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, AUGUST 17, 1901.

The invitation which Scranton has given to the Pennsylvania League of Republican clubs to hold its convention here one month hence, an invitation cheerfully accepted by the league, which has not forgotten the cordiality of its welcome in 1891, just ten years ago, means that this city will soon be called upon to entertain from 1,000 to 1,500 visitors. This is not a difficult thing for Scranton to do if the proper effort is made; and it remains now to make that effort.

Doing Its Best.

THOSE WHO are not satisfied with the date fixed for opening the coming school year should bear in mind that the board of control, under the rule requiring a ten months' session of the schools, has either to begin early or close late. Sessions late in June are as objectionable to most parents as are sessions early in September; perhaps more so.

The board in this matter is doing the best it can under the circumstances. What a good many people think it might do, to the advantage of the school children and with benefit to the health if not to the pocketbook of the teachers, is to rescind the ten months rule and substitute a nine months year, with provision for vacation schools and play grounds during the heated term.

Statistics admonish us that the high pressure of modern educational processes, worked with lightning speed to accomplish the cramming nowadays in vogue, is rapidly telling upon the nerves and frames of our little ones. Better a little less head-filling and a little more health.

This week's state convention at Harrisburg was only the side show. The big attraction of the political season is billed for next Wednesday, when the Republican stalwarts will convene, not to call names, but to give an account of well-conducted stewardships.

Old Fashioned Politics.

THE AUTHOR of the Democratic state platform evidently has not read of the fate of the ass that tried to bray like the lion so as to scare all the other beasts of the field; but being unequal to the job, simply drew upon himself derision and laughter.

Let us listen to some of his outbursts. "Every department of our state government is honeycombed with prodigacy, dishonesty and a reckless disregard of constitutional or moral obligations." One of the departments of the state government is the department of public instruction, presided over by Dr. Schaeffer, a Democrat, though indorsed by men of all parties and known internationally for his services in behalf of education. It comes with poor grace from Governor Pattison and the Democratic party to help to throw this gratuitous reproach upon Dr. Schaeffer. Then there is the state library, presided over by Rev. Dr. Reed. Those delegates to the recent Democratic convention who have any knowledge of libraries and librarians must know that prodigacy, dishonesty and indifference to solemn obligations have no countenance from the president of Dickinson college. But this accusation goes further. It not only includes the governor, the lieutenant governor, the secretary of the commonwealth, the attorney general, the state treasurer, the auditor general, the secretary of internal affairs, insurance commissioner, banking commissioner, secretary of agriculture, factory inspector, chief mine inspector, public printer and superintendent of public buildings and grounds, but it also throws a sweeping blanket of aspersion upon the board of agriculture, the soldiers' orphans' school commission, the board of public charities, the various health and professional boards of examiners and hosts of minor state officials. Not "some of the departments" but "every department" is asserted to be loathsome. Language could not be more unqualified or emphatic. It calls for proof but no proof is forthcoming.

Again: "The powers of government are prostituted to the purpose of public thieves. Constitutional restraints and commands, the sanctity of law, the obligation of official oaths and the demands of common honesty are thrust aside by the substitution of a higher law—the demands of an insatiate greed of public plunderers for money, money, more money. Shamelessly and openly the votes of legislators are bought, and so persistently and constantly that market values for legislators have been established by custom." Thieves, boodlers, plunderers, traitors; every opponent vicious; nobody on the other side honest or conscientious—the state in dire peril; "turn the rascals out." In other words, the old, old story, but not likely to fool anybody this trip and laughed at secretly by those who yell it most furiously in public.

Such is one form of politics.

The inventor of the Gatling rapid-fire gun recently set out to do for farming what he had already done for fighting and it is announced that he has since devised a motor plow which, under the guidance of one man, will in a single day break the surface of a 30-acre field. Let us hope he will not stop here. Mankind is clamoring for improved agricultural machinery; especially for a workless scheme of keeping weeds out of the gardne.

Our County Schools.

WHILE the problems in education that press for solution in the cities are many and perplexing, it should not be forgotten that the cities have usually the money to solve them. Not always is this the case in the country districts, yet the development of our rural schools is progressing steadily and in them is being given some of the best and most practical instruction to be found anywhere.

Very encouraging in this connection are some of the facts set forth in the annual report of County Superintendent Taylor, published on another page. Notable among these is the statement that since 1893 the percentage of teachers holding higher grade certificates has risen from 25 to nearly 72 of the whole number; a token of both professional ambition and enterprise on the part of the teachers and skilful and encouraging superintendence.

There is force, too, in Superintendent Taylor's argument for compulsory attendance, with pay, of school directors at the meetings of the county directors' association. If teachers are required to attend institutes, certainly it is just as logical and should be quite as valuable to require those who elect and direct the teachers to come together from time to time for mutual enlightenment. In fact, both teachers and directors ought to hold joint as well as separate meetings, not for criticism and complaint so much as in order that the one class may better understand the needs and circumstances of the other and both combine in a wholesome community of interest.

Cheering progress is shown toward developing in the rural schools a higher range of studies approximating those in the city high schools. This is a work of great usefulness to ambitious pupils so located as to be out of reach of the better educational facilities of the cities, and it furnishes a stimulus felt all along the line. But most cheering of all is the evidence shown that the teachers of Lackawanna county are rising steadily in scholarship and proficiency. That means much for the future and it is a gain upon which they and their superintendent are equally to be congratulated.

Professor Ludwig Marienburger is the most recent scientist to see the end of the world, and he is unable to fix the date.

A Significant Warning.

LIEUT. GEN. MILES has issued a general order which should have good results in the higher standards of the army. In this order he gives a word picture of what a soldier should be in his relation to the army, to himself—and to the nation. Patriotism, self-reliance, self-respect and a cultivation of resourcefulness are among the personal characteristics recommended, while always the professional instinct is emphasized.

The general comments on certain reports which have indicated unsoldierly qualities in some of the troops, and significantly states that uncouthness of appearance and laxity of manners are not conducive to the making of a true soldier and are subversive of discipline. He also says:

"Commanding officers are strictly accountable for the general appearance of their troops under all circumstances, whether they be in garrison, in camp, on the march, off duty, or on brief furloughs."

Such orders as these are apparently needed in the regular army as well as at West Point, else General Miles would not have made it a point to announce them at this time. There is some reason to believe that the recent disciplinary course taken with regard to the United States Military academy was more imperatively necessary than was realized by the country at large. Boys who are bullies and brutes in college are not likely to develop remarkably refined qualities in active service. The strict discipline which now seems to have taken the place of hazing and lawlessness will have its effect on the future of the army, and it is hoped will render it unnecessary for many reiterations of such orders as General Miles has found it impossible to avoid.

The Oklahoma land lottery can scarcely be considered a success as a lottery until the players who did not win prizes appear with a demand for assistance and sympathy.

The Strength of Tammany.

NO DOUBT the entire country wishes the friends of decent government for Greater New York success in their present crusade against Tammany. It is probable that they will aggressively follow the lead which they have struck and keep the tiger upon the run for a season. But whether they will be able to break the hold of the giant organization upon the city remains to be seen.

As the Washington Star remarks: "Tammany's ups and downs afford an interesting study. The tiger is a gambler, and therefore meets fortune in all moods with the gambler's spirit. If fortune smiles, Tammany makes hay while the warmth continues. Its stocks were never higher than now. If fortune frowns, Tammany shrugs its shoulders, but is patient. It never despairs. It never relaxes its vigilance. It bides its time. It acts upon the theory—well established in its history—that the public's condemnation will pass, and that the enemies of today may be the allies of tomorrow. So that if Tammany, for its latest offenses, should be scourged at the polls this fall, we shall witness Tammany taking the lash philosophically, and keeping up heart for next year and 1902. It will reason, with good authority, that, as the backbone of the New York Democracy, without whose assistance Democratic success in state and national races is impossible, it will fare differently then. The scourged of this day will be the coddled of that day, and when the coddling begins, Tammany will decide just how far it is to be carried.

"This explains Tammany's hold upon affairs at home. It is in politics for revenue only; and if denied revenue at one time it is reasonably sure of it at another. There are many men in Greater New York who will assist in the effort to drive Tammany out of power this year who will then turn around if they succeed and trade with Tammany for state advantages next year and national advantages in 1904. And if Tammany demands control of the town again as the price of its activity its terms will be granted."

The coincidence man has appeared in connection with the most recent Bonaparte agitation. The renewed efforts of the Bonapartists in France to focus the attention of the country on Prince Victor, the pretender, has brought out from some searcher of records a curious coincidence in the lives of the first and third Napoleons. Napoleon I was born on Aug. 15, 1769, and on March 30, 1814, the last day of the Empire (since the provisionary government was instituted the next day), his age was forty-four years and 227 days. Napoleon III was exactly that age to a day when he was proclaimed emperor on Dec. 2, 1852. If this age means something in the lives of the Bonapartes, Prince Victor will either be made emperor of the French in March, 1907, or will lose the throne. The Bonapartists—those more fantastically minded—think the former may be the case, for they point out that that time will fall just ten months after the end of the parliament to be elected next spring, quite a proper time for the induction of a new emperor as it would probably take about ten months after the end of parliament to complete all arrangements. Speculation like this does no harm, and sometimes serves to keep idle people out of mischief.

And now the announcement is made that New York is not wasting much anxiety over the great strike. Of course not. Whether in seasons of prosperity or adversity, the people who visit New York as a rule have pockets full of money, which they invest in merchandise or "blow," in search of pleasure, and New York always gets the cash. From the merchant prince down to the hotel bootblack, the residents of Manhattan thrive upon the inland visitors. Industries may come and industries may go elsewhere, but New York's "graft" upon the nation will be perpetual while the world stands.

Reports from the colleges indicate a notable increase in registration. This fall's crop of freshmen bids fair to break all records, and it is well. College education of the right kind will hurt no healthy young man who does not take too much of it at a time.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe case: 1.08 a. m., for Saturday, August 17.

A child born on this day will notice that there is still some comfort left for the man who loves about the hot spell.

The Lackawanna delegation at Harrisburg this week seems to have occupied the bench reserved for the "and others."

It must be admitted that the laugh is on the people who criticised the new sprinkling apparatus on court house square.

Some people never make mistakes. It takes all their time to criticise the shortcomings of others.

There is nothing particularly dangerous about an injury that fails to excite sympathy.

Pennsylvania at the Pan-American

There are Pennsylvanians who go to the Pan-American and kick violently because, according to their point of view the Pennsylvania building is a gigantic piece of jobbery, whose consummation has enriched the pockets of somebody at Harrisburg. For the benefit of these kickers (I don't like the word, but it seems to fit the occasion) it may be well to enlighten the public regarding this matter, as considerable misunderstanding seems to exist.

It will be remembered that the legislature appropriated $35,000 for the erection of a building to represent the state of Pennsylvania at the exposition. Many people who visit the grounds and see the building set up a howl of derision at the intimation that $35,000 was expended on the structure. Now, right here, let me confide to you that it wasn't. Only about half of it went into that building. Just think of it. Isn't that awful? The other half? Oh, no, there isn't any one of the commissioners who is floating around in a steam yacht bought with that money. You see, it's this way. The grounds had to have considerable money spent on grading and beautifying. The site is one of the finest in the entire exposition, and when the commission selected it every member was distinctly pleased. Later when the building was to be begun, they found that some restaurant keeper had jumped their claim, so to speak, and the exposition management offered another site as a way out of the dilemma. The location was so remote, however, that they refused it and decided to fight the restaurant man's right to the ground. They won the battle, but in the meantime, while they were thus engaged, the enemy sowed tares, or, in other words, the Maccabees put up a pleasant little hive on one side of the plot. As a consequence the Pennsylvania building was curtailed as to its verandas about five feet, and has a sort of annex a very ornate building labelled "Maccabees," whatever they may be. They seem to be very charming people, who hum pleasantly on their porches, as some members of the order, both masculine and feminine, are always there.

As to the furniture of the Pennsylvania building, it is of a very plain order; prairie grass matting, porch chairs, rockers and otherwise no frills, no luxury. But it is, without exception, the most home-like and comfortable spot on the entire grounds.

The other state buildings seem to have been constructed mainly as a show-room for certain furniture firms. The marble palace of New York state is too good to use. There are no check-rooms, no lounging places. Rich and magnificent furniture in green oak and tapestry cause visitors to break the commandment against covetousness at every glance. Lovely statuary without, photogravures of celebrated works of art within, add to the general luxurious effect. But it is not a headquarters for people up and down the state. They peer in cautiously and with awe-some admiration, and then trot off contentedly to the Pennsylvania building to lie cheerfully and say they are Keystoners in order to get their impedimenta checked for nothing, as the check-room is solely for visitors from this state. It is one of the few places where checking of parcels is free. The Press building is another spot if you belong to a newspaper, which blessed is he who "belongs to" at the Pan-American.

But those expenses. How I do wander. Well, the furniture didn't cost so much, but the expenses of running the place are heavy. The electric light bill is heavy, and there are four salaried officials who are kept busy during the day. The chief in charge is Mr. George Griffith, of West Chester. There is a secretary, a janitor and a maid, a refined quadroon woman, who makes it very comfortable for lady visitors and ministers to their wants with a pleasant graciousness.

Indeed, plain and unostentatious as is the Pennsylvania building at the Pan-American, it is far more comfortable and home-like to the guests from our state than was the elegantly fitted up mansion at the World's Fair, where the woman wearied to the point of exhaustion dared not even lounge back on one of the sumptuous colonial couches in the drawing-rooms lest the fine lady in charge fix her with a glittering eye, and ruthlessly chase her off. The Pennsylvania building is about the only place on the grounds where a tired woman can lie down and rest for a few minutes, unless she care to be picked up by the auto ambulance and carried to the hospital down near the West Amherst gate. There is a private room for women in our building, furnished in rattan, and there is always one tired representative on the lounge.

So our $35,000 is going for comfort and conveniences and not for show; so please don't let us hear any more lamentation about the cheap structure, and the wonder as to where the money went; but let us thank the commission, of which Mr. James S. McAnulty is a member, and our own Larry Eyre, superintendent of buildings and grounds at Harrisburg, whose ideas have been carried out to a great extent in the planning of the most popular state building at the exposition.

—H. C. P.

Getting Ready for G.A.R. Encampment

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Cleveland, Aug. 16.

THE LIST of places at which the Grand Army and other organizations which will be in Cleveland at the time of the Grand Army encampment will make national and department headquarters, shows the following assignments up to the present time:

Hollenden Hotel: National headquarters of the Grand Army, Women's Relief corps, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of Veterans and National Association of Union ex-Prisoners of War, Department of Missouri of the Grand Army, Department of New Jersey, Department of Minnesota and Minnesota Women's Relief corps and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Indiana, Department of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Women's Relief corps, Department of the Potomac, Colorado Women's Relief corps, Department of Nebraska and Nebraska Women's Relief corps and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois and Illinois Women's Relief corps and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Massachusetts Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Ohio Women's Relief corps, Department of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Women's Relief corps, Department of New York.

American House: Department of Kansas and Kansas Women's Relief corps.

Colonial Hotel: Department of Massachusetts and Massachusetts Women's Relief corps, Department of Iowa, Department of Colorado and Wyoming, Department of Texas.

Forest City House: Departments of Ohio, California, West Virginia, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire and South Dakota.

Weddell House: Departments of Michigan and Connecticut.

The Lenox: Department of Rhode Island.

Lincoln Hotel: Departments of Florida and Georgia.

A call has been issued for a reunion of the Twelfth Ohio Volunteer infantry for Sept. 12, in N. A. S. E. hall, No. 100 Superior street, in connection with the encampment. It is expected that the attendance of members of the regiment from distant states will be large. The call includes this sentence: "This, without doubt, will be the last time so large a number can be gathered on an occasion of this kind."

Handsome invitations are out for a reception to be given from 8 to 10 o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 11, in Parlor C of the Colonial hotel by the Women's Relief corps of Massachusetts in honor of the Grand Army.

THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

From the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

The annual convention of the volunteer firemen, which is being held this week at Uniontown, temporarily brings into public view a body of men who receive little, if anything, where they deserve much, and yet who ungrudgingly do their duty as efficiently as though they were well compensated.

There are many boroughs and small towns unable to maintain a paid fire department, and such communities would often be at the mercy of the flames were it not for the young men who are willing and ready at any time to sacrifice ease in order to save life and property from destruction by fire. At any hour of the night they are liable to be roused from slumber by an alarm and called out, regardless of weather conditions, to contend with the devouring element. To the credit of these volunteers be it said that they have always been faithful to duty, and to them many communities are indebted for escape from disastrous fires.

It would be wrong to say that the work of these men is not appreciated, for it is; but often there is a lack of the public sympathy and consideration due them, and occasionally there is petty fault-finding which has a discouraging effect. The townsmen of these volunteer firemen should see to it that, in addition to private and official encouragement, they have the proper apparatus, necessary conveniences and such aid as physical comfort requires when performing the duties for which they receive no financial compensation.

The annual convention of the volunteer firemen is one of the bright spots in their life, for there old friendships are renewed, new ones made, experiences compared and plans formulated.

CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION.

From the Wilkes-Barre Leader.

In 1897 M. J. Kelly, Democrat, was elected treasurer of Lackawanna county, but his Republican opponent, W. S. Lanstaff, instituted a contest. Kelly finished his term six months ago, and this week he was declared to have been elected and the contest proceedings were dropped. The costs, which it is estimated will aggregate $150,000, are saddled upon the county, so that the good people of Lackawanna are paying pretty dearly for the information that a county official whom they elected was really elected. But there may be a heap of satisfaction in knowing it.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SCRANTON BOARD OF CONTROL.

The following is published by request:

Gentlemen of the Board of Control.

Esteemed Sirs: I notice that you have fixed upon the third of September for opening the public schools. As a parent sending children to these schools, I wish to enter an earnest protest against so early a date. The first half, at least, of September is usually to be ranked with July and August for heated days, and sitting in school rooms filled with children must be most uncomfortable and calculated to send the little ones upon their long winter's educational journey physically debilitated and with a cordial dislike for school. I deem it a grave mistake to submit your precious charges to any such risk; nay, practical certainty of physical impairment and resulting disqualification for mental effort.

Another, but less important effect of this ruling, is to drive many families into the city at a time of the year when they would be benefitted and pleased to remain at their country homes.

It seems to me that you would please the people of your city and protect the health and aid in the mental development of the children in your charge by fixing upon a date not earlier than Sept. 15. Most people would prefer Oct. 1 and I believe it would be to the advantage of the children to fix it near the later date.

I have talked with many parents, and all oppose the early opening. Some say they will not send their children until after September.

Much more could be said upon this subject, but I do not wish to weary you.

Respectfully yours,
Horatio N. Patrick.

Scranton, Aug. 16.

AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

From the Montrose Democrat.

The Scranton Tribune prints an article on "the passing of the county fair," and alleges that people are losing interest in them because they present "the same old thing every year." The Tribune may be right as to some fairs, but its editor ought to come up and attend the Susquehanna county fairs, which were never more popular, more successful, in their history. And they don't have the same old thing each year, but, rather have new and bright attractions, and are up to date in all respects. Come up and see, Mr. Tribune.

A POINTER FOR THE FUTURE.

From the Wilkes-Barre News.

A famous election contest case in Lackawanna has just ended, and the cost to the county will be over $100,000. It would be money saved if both of the contestants were given the office and two salaries paid.

PERMITTED TO SPEAK.

"Mabel," he said, with an apparent effort as he gazed down into her dreamy eyes, "you've always been a sister to me, haven't you?"

The long-expected moment had at last arrived and she gazed coyly at the floor.

"I've tried to, George," she whispered.

"And if I should say something to you that should only be said by persons who are intimately acquainted, and who thoroughly understand each other, you would not take offense?"

She thought it rather queer that he should view a simple proposal in this light, but she trembilingly assured him that she would not.

"Then, Mabel," he continued, lowering his voice to a quiver, "I apologize for my boldness in saying it, but while I leaned over to turn the page of your music I busted off two of my suspender buttons. Will you sew them on?"

And trembling inwardly, but regaining her outward composure with an effort, the brave girl went into the other room and brought forth the necessary implements. Indianapolis Sun.

"Always Busy."

2 Always Busy Events

First—Our Fall styles of Celebrated Korrect Shoes at $4.00. They are displayed in our men's window. They are for the smart dresser who wants to be just a little ahead of the other fellow.

Second—The placing on sale of every man's Russet Shoe in our store, low and high cut, $3 and $4 grades. They are displayed in our men's window. You can get a pair of them; perhaps the best shoe you ever wore, for $2.

Lewis & Reilly,
Wholesale and Retail.
114-116 Wyoming Ave

THIRD NATIONAL BANK
OF SCRANTON.
Capital $200,000. Surplus $525,000

United States Depositary.

Special attention given to BUSINESS, PERSONAL and SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, whether large or small.

Open Saturday evenings from 8 to 9 o'clock.

WM. CONNELL, President.
HENRY BELIN, JR., Vice Pres.
WM. H. PECK, Cashier.

Allis-Chalmers Co

Successors to Machine Business of Dickson Manufacturing Co., Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Stationary Engines, Boilers, Mining Machinery, Pumps.

A Second-Class City with a First-Class Stock of

Cut Glass, Sterling Silverware Clocks, Etc.

Suitable for Wedding Gifts.

Mercereau & Connell,
132 Wyoming Avenue.

Meldrum, Scott & Co.

WE HAVE JUST OPENED AN ELEGANT NEW LINE OF

Black Mercerized Skirts

Which are marked at quick-selling prices. For Mid-Summer or Early Fall Wear."

See This Line

From $1 up to $4.50

We guarantee them to be at least Twenty-five Per Cent. Lower than regular prices.

126 Wyoming Ave

Refrigerators,
Oil Stoves,
Screen Doors,
Gas Stoves,
Window Screens,
Hammocks.

Gunster & Forsyth,
325-327 Penn Avenue.

We Have Made the Rounds and Will

Shake Hands and Say Good-bye

To all our Light-weight Shoes---our Oxfords, in fact our late and DESIRABLE SHOES, as well as with odd styles and sizes. We have bade them all good-bye and are going to sell them. We must have room for our Winter Stock which is now on the way. Some of the prices are much less than cost.

Bring Just $2.00

(No more) or else you will have to bring some of it back with you. Two dollars will buy any $3.50 or $4.00 Shoe or Oxford in the store (except the Crosset or Dorcas Shoes) on Friday and Saturday. Reductions in other departments are too numerous to mention. Come in and see.

Sale Begins Today---Friday.

SEE OUR WINDOWS.

LEWIS, RUDDY, DAVIES & MURPHY

330 Lackawanna Avenue.