

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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TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 19, 1901.

The street railway employees of Philadelphia are to be congratulated upon the prudence of their decision not to follow the agitators who have been trying to get them to declare a strike.

A Great Mistake.

WHEN the American Federation of Labor declared an unjust boycott upon the National Cash Register company, of Dayton, O., it did itself a grievous injury.

Important If True.

BEFORE the American Medical Association recently Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, a physician of high standing, in discussing the sad sanitary condition of our military camps in the summer months of 1898, due to the inadequacy of our preparation for sudden war, created a sensation by asserting that a great scandal relating to this phase of the Spanish-American war has up to this time been suppressed.

"A commandant was in charge of a quarter of the entire army. His command was made up of the flower of American manhood, and was encamped at a health resort. He, however, in violation of the precedent of the usually civilized and competent gentlemen of the army but acting under the permission of existing army regulations, not only set aside recommendations of his sanitary officers, but by personal example incited his men to violate the most fundamental sanitary laws."

Here, evidently, Dr. Reed refers to Camp Thomas, at Chickamauga Park. At another point did the secretary of war assemble as many as 50,000 men in 1898. Nowhere else could the events alleged by Dr. Reed have occurred. He proceeds:

"The result was the more than fifty thousand men in his command twice thousand were invalided, while nearly a thousand died from preventable causes. It is not surprising that effects have been made to suppress knowledge of it. I am advised that the army investigating committee, in the interest of public decency, omitted from its final report much testimony on this phase of the conduct of the war."

connection. One of its members was Dr. P. S. Conner, of Cincinnati, a high-minded gentleman, a patriotic citizen, and equipped for the duty then in hand by some years of service as an army surgeon during the civil war. And Dr. Conner had, in his efforts to elicit all the truth, the cordial cooperation and encouragement of the entire commission. Dr. Reed's mistake consists in his assumption that any "public report" of the testimony has ever been made. There was none. The testimony covered all the points indicated by the doctor in his address—covered all of them completely—but that testimony has never yet seen the light. Perhaps there are not fifty men in the United States who have seen it, examined it, and know what admirable exposures it contains. The whole record was suppressed just as the place had been totally made ready for the press, and it now lies concealed in some government cellar, where cobwebs help to hide it from the people whose rightful property it is.

It can readily be believed that Dr. Reed asserts might be justifiable in a time of public excitement, when military operations then in progress would be hampered by their publication. Now, however, this danger is past; and if what Dr. Reed and the Washington Post say with regard to Camp Thomas and its commanding officer is true, or if it is not true and is not supported in testimony which has been withheld, it would seem to be due to the officer in question and to the people that the whole truth should be made known.

The Irrigation Problem.

FROM an Article by Hon. Thomas F. Wallis, President of the National Irrigation Association, in the National Magazine.

THESE IS no question before the American people the successful solution of which promises greater rewards and is laden with such momentous bearings upon the present and the future of our country as the reclamation of our arid lands by irrigation. Through the building of national reservoirs and the storage of the waters in the flooded season, a large part of the now unproductive lands can be brought under the highest form of cultivation, thereby adding an immense area to the productive lands of our country, extending from the semi-tropical climate of southern Arizona to the boundary line of British Columbia, and from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean. This area possesses every variety of climate and the richest of soil which, when watered, is capable of producing every fruit, cereal and plant grown or needed by man. This vast arid territory is equal in area to one-third of that of our entire country, and if only one-half of it can be brought under irrigation, what a magnificent new country and what new markets it will open up and provide for our people.

One of the great advantages of the irrigation system in addition to the certainty of raising crops which it gives, is the great variety of fruits, vegetables, and other products which can be grown upon a small farm, comprising every necessary of life. The visitors to the irrigated valleys of the West during the summer months will find alfalfa growing so luxuriantly that it takes the farmers to keep it cut and stacked. On every farm they will see fields of the finest of small grain and vegetables; fat, glossy cattle browsing in rich pastures of clover and timothy; orchards bearing the most luscious of peaches, pears, apples, plums, and apricots, besides the smaller fruits; well-designed modern houses, their front yards beautiful with evergreens, the air perfumed with the fragrance of roses and other flowers; and, sweeter and better than all, they will hear the merry laughter and see the sunny, bright-eyed faces of happy children reveling in the pure air and wholesome surroundings of their country home. Less than twenty years ago these valleys were a desert waste. The diversion by inexpensive ditches of the running waters has converted them into ideally perfect farm houses.

The great beneficial changes brought about by private capital can be duplicated on a proportionate scale by the construction of storage reservoirs and the storage of the flooded torrents that now not only run to waste but carry destruction to the lower countries every spring. Private effort has made homes for thousands. This new field would make homes for millions, and would cover a region vaster and larger than shelter a dozen European nations. Congress should take up the work of building these reservoirs because it is wise and just from every standpoint. Our population is increasing by leaps and bounds; the desirable public lands are nearly all gone. See what a rush there was to secure farms at the Oklahoma reservation opening a short time ago. If all the water in this arid region which, in flooded season, goes to waste, can be stored and utilized, a productive territory capable of supporting 20,000,000 people will be added to the United States.

From a business point of view, the settling of what is now a worthless desert will add enormously to the wealth of the country; it will open up new markets for every manufactured article; it will benefit every workshop, farm, and factory between Maine and Alaska; and it will furnish homes for the over-crowded population of our congested cities. Every portion of the United States will feel the stimulus of the increased wealth created and of the new markets formed right in the midst of our country with our own people. For this reason every portion of our land is equally interested in having the work started and pushed to a successful conclusion.

Our esteemed contemporaries, the Truth and Times, last evening issued very interesting and prosperous-looking Christmas numbers, comprising seasonal reading matter and a generous showing of announcements from our merchants. These issues demonstrate that in spite of the prevailing draybacks there is still a lot of life left in this old town. We offer our heartiest congratulations.

In addition to its usefulness in '76, Liberty Bell affords good Philadelphia an occasional opportunity to get away from home on a pleasant junket as members of the "special escort."

Dr. Henry, the Chicago healer, who has been attempting to practice in Philadelphia, is entitled to credit in one respect. He frankly calls himself a "devil doctor."

Much to the disgust of the Democratic organs the resignation of Post-

master General Smith was devoid of sensational features.

Mr. Gompers wisely believes that the goose that lays the golden egg should be allowed to live. There should be more labor leaders of the same opinion.

Secretary Root proposes that the Cuban elections shall come off on schedule time. He means business. The "manana" cry does not appeal to him.

The elements most to be dreaded in the revival of the Schley agitation in congress are the threatened volumes of undiscovered eloquence.

The floods appear to have subsided, but the memory of ye oldest inhabitant has not yet recovered from the shock.

PROUD OF HIM.

Editor of The Tribune:

Since an American citizen, irrespective of party, we ought to be proud of, and thankful for, the honorable John Hay, our secretary of state, for his careful and patient negotiation of the new agreement with Great Britain regarding the essential tin ore (wolfram) canal. The treaty's approval yesterday, by a vote of 72 to 0, is all the official endorsement Mr. Hay's good work needs.

Very truly yours,  
Walter J. Ballard,  
Secretary, N. Y. Dec. 17.

AWAYED.

Although I dare to say  
My heart untroubled I from day to day,  
'Tis not O Love that my strength of me  
From sin has kept me free.

But as I now look back  
Across the years that span the weary track,  
All the dear days that I ever strove to do  
Were done because of you.

All the while thoughts I had  
Were but pure fancies to one day make you glad;  
Every improving act, each little grace,  
Humbly, dear one, I trace.

Back to my hope of you,  
Long, long before your wondrous face I knew,  
Ah, your white coming, silent and sweet,  
Made me and kept me true.

—Charles Hanson Towne in Smart Set.

Hill & Connell's Holiday Furniture

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A very dressy shoe. It's suitable for street or dress wear, in several different lasts. Reduced to..... \$3
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A leather that has proved very durable for gentlemen's wear. It's a leather that'll not break; reduced to \$3
- \$4 Patent Calf**  
A soft, flexible patent leather shoe, stylish and dressy, single or double soles. Reduced to..... \$3
- \$4 Wax Calf**  
A neat shoe that we consider the very best for wet or rough weather. Reduced to..... \$3
- \$4 Box Calf**  
A serviceable leather, made on a stylish but comfortable fitting last. Reduced to..... \$3
- \$4 Black Russia Calf**  
A soft, pliable leather that meets the requirements of tender feet. Reduced to..... \$3
- \$4 Velour Calf**  
A comfortable walking shoe with broad double sole. Reduced to..... \$3
- \$4 Vici Kid**  
It's as soft as a glove and as serviceable as a Box Calf. Reduced to..... \$3

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