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 14, 1901.

The placing of Brigadier Generals Henry C. Merriman and Robert H. Hall on the retired list has created vacancies that will shortly be filled by President Roosevelt. It will be most gratifying to the friends of Colonel Watt, of this city, if he is selected as one of the general officers. His splendid services in Cuba and in China merit the reward of a brigadier general's commission.

Reciprocity.

EVIDENCES are multiplying that the great exporting interests are becoming intensely interested in the subject of reciprocity. The world is taking goods of American production to the extent of the world's necessity so far as that necessity has yet developed. And to some extent it is buying of us goods which it might buy of other producers at less favorable prices. What our exporting interests have to fear is that the world, at the instigation of our commercial rivals, may one day erect artificial barriers in the way of the continued development of our export trade and thus leave on our hands either an unsalable surplus or the problem of curtailing production, reducing the volume, hours and pay of labor and inviting business depression.

So far as the world cannot get along without American goods our exporters, in the long run, are safe. The country which tries to stop their importation does so at its own expense and cannot long afford that expense. But leaving this class of goods—a considerable class, to be sure—out of the present calculation, there remains a large variety of articles which the other nations may either buy of our manufacturers or of the manufacturers of another country. Possibly now most of these nations are inclined to give to us the preference. Possibly now our goods are the best and the cheapest in the market. But it is plain that in many countries American competition has cut deeply into the pocket-book and pride of native interests and these interests are smarting for revenge. The European talk of a continental tariff alliance against the United States may chiefly be talk yet where there is much smoke there is some fire and as time goes by this talk will crystallize into action unless forestalled.

Here is where reciprocity may come to our aid. Reciprocity means giving as well as taking. It is illustrated when the man who makes shoes trades articles with the maker of hats or horseshoes. In a national sense it means a tariff giving preferential duties to the imports from countries that give preferential duties to our exports. For example, Cuba wants to sell to us sugar and tobacco. We want to sell to Cuba steel rails and machinery. Assuming Cuba to be free and sovereign, the question of tariffs immediately presents itself and reciprocity would mean that if by mutual concessions the interests of both countries could be promoted, mutual concessions should be made. In theory reciprocity is ideal. In practice it is full of difficulties. Trade interests are so interdependent and interwoven that immense care has to be exercised in entering into reciprocal agreements; yet it is clearly written on the wall that along this line must our export trade be pushed for greater growth.

The Scrantonians are still walking and the street cars strikers or their sympathizers are still stoning and otherwise assaulting the street cars. A progressive city is Scranton, most assuredly.—Wilkes-Barre Leader.

Even if the above was true—and it is not—Scranton would still be preferable to Wilkes-Barre as a residing place for any save those of Rip-Van-Winkle progressiveness.

Visit of Madame Nordica.

THIS is the first and probably the last time the people of Scranton will have an opportunity to hear in their own city the singer who, in many respects, is the greatest of modern times. Much credit is due one of our own townsmen, Mr. Fred C. Hand, in bringing within the range of very moderate means the pleasure of listening to Madame Nordica's voice. It should be with patriotic feeling that our people hear her tonight. In her own person, perhaps, she exemplifies to a greater degree what an American girl, humble, unknown and without influence or wealth, can achieve than has ever been shown by another. She has within her the spirit which will make a success of any life, however obscure its beginnings, however entangled the threads of its apparent destiny—the spirit of work and a love of work. Her simple, practical gospel will solve all controversy over class distinction for it bestows on the worker its own patent of nobility in the power to rise above disturbances and above obstacles.

Madame Nordica has reached an eminence which is unique in the history of music. She is the only opera singer living or dead, who has ever been able to sing not only one but often other roles of every great opera, and who can sing these roles in German, Italian or French with the same ease that she speaks English. She is the only singer of the present who is intrusted with the most exalted interpretations of Wagner in the music centers of the world, London, New York, Paris and Munich. She is the one woman today whose songs are counted at so much the word in the coin of the realm and who can ask what price she will for the music of her voice and it is paid.

But most of all, this great songstress has always held to the same lofty ideals in personal life that she kept ever before her in art and thus she may well be taken as an example of what America can produce in superb womanhood. It is to the woman no less than the voice that the greetings of our people will be given tonight.

Some of the Pittsburg officials are also apprehensive that they will have to take part in the walking match that is in progress in that city.

Famine in Russia.

UNTIL quite recently Russia was almost an exclusively agricultural country with an abundance of unoccupied and, generally, the most fertile land in the world. She retains this characteristic still to a great extent, but her future historical development will more largely depend upon manufacture and commercial industrialism. This is the confident anticipation of many enlightened Russians who have given the subject independent and scientific study. One of the many consequences of this transition has been and will be more markedly in the future of periodical famines, pestilence, and not improbably revolutionary changes which we cannot foresee.

It is a strange fact that two of the largest and most fertile empires in the world are subject to recurrent famines almost identical in their deadly intensity and the superstitious fatalism with which they are borne by the natives. Very different, however, is the origin of famine in India and famine in Russia. In India famine is the natural and consequential effect of drought owing to the failure of the monsoons. In Russia famine while following directly, of course, upon the failure of the crops is indirectly attributable to the archaic system of agriculture prevalent in Russia and above all to the communal system of land tenure which prevails throughout the empire. The moujik is a serf still despite his political and social emancipation. Serfage is bred in his bones. He is a slave to customs that passed away in the rest of Europe in the night of the Dark Age. He has the virtue of his defects and the defects of his virtues. He is subservient if not grovelling; he is ignorant, superstitious, lazy and intemperate; but he is also the most submissive peasant in the wide world to his government and religion. He is domestic and naturally intellectual, if his intelligence were not overlain with ikon worship and stupefied with vodka. He is treated by his rulers with blind rage and compassionate kindliness—an autocratic system of overlordship which deals with the subject as with a child, safeguards him against all personal initiative and at last really makes him as childlessly dependent upon a hierarchical bureaucracy as he is presumed to be infantile in despotism.

The commercial system of land tenure throughout Russia in Europe contributes more directly to the frankinstein of famine than perhaps any other single cause. Every Russian peasant is born to an inheritance in the land. The land for the people and the people for the land is here exemplified in a living, operative reality. If Henry George did not get the idea of his single tax from Russia, it is preeminently the tax which subserves the main purpose of the muscovite finance. Not only must the Russian peasant receive his share in the land but he must accept it and with it its fiscal obligations to the crown. He does not buy or inherit his commercial share in the village plantation. It is apportioned to him. He is a machine for making revenue. He lives under unadulterated feudalism, except that at each "division of souls" he assumes a monetary obligation to the imperial exchequer instead of a military one to the lord of the manor. Under such a system scientific or profitable agriculture is impossible, even unthinkable. In the fat years the moujik never satisfies his hunger two days out of seven; in the lean years he is famine bound. In an agricultural country where farming is neither profitable nor scientific, famine is an inevitable corollary.

Russia has made marvelous progress within the past twenty years. We hear less about it than that of Germany because it is more self-contained and self-sustaining. The commercial expansion is reacting disastrously on the agrarian prosperity of the country. The youngest and the sturdiest of the male rural population are flocking to the industrial centers, while the cultivation of the land is left to the old or feeble men and women and children. Although Russia has largely imported our agricultural implements, they are not to be found in the hands of the peasantry. Their instruments of husbandry and methods of cultivation are as antiquated as those employed by the Slavonians of the days of Ivan the Terrible. While Russia is in the transitionary stage from a nation of commercial cultivators to a world-wide empire of manufacturing and agricultural progress, famines such as now threaten the empire shall be as frequent in the future as they have been in the past.

The Emperor Kwang Hsu presented a novel spectacle in riding on horseback at the head of his caravan on its return to Pekin, and one that may excite ridicule. The action of the palace recluse in turning warrior at this stage of proceedings is certainly peculiar, but it is a hopeful sign of progress. The present Emperor of Japan was once as secluded from human view as is the Grand Lama of Tibet, and the regeneration of Japan began when the enshrined Mikado donned a uniform, bestrode a charger and rode out into full view of his people. It is the first step which costs; and how much boldness was needed by Kwang Hsu to emancipate himself even to the extent reported cannot be imagined by those who know nothing of the tyranny of custom in the Orient. Kwang's experience has doubtless convinced him that if he wishes to become a figure of importance in this age he must get in the procession.

In imposing sentences upon the employes of Hearst's American, the Chicago courts have set an example that is worthy of emulation about the country. The judge very properly holds that if mischievous matter like that which caused the hirelings of Hearst to be arrested for contempt were allowed to go unnoticed it would pave the way for other reckless and vicious attacks, and that the judiciary if not held in respect would fall with all democratic government. The style of journalism adopted by the Hearst crew, and which has many small imitators about the country is a disgrace to the profession, and the Chicago courts should receive the praise of all decent people in the endeavor to root out the evil.

Mr. Lynett, the banker editor, still has considerable difficulty in dodging the wrath of local Democrats who have become tired of being accused of party treachery by the whilmill Times. The editor of the Times has recently given some marvelous exhibitions of the ground and lofty flop, and has shown ability to get on all sides of almost every question, but he seems to have trouble in convincing the rank and file of Democracy that when he accuses them of selling out he means the other fellow.

It is to be regretted that notwithstanding election is over our esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record continues to be a political "half-and-half." A paper of the standing of the Record ought to be ashamed of posing as a catspaw for the worst gang of tricksters that ever humbugged good people into following a bogus reform movement.

There is one feature about the Schley case that will cause universal satisfaction. It will probably be impossible for any manager to place a dramatization of Historian Mackay's third volume on the stage.

Negotiations for the release of Miss Stone have developed the fact that the bandits in charge of the missionary are entitled to more respect than the heads of the Bulgarian government.

People of Stroudsburg are now pointing with pride to the fact that their town has a novelty not enjoyed by sister cities—a genuine case of Filipino water measles.

The fact that the Schley for president boom started at Chicago is indication that it will get out of breath before invading the east.

From press reports it seems that hunters do not need antlers to be mistaken for deer up in the Maine woods this season.

Abuse of Public Men Is Not New

THIRD ARTICLE.

From the Lancaster New Era.

WE HAVE already shown how George Washington and John Quincy Adams, the first and sixth presidents of the United States, and two of the wisest and best men who ever filled that office, were reviled, abused and defamed by the political malevolence of their day. Every crime, not excepting murder, was alleged against the one or the other. These assaults were without cause or defense. Pure malice inspired them, and the hope of political profit. There may also have been personal hatred, aside from political considerations. But the result arrived at was the same, whatever the motive. It is a most satisfactory reflection that impartial history has done those two great men full justice. Later generations have taken the foul abuse poured on them at its true meaning and value and placed them high in our National Temple of Honor. Their defamers are known only to the readers of our early history and receive only well-merited condemnation.

But the abuse of public men was not confined to the early days of the Republic only. History, it is claimed, moves in cycles, and is, in consequence, continually repeating itself. It has been so in this particular. Seventy years after Washington passed through that ordeal another president, and he one of the truest and most amiable of human beings, was put to the torture in the same way and by the same kind of men; we refer to the sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, of blessed memory. Millions of men and women are still living who clasped his friendly hand and received favors from this most generous and kindly of men, and yet the newspapers of the Civil War period are filled with coarse and rebuff remarks concerning his conduct and appearance and his heroic efforts for the preservation of the Union. Let us go back a single generation, back to a time when many of us took an active part in the great drama enacted in this country between 1861 and 1865, and see how contemporary journalism dealt with that most chivalrous and knightly soul. To the young men of today it is almost inconceivable that such things as we shall quote were ever spoken of President Lincoln, whose name and memory are enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen as truly as those of Washington himself. If Washington was the "Father of his Country," surely Lincoln was its saviour and restorer, and deserving of equal honor.

In the light of all we know of the man today, how fiendish and brutal the following attacks on President Lincoln must appear. Listen to them: "If the ignorant despot who has exercised this unauthorized power over the liberties of his masters, the sovereign people, had gone a step further, and imbrued his hands in the blood of those whom he sent to his military bastiles, on his own mere motion, there can be no doubt that the act would have been justified by his fellowmen." We know Mr. Lincoln's sole motive and purpose was the preservation of the Union, but, nevertheless, his actions were assailed in this manner: "The Nero who fiddles at Washington in the light of the greatest conflagration that the world ever saw will doubtless add to his long list of violations of the constitution and the laws by attempting to return an army vote that will elect him. The cheaper it becomes to him that the people whose liberties he has outraged are about to remove him from the position he has too long disgraced, the fiercer he will struggle to maintain himself."

The continued enthronement of slavery was the one great inspiring cause of this abuse of Lincoln, as the following will show, spoken as late as January, 1865: "The war is not yet over. All hope of a speedy peace is dissipated. The fanatics in power still persist in continuing the struggle for the benefit of the negro. They will not offer and would not accept peace on the basis of a restored Union unless it came in such a shape as should secure them a continuance in power." "Mr. Lincoln must be held responsible for the continuance of the war and for all the bloodshed and misery that must flow from it. If men in high position among the rebels made any such statements and offers, we believe peace on fair and honorable terms was within our grasp, and that it was deliberately rejected by Abraham Lincoln."

Because he would not concede the fatally unacceptable conditions demanded by the southern peace commissioners at Fortress Monroe, he was assailed by every Copperhead sheet in the north. Here are some samples: "He appeared at Fortress Monroe as the embodiment of the wildest and most unbridled fanaticism of the north. He had no other character, and represented nothing else. He was the personification of the spirit of that faction which would destroy the constitution made by our fathers, overturn the free form of government bequeathed to us by them, do violence to the natural instincts of the nobler race, and erase all the laws on our statute books which prevent the negro from claiming as his right perfect and entire quality with the white race. * * * We now assert boldly, and without fear of contradiction * * * that in this whole matter Mr. Lincoln acted a most treacherous part, deceiving and tilding not with the rebel commissioners alone, but with the people who ardently desired a speedy and honorable peace. * * * Never did any man do a madder act. Time will yet show how utterly foolish and criminal it was. The south has accepted a wager of battle. Every energy will now be employed in war. From this time forth that will be the only business of the whole people."

The Copperheads, as will be seen by the above, still hoped misfortune would come upon the Union arms and the rebel cause prove victorious. Their papers were filled with dire predictions of the result. President Lincoln's second inaugural address occasioned a new outburst of venom. Here are some examples: "Not even those who have held and expressed the most contemptible opinion of the man could have anticipated such a production * * * It is bloodthirsty enough to have been the utterance of some painted Indian chief, just starting out on a scalping expedition. It breathes only a spirit of the most barbarous and bloody revenge. It is the emanation of a mean and vindictive nature. In it we have the cant of the fanatic and the cold-blooded cruelty of the religious zealot * * * Shall we not be an object of contempt and ridicule to all civilized nations, from the fact that a man so utterly unfit to fill the position with ability and dignity should have been elected a second time president of the United States? * * * It will be long, very long, before any European nation can be induced so to change its constitution as to render possible the elevation to the highest official position some such ignorant boor as Abraham Lincoln * * * No people with a decent degree of self-respect could help feeling a dread lest it might be their fate to be ruled over by such a personage as Abraham Lincoln, lest the records of their state department might be disgraced by such a document as his second inaugural address."

Not only were President Lincoln's political opinions and views assailed, but the man's personality also; his origin, his methods of life and individuality. Here are examples: "When it was known that neither Mr. Lincoln nor Andrew Johnson had ever risen superior to the vulgar associations which surrounded them in early life, one would have supposed that this knowledge would alone have been sufficient to prevent them from being elevated to the highest offices in the gift of a great nation. Just as the rapid boiling of a pot throws scum to the surface, so it seems political convulsions are sure to bring into positions of power men whose proper position would be the filthy purlieus of society. It was sad enough to remember how Mr. Lincoln had disgraced the high position of president of the United States, to which he had been accidentally elevated by the acts of a clown and the manners of a low bred buffoon. Four years of his rule would have disgusted any nation which had not become dead to a proper feeling of shame. * * * By bribes and threats the more respectable men of his own party were forced into the support of a ticket which set up a buffoon for president and a drunken boor for vice-president of the United States."

Will it be believed all the foregoing, and much more of the same sort, which would fill whole pages of the New Era to print, was written in the city of Lancaster, and appeared editorially in the columns of a Lancaster newspaper, the Intelligencer? That these vile assaults upon a man who has been canonized in the hearts of a grateful people were continued for years, even up to within one day of his martyrdom? Who was the real fanatic, President Lincoln or the men who thus reviled him? Was it not just such wild ravings as we have quoted that pointed the weapon and pulled the trigger that bestowed the crown of martyrdom upon that blameless life, that most loyal heart? Today his grateful countrymen delight to call him "Honest Abe," two words as full of meaning today and to all coming times as they were a generation ago. By the universal consent of mankind the man who was denounced as a Nero, a boor, a buffoon and a tyrant has been conceded to have been one of the wisest statesmen the world has ever seen.

That we shall always have the political liar and defamer among us is very evident. We had him in 1795, we had him in 1825, we had him in 1865, and he has flourished with undiminished vigor until this very hour, when every hill and dale between the Delaware and Ohio is vocal with his old-time music. History sits down upon him with crushing force, and the life has seemingly gone out of him, but he reappears like Jack-in-the-box, and pursues his shameless vocation just as he is doing today. Let who will heed him, but the honest Republican, the man who believes in his party and the men who represent it, will turn from him for the unclean thing that he is.

ROADS IN EUROPE.

From the American Asphalt Journal.

Two hundred years ago England had the worst roads in the world, because the peasantry living on the roads alone were required to work them. In speaking of them Macaulay says: "That a route connecting two great towns which have a large and flourishing trade with each other should be maintained at the cost of the rural population scattered between them is manifestly unjust. It was not until many toll bars had been violently pulled down, until the troops had in many instances been forced to act against the people, and until much blood had been shed, that a good system was introduced." Every class now contributes to the maintenance of the road system in England. The French have probably the most efficient laws and regulations in the world for the building and repairing of highways. The minister of public works has the general superintendence of all roads and ways by land and by water. There are four classes of road recognized by law, namely: (1) national, (2) departmental, (3) military, (4) cross roads. National roads are built and kept up by the national treasury. Departmental roads are a charge upon the departments through which they pass, and part of the military roads are kept up by the government and a part by the departments through which the roads pass.

The cross roads are kept up by the communes, though sometimes in thinly populated regions these communes receive assistance from the government, especially when these roads become of importance.

The national roads are paved like a street, having an average width of 62½ feet. The departmental roads are 39 feet wide, and the military and cross roads are of variable width. Piles of broken stone are placed at convenient distances and a man is constantly employed in repairing each section.

EYE-OPENERS.

Not Past the Mark.—"This is my birthday." "And I suppose you feel as young as you ever did?" "No; I don't believe I am quite old enough to feel as young as I ever did."—Brooklyn Life.

"What business brings the heaviest returns?" asked the man who "wanted to know." "The literary business," sighed the struggling author, as he opened a two-pound rejected book manuscript.—Philadelphia Record.

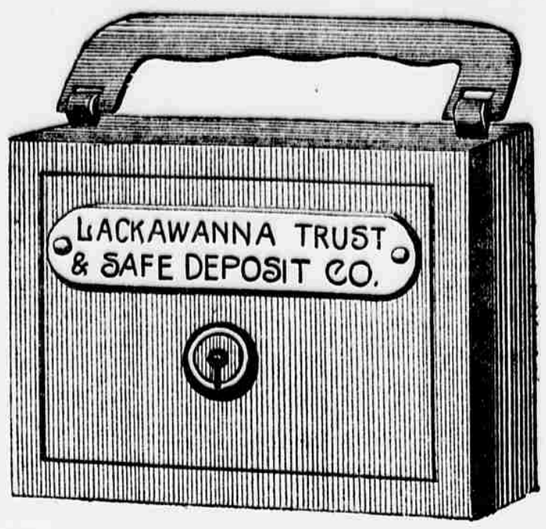
Those Girls Again.—Tess—I saw her in her new dress today, and she seemed really happy. Isn't it remarkable? Jess—How remarkable? Tess—That some people can seem happy, no matter how they look.—Philadelphia Press.

Not Explicit.—Mary—When George took me to a stylish restaurant for supper last night he said I had the appetite of a bird. Ann—He did? But he didn't explain whether he meant a canary or an ostrich, I suppose.—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

"What, you here again?" exclaimed the woman at the back door when Weary Willie presented himself. "I thought you were dead!" "Oh, no," replied Weary, touching his hat; "I didn't eat that piece of pie you gave me the last time I was here."—Yonkers Statesman.

A Little Dubious.—"Do you really think it paid to give Josh all this education?" asked Farmer Corntossel. "Course I do," answered the fond mother. "It's worth a heap to know better 'n to say 'crops are bad' instid o' 'crops is bad.'" "Well, if you say so, I reckon it's all right. But I can't say as I can see how it kin make any difference in the crops."—Washington Star.

Saving Made Easy



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You slip in your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or any other coin or bill when you are flush with money.

Bring the box to us at intervals, as we hold the key, and get credit in your pass book for its contents. Before you know it you are carrying a BANK ACCOUNT of good proportions, and saving has become a habit. Deposits made through this Bank may, however, be withdrawn at ANY TIME.

This tight locking up of the little sums indifferently tossed into the fund is the ONLY plan that makes daily saving a success. Unreflecting people are astonished to see how quickly this matter develops from a trivial thing into an interest of genuine importance.

The box is strong, but small and neat: not a plaything, but an institution.

No Charge for the use of a Branch Bank

To get one, call at the Lackawanna Trust and Safe Deposit Co., 404 Lackawanna avenue, and open a savings account by depositing ONE DOLLAR or more.

Interest Begins from Day of Deposit.

If you wish to open an account and can not come, drop us a postal and our representative will call with Bank.

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Stock is exceptionally good quality for the price. Small sums talk big and have much strength amongst our seasonable offerings.

Louis H. Isaacs
412 Spruce Street.

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

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Suitable for Wedding Gifts.

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Good Furniture

Good Furniture is the only kind you can afford to buy. It is always the cheapest in the end.

This big store of ours is full of GOOD FURNITURE at prices, which, considering quality of stock, are as low as consistent.

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We have an unusually large line of odd pieces of unique and handsome design. Many of these odd pieces are exclusive with this establishment.

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This is what we are doing with our

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Furs repaired and remodeled now at reduced cost.

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You will find here today a sumptuous feast of silk and fine wool waists, in unsurpassed assortment of styles, that are entirely different from those found elsewhere, and in qualities that will give excellent service.

Silk Waists from $5.50 to $11.50

The styles in silk waists this season are prettier than ever—showing many entirely new effects; buttoned in back is the latest style—tucked front and back, tucked sleeves, tucked front with lace inserting; some entirely plain. Surely variety enough to suit everyone.

China Silk Waists

Are very beautifully trimmed in fine chiffon embroidery. Are here in white, black and black and white.

Albatross Waists

Fine imported French Albatross Waists, made from finest quality Albatross, hand embroidered in silk.

French Flannel Waists

In selected Pattern Waists—with embroidered band trimming; fine tucked waists and plain waists; buttoned in back or front; come in the beautiful light shades; also in dark colors.

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