing the unaccepted charge to the city of \$1,000 a month for water supplied, and inviting a new conference to agree upon other terms, President Scranton, of the Gas and Water company, has again given evidence of his courage. Many men in a similar position would fear to arouse antagonism in the municipal law-making branch at a time when a new measure of public utility taxation is pending and when, furthermore, there is talk of the city joining in a suit to test whether it has the power to modify existing water rates.

But Mr. Scranton does not know what fear means and seems to enjoy "stirring up the animals." The statement in his letter that the proposed charge of \$1,000 a month was made in accordance with existing facts, that one it superadded, is correct. Since the date of the old contract, the city's use of water had increased enormously and the ratio of increase was steady. Individuals whose consumption of water increases have to pay an increasing price and it is no more than fair that the city should do likewise. As to the matter of the license tax, its imposition is clearly within the discretion of councils and it is equally within the Gas and Water company's discretion to choose by what means a tax of that nature, if imposed, should be paid; in both instances, of course, subject to the final action of the courts if appealed to.

What interests us most in Mr. Scranton's characteristic letter is his assertion that the city's water bill is for three months unpaid. While an individual consumer lets his bill go over for that length of time it is, we believe, the water company's custom to shut off his supply. Why should the delinquent city receive more grace than the delinquent citizen? Why should not the city set an example in prompt payment of its debts?

These are points even more important for councils to consider than is the amount of the city's water bill, an amount not unreasonable in comparison with other charges. The steel strike is practically ended, but of course the committees and manufacturers must be given a little time to talk it over.

Settling the Strike.

THOUGH there is much conjecture as to the basis upon which efforts have been made with much promise of success to adjust the big steel strike, nothing is known authoritatively. The guess which appears to have the most substantial backing affirms that the following five propositions are acceptable to the company:

- First-The mills recognized as non-union on July 1 will be continued as such, save, possibly, where the Amalgamated association has effected a strong organization.
Second-The Amalgamated association will receive from its demand that the steel company sign the scale for all mills.
Third-The steel company will pay the scale in all mills, union or non-union.
Fourth-All mills shall be open to all men work or without union cards. The association shall not attempt to force men into the union or to oblige the steel company to employ only union men.
Fifth-The steel company will permit the organization of men when they manifest a desire to join the Amalgamated association.

This presents a fair basis of settlement and one that should be durable. It recognizes the right of employees to organize when they desire and puts in writing what has already become the practice of the Steel trust, namely, payment of the same wages alike to union and non-union employees. But it does not transfer control of the mills from the hands of the owners to the hands of President Shaffer and the executive board of the Amalgamated association and it does not debar the workman who does not choose to belong to a labor union from his constitutional right to seek work where and when he will, in freedom from molestation by that union.

These terms are substantially the terms agreed to by the employers during the conference which preceded the strike. Had they been accepted then, the members of the Amalgamated association would have been \$900,000 better off in wages lost by the strike, and the business interests of the country would have been several million dollars better off. It seems to us that if it is a vicious condition of affairs that puts it in the power of a few capitalists to corner the production and sale of an article of general use it is an equally vicious condition that enables men like President Shaffer, by nod of their heads, to bring about such

disastrous losses for flimsy and unsubstantial reasons.

The time is coming, in our judgment, when civilized society will lose the patience with it now charges these frequent interruptions of peaceful industry to inevitable vicissitudes, while calmly pocketing its losses, and will insist that they be referred to courts of arbitration. Individuals who fall out are not permitted to batter each other to pieces in the endeavor to adjust their differences, much less inflict damage upon third persons. Why should groups of individuals organized as corporations or labor unions have unrestricted privilege to injure each other and the public as well?

No one can fairly complain of the personnel of the Schley court of inquiry nor of the scope of its intended investigation. The findings of such a tribunal must command world-wide respect. Partisans may not cease from clamoring, but history will approve.

Lynchings and Panics.

THAT resort to mob law irritates instead of tranquilizes society is well established and conspicuous proof of the fact is supplied in New Orleans correspondence of the New York Sun. Recently in northern Louisiana John Gray Foster, a prominent white citizen, was murdered by a negro, known as "Prince" Edwards. Inquiry developed that Edwards belonged to a fanatical sect of negroes who made a practice of praying for the death of their enemies, although with the exception of Edwards' act no violence had been traced to any of its members. Thereupon, Prophet Smith, the leader of this sect, together with its treasurer, were lynched by white citizens who felt the need of stern measures applied promptly. Edwards escaped.

These things happened near Shreveport. Shortly afterward a negro was lynched at Girard and when later a negro preacher appeared on the scene the whites suspected he was organizing a grand conspiracy of blacks for the purpose of attacking the whites and there was another lynching. The consequence was that such negroes as could get away moved away, there was a scarcity of manual labor on the plantations and thousands of dollars of loss have been sustained, affecting two large parishes, or counties, to use the northern word.

This race panic, though limited in area, is described as intense and cooler headed citizens have all they can do to keep it within bounds. If instead of resorting to mob law courts were respected and sustained such panics would be rare if not unknown. The sowing of violence means inevitably a crop in kind. Before the South can fulfill its obvious high destiny it must stamp out this disorderly spirit.

Porto Rico's prosperity is demonstrated by the large cargoes of cigars sent to the New York market. Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire.

China and Reform.

ONE WOULD like to believe that the Chinese government, in naming Prince Ching, Li Hung Chang and Kung Kang a board of reform to select new measures and ideas for the betterment of their unhappy country, is sincere. To a degree it may be. At all events, the reform board has received orders that, if faithfully executed, will keep it busy. It is to select subordinates for their "ability, integrity and moral qualities without regard to rank or precedent"; "rectify abuses with firmness and moderation"; "examine carefully all suggestions and memorials for reform"; "follow the good things of the old country and adopt the good of other countries"; "remove useless expenditures"; "begin promptly the reform of abuses"; and, finally, as the culminating injunction, "forget self for the public." The board is at least nominally entrusted with plenary power, the emperor pledging that whatever it shall approve the throne "will command as a code of laws."

As with many persons supposed to be far higher in the scale, the precepts of the Chinese have always been better than their practice. Doubtless history will repeat in this instance. Yet the fact that eminent Chinese like Minister Wu have lately formulated and forwarded to their home government suggestions and plans for putting Chinese administrative affairs upon an improved basis serves to indicate that the leaven of progress is at work. May it work rapidly and to good purpose.

Whenever the foreign representatives appoint a new date for leaving Peking, the average yellow native may be excused for indulging in an equine smile.

The Servant Girl Problem.

NOW THAT the servant girls of Chicago have adopted union rules, demanding \$20 to \$28 a month for work ending with dishwashing after supper, two whole evenings a week, privileges of club life, entertainment of guests and attendance at Monday bargain sales, with all complaints to be directed to the business agents of the union and not mentioned in the presence of the girls themselves, it is to be hoped that the home managers of Chicago will not have to repeat the experience narrated by a Connecticut woman in a recent issue of the Sun: "I needed a cook at our home in the country 'long ago," she said, "and thinking I might do better in New York than in my own neighborhood, I sent to visit the intelligence office. Selecting one applicant who seemed to be rather more intelligent than her companions I took her to one side to talk with her. 'What wages do you expect,' I said, 'to go into the country?' 'I couldn't go for less than \$3 a month, ma'am,' she replied, with an air of one who was putting services down to the lowest point of value. 'It was considerably more than I had expected to pay, but I was willing to give that much if I could get what I wanted. 'You can do all kinds of cooking,' I said, with some doubt in my mind as to my rights to ask her. 'Oh yes, ma'am.'

"Do you know how to make good soup?" "Oh, no, ma'am," she answered promptly. 'New York ladies always buy their soup in cans at the stores.' 'But I don't like canned soup,' I protested. 'I want them made at home.' 'Well, ma'am, I'm sorry, but the New York ladies buy theirs, and I have had no cause to make them, except to make a few.' 'That was disappointing number two, but knowing that I was not all there was to be asked, I thought I might pass the soup to make them do other cooking, so I went to the next question. 'Can you make bread?' I inquired. 'Indeed, no, ma'am,' she replied, almost shocked, I thought. 'New York ladies always buy their bread. The baker comes with it every morning.' 'But I prefer home-made bread,' I protested again. 'Yes, ma'am,' she admitted; 'but New York ladies buy theirs, and I have learned to cook in New York, so I can't do it.' 'You can make pastry and cake?' I inquired helplessly. 'No, ma'am,' she said, not at all abashed. 'New York ladies buy the pies and cakes. You see, ma'am, they can get from the bakeries just what they want and when they want it, and they don't need me to make them.' 'The matter was becoming desperate, and I thought I would try something that I did not think New York ladies would do. 'It isn't my place, ma'am,' said the lady. 'The dining room girl always does the salads.' 'By this time I was thoroughly provoked, and thinking of the \$21 I was expected to pay every month for services rendered I came very near losing my temper. 'Well,' I said, 'if suppose you could boil water, water, if somebody gave the fire and put the kettle on.' 'Then her face flushed, and she told me she hadn't come to be insulted.' 'We doubt that there are any servants like this in Scranton; in fact, we are certain there are none.

Big Growth of Our Trade with Japan

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, July 28.

THE REMARKABLE growth in the exports of the United States to Japan and the rank which she now holds as a trading partner, are parts of that prosperous and rapidly developing country are shown by some figures just compiled by the treasury bureau of statistics. The figures show that in 1900 the value of the exports of the United States to Japan was \$1,000,000. In 1901 it was \$2,000,000. In 1902 it was \$3,000,000. In 1903 it was \$4,000,000. In 1904 it was \$5,000,000. In 1905 it was \$6,000,000. In 1906 it was \$7,000,000. In 1907 it was \$8,000,000. In 1908 it was \$9,000,000. In 1909 it was \$10,000,000. In 1910 it was \$11,000,000. In 1911 it was \$12,000,000. In 1912 it was \$13,000,000. In 1913 it was \$14,000,000. In 1914 it was \$15,000,000. In 1915 it was \$16,000,000. In 1916 it was \$17,000,000. In 1917 it was \$18,000,000. In 1918 it was \$19,000,000. In 1919 it was \$20,000,000. In 1920 it was \$21,000,000. In 1921 it was \$22,000,000. In 1922 it was \$23,000,000. 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