

## The Scranton Tribune

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LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor.  
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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, DECEMBER 27, 1901.

In spite of the thousands of bills already introduced, it is likely that numerous people will complain that congress is neglecting its business before the session has been adjourned.

## Good Politics.

THERE is evidently more in the appointment of Governor Shaw of Iowa to the secretaryship of the treasury than appears on the surface. To begin with, he is a Western man. No taint of Wall street attaches to him or to his appointment. Although a banker and a sound money man, who in 1896, displayed conspicuous courage in his uncompromising espousal of the gold standard, without subterfuge of equivocation, he has never been closely identified with professional financial circles, and no prejudice can be aroused by his selection. As a public official, his record is "clean as a hound's tooth," a requirement upon which Theodore Roosevelt insists. His two terms as governor of Iowa stand out in clear relief for satisfying executive ability and competent handling of administrative problems.

An additional consideration remains to be noted. Governor Shaw is a close personal and political friend of Senator Allison, the leader of the senate. Mr. Allison is chairman of the Republican senatorial caucus. His hand is upon the party lever that controls the politics of the senate. Closely associated with him is Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, another power in the senate. Senator Spooner is a close and intimate personal and political friend of Henry C. Payne, the incoming postmaster general. The relations between the president and Senator Allison, the remaining member of this famous trio of senate leaders, who virtually run the senate, have long been intimate, and they were strengthened by the president's office of a cabinet place to Governor Ames of Massachusetts.

It has for some time been believed by many experienced observers of political matters that events would be likely so to shape themselves during the Roosevelt administration as to bring to a head the long gathering antagonism between the executive and the senate. This expectation may be unfounded. It probably is. But the best way to prevent war is to prepare for it in time. That, in our opinion, is what the president is doing, and doing thoroughly. If war comes, he will be ready for it, and those who force it will have all of it they want. By this very fact of rapid and systematic preparation, however, the president is making it improbable. No war between the two branches of the government can amount to much which does not enlist the leaders of the senate. By attaching these leaders to him in perfectly legitimate ways, Theodore Roosevelt is disproving the predictions of those who have been saying that he would fall down in his handling of the necessary politics of the presidency.

Continued preparations for war indicate that the "Chile-Argentina" protocol is not necessarily in good faith.

## The Election of Constables.

ALTHOUGH much has been said in favor of better protecting the game and insectivorous birds of this state, little has been done by the legislature to secure such protection. A game commission has been created, and the sum of \$2,000 has been appropriated, to pay its expenses for two years. The employment of ten game wardens has been authorized; but that is all. The problem, in its local aspects, is left to private initiative for solution or contempt.

It is an important problem, much more so than many persons realize. In a recent communication Dr. Kallos, secretary of the state game commission, has made some of the points in its importance clear. Says he: "Birds unquestionably do much to maintain the equilibrium between vegetation and insect life. Reports from the Agricultural department at Washington show that the income of the farmer is reduced fully twelve per cent. by the ravages of injurious insects and rodents. The birds of Pennsylvania, placing only one bird to the acre, and allowing that bird but fifty bugs or insects a day, destroy each day 4,800 bushels of these injurious forms, allowing 200,000 to the bushel." He continues: "A blue bird has been known to carry food to its young 250 times in one day. A chipping sparrow over 200 times. A wren 111 times in less than five hours. A long billed marsh wren carried thirty locusts to her young in one hour; ten hours of daylight would make the number 300 for one day. The average locust weighs fifteen grains and is capable of consuming its own weight of growing corn or wheat daily." And so he goes on to show that protection of the birds is an economic advantage, leaving whole out of the problem all other con-

siderations, some of which are equally important.

The conclusion which he reaches is that in the ensuing spring elections care should be taken to elect constables who, in addition to their other qualifications, shall be prepared to act fearlessly as game, fire and fish wardens, under the authority conferred by the act of 1889. That act gives the constable the right of search or arrest without warrant, allows him \$10 for each conviction under the game, fish or forestry laws and makes his jurisdiction co-extensive with the limits of the county in which he is serving. Under the general game law of 1887 the informer receives one-half of all fines recovered, so that when the constable is the prosecutor he gets as pay for his services the ordinary fee allowed an officer for making an arrest, serving papers, etc., \$10 extra from the county and one-half of all fines recovered. Thus he has both the power to enforce the law and a generous incentive to do it. If good men are chosen for this office a decided change for the better can be expected in this as in many other directions affecting closely the public welfare.

Theoretical managers are displaying a singular lack of their usual enterprise in neglecting to offer Mr. MacLay an engagement.

## Old Age Pensions.

CABLE dispatches from England give meagre accounts of a plan for old-age pensions which is to go before parliament with eminent endorsement. From what can be learned of the details it appears that every British subject at least 65 years old, sober and at one time industrious, may be retired from active labor on an allowance amounting to five shillings a week, provided that at the time of retirement he has no other means of support. While receiving this pension he must not engage in any gainful occupation that might have the effect of keeping a younger man out of employment. The pension is in lieu of ordinary poor-law benefits, and may be stopped at any time for good cause by the local committees having charge of its administration. The cost of the scheme is to be borne, two-thirds by the imperial government, and one-third by local taxation.

There are difficulties in the way of the adoption of such a plan in the United States which could hardly be overcome. But we have always thought that a time would come in the development of American industry when every industry will make a charge against the consumer sufficient to constitute a trust fund for the pensioning of all faithful employees after certain terms of service, as well as to care for the incapacitated and those who without personal fault have sustained loss by reason of the industry's operation. It, therefore, is gratifying to observe the steady progress which is being made among our large corporations in the direction of establishing profit-sharing and pension-retirement features. We have no doubt whatever that these things are to go on. They are as economic as they are humane.

It is said the world owes every man a living. Within certain restrictions this is true. The man must do his share toward collecting the debt. But the world owes more, morally. It owes to the unfortunate its help in providing against the day when they are helpless. To discharge this debt without encouraging improvidence is not an easy task; but it is one which can be performed when the wish to perform it is earnest.

It is to be regretted that Cuba is now menaced by a party that teaches the rising citizen to regard the United States government as a common enemy.

## Rosebery to the Rescue.

IMPERFECT reports by cable of the recent speech of Lord Rosebery, in which he indicated his abandonment of the "lonely furrow" and gave broad intimation of his willingness to re-enter public life, led to the impression that while the speech was a brilliant effort rhetorically, it contained no definite suggestions for improving the present conduct of the British government.

This proves, upon examination of the entire text, to have been erroneous. He has a definite plan for ending the South African war. He would arrange a meeting between some representative of the belligerent Boers and a representative of His Majesty's government, at some neutral place, a meeting previously informed in character, and he would have the representative of the British government ascertain from the representative of the Boers upon what terms, if any, compatible with the dignity of the British empire, a surrender could be accomplished. It is his opinion that a frank and manly conference along these lines would evolve some basis of settlement which would put an early end to the long-drawn out agony in South Africa in a way to make possible the future upbuilding of the country to happy conditions under English sovereignty.

In offering this suggestion Lord Rosebery frankly avows his belief in the necessity of retaining his country's hold upon the control of South Africa. Anything less, in his opinion, would be fatal not only to the prestige of Great Britain but also equally harmful to the ultimate best interests of South Africa. Lord Rosebery, in other words, is not a "Little Englander," anxious to see the scope of his country's influence curtailed. He is an imperialist, without fear or apology. Responsibility does not appall him. On the contrary, he favors more of it as a good means of furnishing incentive to national vigor. If he were an American it is entirely safe to assume that he would be the last to go around bemoaning that new territorial responsibility has come to the United States. But he draws a line between standing firmly for a national position and sheer mulishness. It is not difficult to read in his words the thought that he regards many of the acts of the Chamberlain ministry as exhibiting mulishness rather than an intelligent adaptation of means to ends.

That a large number of loyal En-

glishmen agree heartily with the Earl of Rosebery has already been shown in the enthusiasm with which his speech has been received. Correspondence from London leaves little doubt that a new epoch in British politics is opening. The English people, though doggedly loyal, are tiring of the fruitless efforts of the Chamberlain crowd to "civilize" South Africa by wholesale devastation. They want an early and an honorable peace. Many of them believe this can be obtained more quickly by conciliation than by slaughter. They may be mistaken but the number who hold this view is increasing, and it means at an early day a change of ministries, with intelligent Liberalism restored. The cry is growing and will grow: "Rosebery to the rescue."

The story to the effect that Pawnee Bill's show Indians have been sent under the warpath by a taste of Buffalo meat, reads very much like an effort of the advance agent. In any case, Major Lillie is entitled to credit for an attractive advertisement, calculated to arouse interest in next summer's Wild West tour.

## LITERARY NOTES.

To write a successful travel story requires a peculiar literary gift. It must be bright, breezy, and entertaining throughout; the description of scenes and places must be always subservient to the character. The moving background to the action also must never distract from the actors. In this Julius Chambers, in his new story, "The Daring of Dicks," (Continental Publishing Company, New York) has been most successful. The feeling of the reader is that he is holding good friends to his friends he has accompanied on a long, delightful trip through many lands. The story opens on the deck of an ocean steamer, where Mr. North, a New York millionaire, meets Mrs. Westworth, to whom he had been devoted many years before, when she was a belle in New York society. She later told him that the title of Sir John Westworth and married him. His death left her with but little means and her beautiful daughter, Dicks, whom she is taking on a trip through Europe. Mr. North gladly joins the family party, which is increased at Gibraltar by the arrival of Vernon Blake, the son of a wealthy New York shipping merchant, who is in love with Dicks. In their rambles through Spain, Morocco, Italy, Egypt and Palestine, the charm and beauty of life in the older civilizations, and in a charmingly simple way the reader is carried with the little party into the highways and byways of the continent. Nearly two hundred beautiful pictures make the text and combine to make this book one of the most exquisitely illustrated novels ever presented to the public.

A large number of men and women, partly from the necessity of outdoor life, but largely under the fascination that grows on one who brought into close touch with nature, have become actual tilers of the green grasses as a source of health and pleasure, but rarely with a view to making money. The field is still open, and the demand for first-class productions exceeds the supply. "Gardening for Profit" in the January Delineator covers this phase of industry very fully, going into the subject of flower culture and the raising of vegetables in concrete detail, while its side is dipping, packing and the developing of patronage.

When Frank A. Vandenberg resigned as assistant secretary of the treasury he received a letter from all the ministers of finance in Europe and spent many months investigating the financial and commercial situation, with particular reference to the financial condition of the United States. This was never a more important subject for this country, and Mr. Vandenberg, through his training as a journalist and as an officer of our government, is exactly fitted to write upon it with judgment, and to make it entertaining. The first of his articles on the "American Invasion" of Europe will appear in the January Scribner's.

The Outlook is a weekly newspaper and monthly magazine in one and under one subscription price. Its Magazine number for January has eight illustrated articles, two stories (one by Sarah True Jewett) a carefully written history of the week's doings and many book reviews. There are full-page portraits of new political figures of prominence, articles of anecdotal biography, a most interesting installment of Edward Everett Hale's "Memories of a Hundred Years," and much else of permanent value.

One of the best things ever written by the late Arthur Brisbane appeared in The Smart Set for January. It is a comedy entitled "Prime Rockers," and it deals with the life of a young American prince for a beautiful American girl, his desperate adventures in pursuit of her, his mysterious disappearance, and the crime of his capture. The story has all the elements that go to make popular fiction.

The January National Magazine of Boston will contain the first of a series of articles by Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio, on the career of his friend, the late President William McKinley. No other man was so warmly devoted to McKinley as so closely in touch with him. These articles will embody the senator's estimate of his friend's character and life, and give many interesting incidents of his career.

Abner's for January shows a new departure in the cover, which is headed "Londoner painting." The leading article in the magazine is entitled "Denome, the Politician Militant," and is a splendid first-hand character study of the New York district attorney, who by his original

campaigning methods achieved a national reputation in two weeks.

With a view to developing the talent of young dramatists in a humorous direction, The Century Magazine announces a contest, with a prize of \$100 for the best original humorous drawing appropriate to that magazine, and smaller prizes for the second and third best. The competition is to remain open until the first of March, 1902.

Current history for December offers a world-wide survey of events during October. The department on international affairs occupies nearly twenty pages, in which are treated the situation in China, the floor war, and the European situation. A similar survey and clear treatment is given to affairs in America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Chamney C. Hatchcock's newest novel, "The Strength of the Weak" (New York: D. Appleton & Co.), is a tale of early colonial adventure out of exciting incident and dramatic situation. It belongs to a class of novels that one with warm blood picks up and never puts down until the last word has been read.

"Reciprocity with Canada" is advocated in the January Forum by a leading Canadian politician, Hon. John Charlton. He argues that the benefits which have followed from free trade between the states of the union would also follow its application to the Dominion of Canada.

"The Princess Cynthia," by Marguerite Bayant, published by the Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York, is a pleasant romance of love, chivalry, dueling and death told with much felicity of expression and delicacy of sentiment.

A transformation has been wrought in Harper's Weekly since George Harvey took hold of the editorial helm in earnest. It is now vibrant with energy, timeliness and contemporary human interest without loss of literary charm.

"Love's Itinerary," a romance by J. C. Smith, published by the Appleton's, is a right jolly story of eighteenth-century England, whimsically told, with plenty of wit, humor and movement. It makes delightful reading.

D. Appleton and company announce another edition of 5,000 of David Harum. This is the right time that the book has been in press, and makes 25,000 copies placed on the market.

The Appletons are publishing Frank R. Stockton's "Kate Bonnet," a truly Stocktonesque romance of piety, relieved away by inevitable introductions of the unexpected.

## ROOSEVELT AND LONG.

Walter Wellman in Chicago Record-Herald.

Secretary Long will retire, and has so told the president, as soon as a certain legal controversy is at an end and he can give up his office without feeling that he is quitting while under fire. But no one can say how long that controversy will last. President Roosevelt is doing his best to stop it, and between him and his secretary of the navy there is thorough agreement, not only as to the merits of the dispute but as to the methods which should be adopted in handling it. The president knows that Secretary Long has been subjected to all manner of unjust representation and malicious abuse in connection with the controversy, and he does not want Mr. Long to retire as long as those criticisms continue. Some people appear to forget that Theodore Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy for some time before the beginning of the Spanish war.

## SEND IT ALONG.

Editor of The Tribune—

Sir: With your leave, I take exception to the wording of your six line editorial column in today's Tribune concerning Jesse James and Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock Holmes could not possibly be resurrected because Conan Doyle's character is dead, and, furthermore, the announcement of the publication of a biography of Jesse James, written by his widow, plainly shows that you were misinformed.

It may be in the course of events that I will send you an outlined sketch of the autobiography of Sherlock Holmes, and if I do so use it or not at your discretion.

Very truly yours,

Carl Seiler, M. D.

## FARMING UNDER THE STARRY BANNER.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"How can you put straight farmers over such an enormous crowd as this?" asked the Englishman, who had never been in Kansas before.

"That's easy," said the native. "We follow the variable of latitude and the meridians of longitude."

## EPIGRAMS.

From Walter Barr's "Shaddell."

When we undertake to communicate with the devil, his Majesty always assumes his ability to grab the whole thing.

I never figure much on what will bring success in general. I notice that the fellows who do the most of that are the least successful, and I simply take things as they come, and make the best I can out of them one at a time.

## THE CAMBRIAN HARP.

For The Tribune.

Oh Harp of Old Gaelic! Oh Harp of Old Gaelic! Oh let the deep chords of its melody be heard!

For sweeter the songs than the hymns of Italy,

When thy chords celestial their beauties awake,

Oh! let me the chords of its glory inspire!

Oh let me but breathe its sweetest strain!

Oh let me but feel the warm glow of its tones!

And drink from the depths of its mystical springs.

—George W. Bowen.

(Ap. Gaelic.)

## THE UNITED STATES.

For The Tribune.

There is no country on the face of God's green earth.

Where labor gets such recompense as here!

So near a just equivalent of its exertions,

The sober and industrious workman calls his town.

Within a few short years, some plot of ground;

And in a few more, there's a little home;

Where comfort, if not luxury, is found.

His sons and daughters to good schools may go.

Knowledge and culture both may be attained.

And if ambition with their tears does grow,

A trade or a profession can be gained.

One generation hard manual work may do;

The next are skilled artisans, who earn;

The third, professional men, successful;

The fourth are great as any in the state.

And often just one single span of life.

Will see a man a wonderful height attain.

Began "mid equal poverty and strife."

It ends with riches, honor and dominion.

Who are the great men in our land, today?

The sons of grandfathers who are no more!

Who toiled and toiled, and fought along life's way.

Who tried and failed, perhaps, but tried again.

The merchant prince, who owns the mammoth north.

Started as clerk in some small country town.

The man of storks and hawks, once drove a cart.

The millionaire was once a country clown.

The man who owns the factory and mine.

Brought in then over, for just a daily wage.

The president of the greatest railway line.

Was once the driver of a turnpike stage.

Who have been rulers of this prosperous land?

How many have been sons of working men?

How many of them labored with their hands.

And, starting low, arose to something higher.

Take the three married ones, and what are they?

One a poor farmer's boy, one from the low-path came.

Scranton, Dec. 26.

## FINLEY'S

Wishing You  
The Compliments  
Of the Season. . .

We thank our friends for their many courtesies and favors of the past year, and trust its close may find them as well satisfied with its results as we are. What we have been able to do for you in the past we will try to do better in the coming year.

## Cut Prices

on all Holiday  
Novelties, Silver and Ebony  
Goods at Half  
Price.

Silks and  
Dress Goods

at greatly reduced prices.  
All Fall and  
winter waists  
marked down  
low.

510-512 Lackawanna Ave.

## Always Busy

Perhaps you were late with  
your Christmas gifts. Come  
to us, we can help you save  
on your

## New Year Gifts

Common-sense Feet Gifts,  
from Slippers to Boots, 50c  
to \$5.00.

## Lewis &amp; Reilly

Always Busy Shoe Store.  
114-116 Wyoming Ave.

Headquarters  
for  
Incandescent  
Gas Mantles,  
Portable Lamps.

## THE NEW DISCOVERY

Kern Incandescent  
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Gunster & Forsyth  
325-327 Penn Avenue.

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

Cut Glass,  
Sterling Silverware  
Clocks, Etc.

Suitable for  
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Mercereau & Connell,  
132 Wyoming Avenue.

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THESE ENTERPRISING DEALERS CAN SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS  
OF EVERY CHARACTER PROMPTLY AND SATISFACTORILY.

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Storm and dock, store fronts, office and  
store furniture, in hard or soft wood, and job-  
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CLIPPING and GROOMED at

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Lackawanna Carriage Works.

## J. B. WOOLSEY &amp; CO

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Dealers in

PLATE GLASS AND LUMBER

OF ALL KINDS.

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Wire Screens of all kinds; fully prepared for  
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screens, etc.

PETER STIPP.

General Contractor, Builder and Dealer in  
Building Stone. Cementing of cellars a spe-  
cialty. Telephone 2202.  
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Home office, 208-209 Mears Building, transacts a  
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the state of Pennsylvania.

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BAKERY.

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Successor to

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We make a specialty of fine bread stuffs.

Orders for Salads, Oysters, Croquettes, etc.,  
promptly filled.

A full line of Ice Cream and Ices.

## HORN'S MEAT MARKET.

320 Washington Avenue.

Will Be Opened Saturday, Dec. 11.

The Best Market Affords Only.

W. A. HARVEY.

Electric Wiring and Fixture.

309 COMMONWEALTH BUILDING

THE SCRANTON VITRIFIED BRICK

AND TILE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Makers of Paving Brick, etc. M. H. Dale,  
General Sales Agent, 220 Washington ave.  
Kings at N. Y. Ave., Pa., 15 & W. V. R. R.