

The Scranton Tribune
Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Centre Street, Scranton, Pa.

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 those 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.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.
The following table shows the price per inch each insertion, space to be used within one year:

TEN PAGES.
SCRANTON, JANUARY 1, 1902.

During the year 1901 The Tribune issued 2,829 pages, consisting of 271,455 inches of reading matter, all of it edited and put into type in The Tribune office.

Table with 3 columns: Title, Inches, Pages. Rows include Tribune, Republican, Truth, Times.

If we omit "plate matter," which is not set up in Scranton but bought by the yard of dealers in the large cities, the comparison would be:

We are happy to announce that the year 1901, in spite of the business disturbances with which our community was beset, was the most prosperous year in The Tribune's history.

The New Year.

THE COMPLETION of one year and the beginning of another very naturally call for a short interval of reflection. In a material sense, the year just ended was one of marvelous development. It marked a new record in general business prosperity and in the adaptation of the forces of nature to man's convenience and comfort.

In other words, the new century has been inaugurated most auspiciously. Though to thoughtful minds it brings problems and perplexities ample to enlist the best energies of its people, there is every incentive to hopefulness and less than the usual warrant for pessimism. Man's relation to nature has been broadened by scientific discovery until few of the terrors that beset our grandparents remain.

It would be idle to deny that some of the progress is due to what common speech, for want of a more definite word, calls "luck." We have not so far advanced upon the wisdom of our fathers, more especially in that form of applied wisdom which we term common sense, as would explain on the basis of wisdom alone the superior circumstances in which the people of today find themselves.

whether the time shall be long or short will in some measure depend upon whether we shall, as a people, make use of the fat years to prepare for the lean. The principles of enduring success are old-fashioned. Honesty, integrity and caution cannot be improved upon as guides to progress, and the progress achieved by following them is substantial. They are the surest safeguards of a happy new year.

A good resolution that is in danger of being broken is better than none at all.

Likely to Be Instructive.

THERE ARE soon to come to this city for trial in the Federal court six residents of New York, part owners of a game preserve in Pike county, who, it is alleged, have repeatedly violated Pennsylvania's game laws.

We refer to this matter at this time with no desire to prejudice the trial of this particular case, but to commend the bringing of it into court. The defendants in this action may be innocent. For their sakes we trust that the evidence to be presented may so show. But it is notorious that violations of our game laws are many and annoying, notwithstanding the increasing vigilance with which they are being watched; and especially vicious are those cases of violation in which residents of other states come into our commonwealth for purposes of amusement and despoil it, contrary to law, of game and fish, natural resources that yield only too readily to attack, and when game are with difficulty replaced.

Germany again rises to explain that she prefers cash to real estate in settlement of Venezuelan claims. There is no need to worry over Germany's intentions.

Isthmian Canal Prospects.

IT IS EVIDENT that the transcontinental railroads are not yet going to give up, without a struggle, to the inevitable Isthmian canal. No one now openly opposed the canal but an equal purpose will be served if a dispute can be settled over the selection of a route.

When the latest canal commission compared the Nicaragua and Panama routes it declared its preference for the former. One of its reasons was that the Panama Canal company wanted \$109,000,000 for property that the commission appraised at \$36,000,000. Since then it has been stated that the Panama company will sell for \$40,000,000. This new price would make the cost of completing the Panama canal actually \$5,630,704 less than that of constructing the Nicaragua canal.

My committee has investigated the subject of an Isthmian canal for ten years past. At a time when it seemed probable that the committee would recommend action, having been satisfied concerning a course to be pursued, another committee not charged with any duty respecting the subject, brings in a river and harbor bill, with a paragraph attached providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate and report. This scheme was successfully carried out and has been twice repeated with variations. Every commission has reported in favor of the Nicaragua route and we have paid out a million and a half dollars for investigations that have not added one important or substantial fact to our knowledge regarding the canal question not known when this system of delay was inaugurated.

Mr. Hepburn gives frankly some of the details of the jockeying in this matter:

Last time there were some funny proceedings in connection with the matter. The canal bill, you may remember, was attached to the river and harbor bill in the senate and sent back to the house. There was confusion among the opponents of the canal and a hasty conference was held between Speaker Reed and Chairman Burton, in which the speaker notified Mr. Burton that he must either kill the canal amendment or bring in a new bill. Mr. Burton asked me if I would consent to a disagreement upon all the Senate amendments and let them go to conference. I told him I would consider the proposition and proceeded to consult the senators. Two of them, who said they would be on the conference committee, assured me of their intention to support the canal bill. That should never consent to the canal amendment going off. One of them actually reproached me for my reluctance to accept their assurance, and I finally did so. I agreed to sending the bill to conference and the canal amendment went off in a bill, being replaced by the item providing for the appointment of the Isthmian canal commission, which has just made its report. Admiral Walker was chairman of the commission as well as of the Nicaragua commission, its predecessor in the investigating business. When the report was presented, I was on my feet demanding recognition in order that I might make a point of order against the substitute, to which it was susceptible. But the speaker recognized several other gentlemen before he reached me and then, when I made my point of order, blandly informed me that I was too late, that the report, although covering a multitude of subjects, must be treated as an entirety, and that by "putting" debate to be had upon other topics I had precluded myself from making the point against the commission item; and later Reed had the impudence to come around and with his serene smile tell me upon waiting until it was too late to intervene with the point of order.

Nor does Mr. Hepburn take much stock in the reported ability of the Panama promoters to make good their proffered transfer of interest in consideration of \$40,000,000. He says:

I saw a dispatch saying the secretary of the company was en route to the United States to make that offer, but I don't know who sent it. If genuine I don't know the extent of the authority of 250 gentlemen at the recent meeting of the company to represent the \$20,000,000 stockholders, and then, what should we buy? The concession of the French company contains an unlimited prohibition against its transfer, providing for its cancellation and the forfeiture of all property of the company in case an attempt should be made to sell it to any other party; not a sale effected, but an attempt to sell. To be sure, it is said that the government of Colombia would ratify a transfer to the United States. That is probably true, in the present conditions, but it is only a probability. You can be sure that the minister authorized to sign a protocol to that effect in Washington will be in position to put his name to a treaty to carry

the protocol into effect? Who knows who will be in power down there when we want to ratify the treaty? I consider the whole discussion a feature of the policy of delay that has been in force all these years.

Members of the Scranton Engineers' club, before whom Professor Haupt, of the canal commission, lectured three years ago, will remember what he said about the improbability of an early realization of an Isthmian canal. He intimated very plainly that nothing short of vigorous determination on the part of an aroused public opinion would suffice to enforce results at Washington. This will surely come if there is much more jockeying on the part of the congressional powers that be.

According to accounts, election frauds come in neck-and-neck with the ballot box in Cuba.

A Problem That Will Not Down.

IN A SPEECH made before the Church club in New York city on Monday night, as reported in the New York Tribune, Rev. Dr. William Rainsford, one of the most popular and influential of Manhattan island's Christian pastors, uttered some sentiments which at one period in the world's history would have earned martyrdom for him and which, even in this liberal age, would, in many communities, end his acceptability as a minister of religion.

His theme was the community's attitude toward the saloon. He was considering by what means church people, and more especially, we suppose, Protestant church people, in a city like New York, with its many social problems and contrasts, could arrive at a more sympathetic and useful basis of understanding with the hundreds of thousands who, for purposes of distinction, may be called the saloon people. The men he was addressing belong to a class who seldom, or never go into saloons, and he said to them, among other unorthodox things:

"The first thing you would learn if you went there is that the saloon is a most extraordinary institution, and it has come to stay. Any man who speaks of wiping it out I have no time to argue with. He does not face facts. It is not simply an evil place. It is a positive need in a city of no-home people. The man without a home goes to the saloon because he can get more for five cents there than anywhere else. It is an institution that profoundly affects hundreds of thousands of people in the city of New York. The saloon has gradually taken a hold on the people and you can't suddenly uproot it."

"There is a common cry today that those who would open the saloon on Sunday attack the Christian Sabbath. I don't know any statement that seems to me so absolutely foundationless as that. You can't find a workman who wouldn't laugh at that statement. We would be fortunate if we could get the rich people of New York to keep the Sabbath as well as the workman does. What he wants is to be left to go his own way. You need not have any fear that the American Sunday is going down. The more our factories operate and the more our cotton gins roar every year, the more the working people respect the Sabbath. As a question in rest it is settled. The question of liberalizing the laws is not one to be easily dealt with, but if I had power by raising my finger to produce changes in this city, one of the first changes I would make—and I would do everything I could to encourage it—is to institute a series of games on Sunday afternoons. You drive people to drink because Sunday is such a slow day. You can't do anything better for your bodies and narrow chests than to get out on a Sunday afternoon and exercise. I would have a great playground, and I, as a Christian minister, would use my time and money to take the people there. The question is whether liquor is going to be sold unlawfully all the time and lawfully part of the time, or lawfully all the time."

Dr. Rainsford said much more to a similar effect, and Bishop Potter, who also spoke, agreed with him. Just where this kind of argument will lead cannot clearly be foreseen. At present, it seems assured that hope of securing local option for New York must be abandoned. It has also been announced that the new commissioner of police for New York, Colonel Partridge, favors a liberal interpretation of the liquor laws, "or," in the language of the Sun, "that saloons known to be trustworthy as to character and manner of conducting business shall be enabled to sell on Sunday under the present law. Putting it bluntly, on Sunday the liquor law is to be officially labelled 'blue,' and openly relegated to the lumber room for statutes that are practically disregarded." That such a programme will invite sharp criticism is inevitable; but the character and numbers of those who are pledged to its support as presenting the only alternative to a return of Tammany rule, prevent its being dismissed lightly from consideration.

The Wilkes-Barre Times celebrates the new year by reducing its price to one cent. The Times is an excellent representative of inland journalistic enterprise, and will no doubt achieve even greater results under the new rates.

An original doctor called a "somatopathist" with no other qualification save his title, has landed in jail. Like the gentleman who deals in gold bricks, the fake doctor occasionally makes a mistake in the selection of a "concom."

PROGRESS ABROAD.

Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The senate's sweeping ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote Isthmian canal treaty will give a great impetus to our efforts to establish permanent lines of foreign trade, even before a spade is put into the ground, or the construction contract let. The essence of business is confidence, not only in the present, but far more in the future.

occupation and General Leonard Wood's able administration. American steamship machinery is to be bought by the Austrian government and distributed free to the Austrian sea factories, as the only way of partially meeting American competition in the blue waters of the world.

The reasons given by the Burma Railway company for the purchase of twenty American locomotives were, delivery in three months instead of twelve, and 20 per cent. less cost. That's the way we do it.

Philippine business is practically part of our foreign business. On Dec. 12 Secretary of War Root reported to congress that 70 per cent. of the imports of the islands are credited to Hong Kong, being reshipped and invoiced from there, but should properly be credited as follows: United States, 25 per cent.; Great Britain, 25 per cent.; Chinese empire, 25 per cent.

American manufacturers have secured a \$700,000 contract for electric street railway apparatus, to be used in the city of Tokyo, Japan.

What would the opponents of our proposed ship subsidy bill, so necessary for the extension of our foreign trade, say if the government subsidized factories as well as shipping, as is the case in Hungary?

If the \$24,000,000 of goods shipped to Hawaii, and the \$6,500,000 shipped to Porto Rico in the ten months ending October, nearly one-third of which was manufactured, were included, as in former years, in our foreign trade, our shortage of \$44,000,000 would be only \$13,500,000.

If the price of wire had not fallen, our increased exports of 11,000,000 pounds would have further reduced the \$13,500,000.

The price of mineral oils had not gone down, the excess shipment of 70,000,000 gallons would have still further reduced the \$13,500,000.

Locomotives, and three-fourths of the long list of iron and steel manufactures, are reduced in price from 10 per cent. to 34 per cent. Were it otherwise, the \$13,500,000 shortage would have disappeared, and a large balance exist, the other way.

American locomotives, to the number of thirty, are to be used on the London and North-western railway of England.

More American agricultural machinery and implements sold in Russia this year than ever before—mainly harvesters, binders, mowers, reapers and horse rakes. Other farm appliances are not so well known.

We shall sell 120,000 tons of steel rails to change the gauge of the Mexican National railroad to standard.

Consul Boyle, of Liverpool, says: "Now is the time for American manufacturers to get a strong foothold in this country. Labor-saving machinery is not used here to nearly as great extent as in the United States, or even Germany. The introduction of our goods into England has enormously increased during the past year."

The London Daily News admits that Mr. Gladstone's prophecy that the United States would replace Great Britain as the premier commercial nation, has, on the whole, been realized.

Very truly yours, Walter A. Ballard, Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 31.

GENERAL GRANT'S RETREAT.

Speaking of nightsticks, reminds me of seeing General Grant in his, to my mind, greatest hour, the only time he was ever beaten, and by a policeman. I told his son, Fred Grant, of it when he became a police commissioner in the nineties, but I do not think he appreciated it. The occasion I refer to was after the general's second term in the presidency. He was staying at the Fifth Avenue hotel, when one morning the Masonic temple was burned. The fire line was drawn halfway down the block toward Fifth avenue, but the police were much hampered by the crowd, and were out of patience when I, standing by, saw a man in a great ulster with head buried deep in the collar, a cigar sticking straight out, coming down the street from the hotel. I recognized him at sight as General Grant. The policeman who blocked his way did not. He grabbed him by the collar, swung him about, and, hitting him a resounding whack across the back with his club, yelled out:

"What's the matter with you? Don't you see the fire line? Chase yourself out of here, and be quick about it."

The general said never a word. He did not stop to argue the matter. He hid his head against a sentinel, and when stopped went the other way. That was all. The man had a right to be there; he had none. I was never so much of an admirer of Grant as since that day. It was true greatness. A smaller man would have made a row, stood upon his dignity, and demanded the punishment of the policeman. As for him, there was probably never so badly frightened a policeman when he told him whom he had clubbed.

Will warrant he did not sleep a week, fearing all kinds of things. No need of it. Grant probably never gave him a thought.—Jacob Rills in The Outlook.

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New Year's Greeting

"God reigns, the Government at Washington still lives." and

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These are reasons why we should all be happy. We are happy because we live in one of the most prosperous cities, in one of the greatest counties of the largest state and the greatest country that man is privileged to live in. We are happy because our people are more prosperous than in years past. Among the cities, towns, etc., that we wish to remember in a particular way are the following:

- Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Bennett, Forty Fort, Wyoming, Parson, Mine's Mills, Mill Creek, Lattin, Yatesville, Pittston, Boreas, Lackawanna, Taylor, Avoca, Moosic, Hazleton, Honesdale, Starlight, Water Gap, Delaware, Mauch Chunk, Preston Park, Lake Como, Pocono, Belmont, Pleasant Mount, Ligonville, Forest City, Carbondale, White Bridge, Winsted, Foster, Nicholson, Factoryville, Scranton, Dalton, Glenburn, Stroudsburg, Conklin, Great Bend, New Milford, Georgetown, Hawley, Honesdale, Waymart, Elmhurst, Moscow, Gouldsboro, Tobyhanna, Mount Pocono, Pocono Summit, Cresco, Henryville, Springville, Portland, Stroudsburg, Clark's Summit, Chilesville, Mayfield, Say Aug, Dunmore, Wimmers, Maplewood, Lake Ariel, Jersey, Archbald, Winton, Peckville, Olyphant, Dickson City, Tirosp, Scranton, Engleclinton, Conklin Center.

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