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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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 8, 1901.

There is certainly an element of the dramatic in the turn of affairs which apparently gives Controller Jones a plurality of 9 votes. Coming as the unexpected, it is doubly gratifying to know that this splendid official, clean-cut Republican and admirable gentleman may have three years more to serve. The gallant fight he made under adverse circumstances would render his victory notable even though its margin should be the closest on local record.

How Long?

ONE OF THE most effective arguments brought by labor leaders against trusts is that they are liable to enforce their supremacy by tyrannical methods, such, for example, as crushing out small competitors or demanding of transportation companies preferential rates by means of secret rebates. It has also been claimed that trusts restrict the liberty of the retail dealer by making war upon him if he dares to handle goods not bearing the trust label.

Is there not danger of labor unions using and justifying, when used by themselves, the weapons which, when used by others, they have bitterly condemned? To make our meaning clear, let us cite an instance.

In a certain city not a thousand miles from Scranton, two merchants leased store rooms in a newly constructed building well situated for their purpose. They did not learn, until after they had signed leases and spent much money in fitting up their stores, that the owner of the building had had trouble with the labor unions. The first knowledge they had of the matter was through notice from a labor union that they had been boycotted for moving into a non-union building.

Their trade is mainly with working people. They have always been on friendly terms with the labor unions. Many a time, during strikes, they have extended liberal credit to strikers, some times at a considerable loss. This apparently counted for nothing in the present case. The boycott was decided upon in star chamber fashion and clapped on before its victims had had any opportunity of defense. It was an illustration of tyranny as bold and unadorned as was ever credited against the most domineering trust, and we are sorry to say that it is not an exceptional case.

How long will American manhood stand for such practices?

For once Lackawanna county can sympathize with Tammany.

Li Hung Chang.

LI HUNG CHANG was a typical Asiatic. Few careers have been more instructive to the student of Oriental politics than that of the statesman, soldier and courtier who has passed away amid the wreck and partial ruin of the kingdom whose destiny he has during the past fifty years so largely influenced in its relation with the western world. Li Hung Chang was as enigmatical to Occidental conceptions as the philosophic ideals of his countrymen are esoteric to our perceptions. He knew vastly more about us than we knew about him or the motives which directed his actions, and he was as conscious of our ignorance as we were unconscious of the ulterior aim of his policy and tortuous diplomacy. He could not control the trend of events from the west as it surged on with a tidal impact on the shores of the Middle Kingdom, but he did what it was possible for him to do to hold back the inundation by concessions and placations where the mere denial of European or American demands would have proved fruitless or worse. He was a great statesman in the sense in which he and his more conservative countrymen understood statesmanship, but his life and works were as alien to our notions of political progress and expediency as Oriental obscurantism and reaction could be.

A great deal of ingenuity has been expended in reconciling Li's position with a desire to open up China to western civilization. There is little room to doubt that he fully understood if he did not appreciate the value and underlying principles of modern thought and progress. He was intimately associated with the representatives of European governments and our own for half a century. He had traveled around the world, professedly not as a tourist or diplomatic agent, but as a student whose mind was open to the impressions and influences of the west; who was prepared to improve the opportunities which the cessation of hostilities between his country and Japan brought about, to begin a new era in the history of his country. He even went so far as to profess sympathy with such a design. It is exceedingly unlikely, however, that he ever sympathized with a prospective revolution so tremendous in its potentiality, while it is certain that he did all he could after his return from Russia to frustrate it. In this course he was possibly abetted if not urged on by Russia, which saw as Li himself discerned that the regeneration of China lay in two directions, as far as it was possible to regenerate it within a historical period—the predominance of Russia in the commercial expansion of the celestial empire and its integrity; or the predominance of the other European countries and the United States with their nominal spheres of influence but with China's actual political disintegration.

Li Hung Chang had no scruples. His patriotism was such as it is impossible for us to supply with motives much less seriously to attempt to analyze. Such as it was its psychological basis was identical with that of the innumerable hordes of literati that somehow hold together the imperial unity of a heterogeneous and unwieldy empire neither more enlightened nor more unselfish.

Li Hung Chang used his immense and autocratic power with all the ruthless savagery of the Tartar barbarian. He knew no mercy and practiced none. He was as indifferent to human life and suffering as Kughis Khan, where his means subserved the cause which he had in hand. He had something of the constructive genius of true statesmanship, but his opportunities to exercise it were circumscribed by the peculiarities of a court which no sooner elevated him to the pinnacle of power than it degraded him next day, until the advent of another crisis made his cruelty, craft, and experience indispensable.

It would be unfair to judge Li by modern or western standards. Human nature moves slowly and more slowly in China than elsewhere. As a Chinaman Li Hung Chang was not in advance of his age. But he seems to have kept step with it.

Mr. Croker's reception of the news is worthy of consideration by the Pennsylvania Fusionists. He frankly admits that Tammany's defeat was due to a lack of votes.

Why Not?

AMONG the many messages of congratulation received by Mayor-elect Low was one from Secretary of War Root expressing his satisfaction at the victory gained for the principle of independent municipal politics. "I confidently believe," he added, "that you will give the city an administration which will make its people unwilling ever again to sacrifice the interests of good home government for the pretended benefit of a national party organization."

It is singular that one usually so clear-headed as Elihu Root should indulge in day dreams on this subject. The endeavor to separate municipal from state and national politics, to make fish of one and flesh of the other, has been tried for a great many years in a great many places, under all kinds of promises of success, and it has invariably failed. By this we mean that there has not been power enough among its supporters to keep municipal politics and other politics apart. Mr. Low's administration will doubtless begin as a non-partisan experiment, but inevitably it will take on a partisan character, not perhaps from intention, but in obedience to human nature.

Men who do things have to be partisans; have to be for or against each other, which is the basis of partisanship. And so long as party organizations are maintained in state and national affairs, those interested in them will use them in municipal affairs in preference to going to the trouble and expense of keeping up separate political establishments. It is undoubtedly true that in city affairs party lines are not as stiff as in federal affairs. But generally speaking, the party alignments correspond, and we can see no reason why a party fit to administer the government of a state or a nation should not be equally competent to administer the government of a city.

It is for the sultan to decide whether the seizure of Mitylene was an act of war or an original feature of the collection agency idea.

The trouble with Dr. Swallow appears to have been his failure to make the "retrograde" movement at the proper time.

Lackawanna county seems to be about the only locality left for Mr. Bryan to congratulate.

Arguments in the Schley case show that the counsel have not changed their minds.

It is better to suffer defeat in an "off" than an "on" year.

THE YOUNG MAN'S ERA.

From the New York Sun.

The triumph of William Travers Jerome on Tuesday after an electioneering canvass of a forceful originality so remarkable that it attracted to him the attention of the whole Union, makes this young man a foremost political figure, nationally. If he keeps his head, if his victory does not cause it to swell, if self-consciousness does not replace the spontaneousness which was so great a charm in his late canvass, he is likely to have a very important political future.

Justice Jerome's election to be district attorney was due to the Republicans of New York. Their loyalty to the Fusion ticket, on which he ran, gave him at least three-fourths of the votes he received; yet he is a Democrat and a Democrat at a time when that party is so sorely in need of a popular figure who is representative of living ideas and not merely a mouldy past. We call him a young man, though he is forty-two years of age and is only one year younger than President Roosevelt.

Great political possibilities, therefore, may be in store for Justice Jerome, but because of the sudden prominence he has reached the test he will now have to endure will be all the severer. Has he solidity of abilities and of character which will bear the strain that will thus be put on him? Is he only a flash-light or will steady illumination come from him? Is he competent to fill a larger part than in a local political drama?

The test will be applied to him sharply in the office of district attorney of the county of New York. There he must exhibit abilities of a very different order from those which captivated the public, both political friends and political enemies, in the late canvass; and the test will be both his moral and his intellectual strength. If he stands it, if the stuff that goes to the making of a man of real importance is in him, if calm contemplation of himself does not distract his attention from the necessity of justifying in deed the present popular estimate of him formed from his talk, William Travers Jerome, of New York, may become a figure of large proportions in the calculations of politicians before his term of office is over. But that will not happen unless, disdaining all efforts to pose as such a character, he earns a title to continued prominence by winning it by reason of his conspicuous desert.

Something About Mayor-elect Low

MORE THAN ten years ago, in a gathering of prominent educators in the city of Washington, when the question of a national university was under discussion, a western man said: "If Columbia university ever awakens to its true position and power, and the city of New York has its civic pride in that institution stirred to consequentiate and practical appreciation, there will be no need of planning for a national university; it will be Columbia." But to lift Columbia college to the plane of a true university, to quicken and enlarge its life, to make that life at all equal to its possibilities, to send the college well along this career of great usefulness and renown, this were a task calling for the exercise of the very highest administrative qualities. Approved business methods were demanded. These characteristics must be united in one man if success was to crown the effort: A scholarly appreciation of educational needs and resources combined with rare business ability, thoughtful consideration of the rights and welfare of others, a strong hold upon the confidence of his associates and of the community at large, accurate observation, sound judgment, tact, loyalty, good faith, patience—the best qualities of leadership.

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With singular unanimity, says James H. Canfield, in the Review of Reviews, the choice fell upon Seth Low. He was just 40 years of age, in the very prime of his life. He was graduated at the head of his class in 1879. A little more than ten years later his ability, his manliness, his absolute independence, his strong sense of civic duty and his fearlessness had so commended him to his fellow citizens in Brooklyn that he was chosen mayor under the new charter of that city. His administration constituted an epoch in the history of municipal government. Men who watched his career most closely during those four years saw the more to praise and the least to blame. Adverse criticism was rare and constantly decreasing; appreciation grew into warm approval. When he turned aside from this task Brooklyn was one of the best governed cities in the Union and every Brooklynite was proud of Low.

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He hesitated long and sincerely about accepting the presidency of Columbia. He made no pretensions to being an educator in the technical or professional sense; the task was a severe one, the burdens were very great, the necessary sacrifices were unusual. To sell the old buildings and site at a good price, to purchase advantageously the land for another campus, to determine in all its details the occupancy of this new ground, to plan buildings and drive construction through to a finish, to transfer all departments with no serious break in their work, to successfully refund all outstanding indebtedness, to provide for largely increased expenditures, to expand the entire curriculum and to thoroughly organize the entire educational machinery, to accomplish the affiliation of the hitherto independent colleges, and in ten years to be able to leave all this so reasonably complete that the leading spirit of it all may withdraw without a jolt or a jar being felt in any part of the machine and with no apparent lessening of either power or speed—all this is surely a noteworthy achievement. It is, probably, without a parallel in the history of educational institutions. It is a very able administrator who can so determine and direct the relations and work of others that his own place and value are scarcely recognized, and that he can retire without causing what Wall street would call a slump in the local market. It is far easier and far more common to secure a reputation for brilliancy by keeping one's self ostentatiously in sight, by insisting upon constant personal initiative, but this is not organization. In this already great university Mr. Low has proved himself an organizer, an administrator, or remarkably high and strong character and qualities.

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For more than twenty years Mr. Low has stood squarely and insistently, and unselfishly and fearlessly, for the theory of business principles and not partisan methods in municipal affairs. He has been its most conspicuous advocate, he has been its very incarnation, and for four years he put all this into practice in a remarkably successful manner. It is scarcely too much to assert that the public affairs of Brooklyn through his mayoralty became as though his private business, and as far as possible were administered upon precisely the same basis and by the same methods as would direct his conduct of private affairs. He tried to save money for the people precisely as he would have tried to make money for himself. He endeavored to secure the largest possible returns from the resources at hand, just as he would have labored for like results for a firm in which he was a partner. He regarded taxes paid by citizens as a definite investment for a definite purpose, and he was as eager to realize upon this investment as though it had been made by or for a corporation of which he was a director or the president. He made character and efficiency the sole test for appointment to public service and the sole assurance of continued tenure. He carried municipal administration to the highest point of efficiency ever reached in this country. And in all he manifested the characteristics which gave him success at Columbia, and which made him conspicuous in the educational world.

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Born in Brooklyn, Jan. 18, 1850, son of Abiel Abbot Low, a noted merchant, he received his primary education at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, graduated from Columbia in 1870. He turned from the law school to enter his father's tea importing house, becoming in 1875 a member of the firm. After serving his term as mayor of Brooklyn, to which he had been chosen in 1881, he was re-elected in 1883. He was nominated for mayor of New York in 1897 by the Citizens' party, but was defeated.

A STATEMENT

In Behalf of the William McKinley National Memorial Arch Association of Washington, D. C.

President McKinley's Memory is enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen. But their unexampled affection demands expression in a material memorial, national in character, to be erected at the national capital, the scene of his greatest labors and achievements. The William McKinley National Memorial Arch association has been incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia to meet this desire by the erection of a national memorial arch in honor of President McKinley in the city of Washington, by national popular subscription.

The officers are: Henry B. F. Macfarland, president of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, president; Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury of the United States, treasurer; Thomas F. Walsh, of Colorado, secretary; National Vice-Presidents: Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, Admiral George Dewey, General Nelson A. Miles, Cardinal Gibbons, Bishop Henry C. Potter, Bishop Edward G. Andrews, Rabbi E. G. Hirsch, Dr. Francis E. Clark, president of the United Societies of Christian Endeavor; Miss Helen Miller Gould, Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, president-general, Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, of California; Walter S. Logan, president-general, Sons of the American Revolution; John Lee Carroll, president-general, Sons of the Revolution; Eli Torrence, commander-in-chief, Grand Army of the Republic; John B. Gordon, Order of the Legal Legion; J. Edwin Brown, national commander, Union Veteran Legion; Robert St. G. Dyrenforth, commander-in-chief, Union Veterans' Union; E. B. Campbell, commander-in-chief, Sons of Veterans of America; W. H. Hubbell, commander-in-chief, Spanish War Veterans' association; President Eliot, of Harvard university; President Patton, of Princeton university; President Harper, of the University of Chicago; President Jordon, of Stanford university; Rector Conaty, of the Catholic University of America.

Executive Committee—Charles J. Bell, John Jay Edson, John W. Foster, Nelson A. Miles, George Dewey, Henry V. Boynton, Theodore W. Noyes, Beriah Wilkins, W. S. Hutchins, Mitchell Dyrenforth, Dr. William T. Harris, Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage, Charles C. Glover, Samuel Gompers, John W. Douglass, E. Southard Parker, and the president, secretary and treasurer ex-officio.

President Roosevelt has accepted honorary membership in the association.

It is proposed to place the memorial arch prominently at the Washington approach to the Memorial Bridge across the Potomac connecting Washington with Arlington, which President McKinley earnestly desired and recommended to congress as "a monument to American patriotism."

Contributions to the fund will be made members of the William McKinley Memorial Arch association. The treasurer, Hon. Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury of the United States, Washington, D. C., will receive all contributions and will forward certificates of membership to all contributors. Contributions of money may be handed to postmasters, managers of telegraph, telephone and express offices, or deposited with banks or other financial institutions, and news papers. They are hereby authorized and requested to receive and transmit contributions to the treasurer. The association heartily invites and confidently expects the co-operation of the governors of states and territories, the mayors of cities, and all public officials, of the press of the country, of the churches, colleges and schools, and of all organized societies, and requests that they will take immediate action to promote its objects by making and securing subscriptions. All communications except remittances should be addressed to Thomas F. Walsh, secretary, Washington, D. C.

The association is in entire sympathy with the proposition to erect a suitable memorial to the late president at his grave in Canton, Ohio.

TURKEY AND FRANCE.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir—The last session of the British cabinet was a long one, and it is reported that it was chiefly occupied with a consideration of the attitude of France toward Turkey. The situation in the Levant is unquestionably grave. It is within the bounds of probability, or, at least, within the limits of possibility, that the action of the French fleet in seizing custom ports in the island of Mitylene and on the Asia Minor seaboard may lead to complications which may, eventually bring about a European war. In any diplomatic embroglio in which Turkey is involved it is a platitude among European publicists to declare that it may give rise to a general conflagration. Unquestionably the materials are there for such a combustion. The proceedings of France may be the spark which is needed to set fire to the tinder.

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Viewing the matter from the technicle rules or precedents of international law, it is barley possible that France is justified in seizing customs ports to indemnify her subjects for an alleged breach of contract between them and the sublime Porte. That is a subject, however, which has hardly any direct bearing upon the issue as it now stands. If the precepts of international law are only to be sanctioned where a weak nation is at the mercy of a powerful adversary, whose sinister designs are concealed in demands which no country its equal would for a moment admit, it has reluctantly to be conceded that the norms of international law, as they have been recognized and developed, are as hypocritical in application as they are specious in theory.

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There is no pity or sympathy for Turkey, whatever the misfortunes into which she may fall. But beneath all the emotional opprobrium that is heaped upon Turkey and her government, there lies the fact that neither Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy nor the Balkan provinces can permit or afford to permit France or Russia to crush the Turk and absorb or divide his patrimony. It is all very well to speak of driving the Turk out of Europe bag and baggage, but where to? Or what form of government is to be set up in his place when he is gone?

England's interest in Turkey has practically dwindled to maintaining the Eastern Mediterranean open. Territorially she has little or no interest in Turkey, leaving Egypt, for the moment, out of the question, beyond that of trade, and of that she commands probably eighty per cent. Not so Germany. Germany desires to stand well with France, but she will not purchase her good will at the downfall of Turkey. If France, as it is alleged, is urged on by Russia to bring Turkey to her knees on a trumpery matter of a bill of indemnification to a firm of exploiters of the wharfage of the Bosphorus, there is nothing more certain than that Germany will back up Turkey with her fleet, if she can do nothing more, which is all that Germany requires in an encounter with Russia and France combined.

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That is the situation. France has acted with her usual impetuosity. She probably feels that the stand which the United States took in peremptorily demanding an indemnity for the looting of the property of the American missions in Asia Minor justifies her present course. But our action afforded her no precedent at all. We had no ulterior object in our demands. Every chancellery in Europe knew it. No such confidence is placed in the French designs upon Turkey, nor will they permit her to proceed to the extremity of touching a hair of Abdul Hamid's sacred beard. —P. M. Green.

Scranton, Nov. 7.

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We would call special attention to two numbers in our line of silk skirts that are of unusual value:

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Made from good quality of Taffeta Silk with accordeon plaited graduated flounce, edged with narrow silk ruffle; come in all the new colors.

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Made from fine quality Taffeta Silk, with hemstitched flounce and two silk ruffles; complete line of colors. See styles displayed in our window.

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Home office, 208-209 Mears Building, transacts a general building and loan business throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

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This is what we are doing with our
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If you want quality, style and low price, trade with
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ORGANIZED 1872.
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Special attention given to all accounts whether large or small.
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Long, short, medium, all the good kinds in popular colors and stylish effects.
Little weekly payments.

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Warm stylish Overcoats in all popular materials, large variety, $6.50 to $22. Attractive patterns in Men's Suits, in Cheviots, Worsteds, Cassimeres and Serges, $6.50 to $20, easy payments.