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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 JANUARY 2, 1902.

It is evident that the present police force can do good work if it tries. We violate no confidence in saying that it will henceforth try.

Look Cheerful.

N SOME eyes figures are dull reading, but not the figures of local bank clearings in yesterday's issue. When, after a perlod of strikes and industrial discord, made worse by the removal of a large industry, Scranton can show a gain of twenty per cent. in bank clearings and an increase of more than half a million in savings deposits, it is very far from being dull reading; it is the most interesting reading that can be recommended for that class of citizens, to be found in every community, who make a practice of looking on the dark side of things.

Many other figures among those included in our comprehensive review of the dead year's local business achievements are worth reading a scond time; but the figures of bank clearings and savings really include the others. Stated in another way, they mean that during the year 1901 there was an average increase for each head of a Scranton family of nearly \$30 in deposited cash savings; and an average increase in credit trading of nearly \$600. That is certainly a showing to encourage new enterprise and help to redeem our city from the ill-favor into which it has fallen among investment seekers at a distance, who have been scared into distrust of Scranton by the numerous uncalled-for strikes, boycotts and small acts of turbulence that we have had.

The new year begins with every prospect encouraging. There is reason to believe that the strike and boycott epidemic has nearly, if not wholly run its course. Steps have been taken by leading citizens to curb in future these outcroppings of misdirected enthusasm on the part of organized labor or its injudicious sympathizers. An opportunity is before the community to secure what it has long needed, and what is highly essential to its best future development, namely, a firstclass rapid transit system. The general outlook for trade is in every direction as bright as it was a year ago: and there is less reason to expect an interruption of work in the mines the coming spring than appeared then.

For some time our business men have felt cautious and fearful. They undoubtedly had provocation for some of this feeling. But, in the light of experience and in the plain view of the favorable conditions just ahead, it seems to us that they would now be justified in laying aside the trappings of gloom and in putting on the garments of hopefulness once more. It will be the fault of nobody more than themselves if the year 1902 shall not be the banner year in the history of Scranton's industrial and commercial development.

The Republican situation in New York resembles armed harmony.

International Arbitration.

NIMATED discussion has taken place at the Pan-American congress in the city of Mexico over the question of arbitra-Some of our South American friends have become so enthuslastic upon this subject that they are not satisfied with signing a treaty providing for arbitration in cases where both parties desire it, but want an agreement drawn up which will make arbltration compulsory in all cases. It has begn their exuberance over this matter which has seriously imperilled the success of the congress and inspired the recent reports that the assemblage would break up in a row.

Fortunately, wiser counsel has prevailed. A compromise has been established by which those countries that desire to enter may do so and those countries, among which is the United States, that do not care to go so far may agree to join in establishing and maintaining a permanent arbitration tribunal for the western hemisphere, similar to the one established for the world at large as an outcome of The Hague peace conference-in other words, a court whose good offices are at the disposal of all who may want

but having no compulsory power. may possibly be asked why the United States did not cast its vote and influence in favor of compulsory arbitration, but this question hardly requires an answer. In the first place, there is absolutely no means by which compulsion could be brought to bear upon an independent state to make it accept and abide the adjudication of such a tribunal except by process of war, which would defeat the very object of arbitration. If to get arbitration it is necessary to have war, the cheaper and quicker plan, obviously, would be to have the war in the first

AFR. O. JAK

with Latin-American races: that it vould lead to endless confusion. It is characteristic of these people that they should want the millennium introduced all at once. The wiser way is to approach it one step at a time.

This year ought to be a great one for Scranton merchants who handle good goods and use judgment in advertising them.

Concerning Laber Unions.

ABOR difficulties of long standing in certain large shops in Springfield having recently come before the Illinois state board of arbitration for official notice, that body has just handed down an opinion of general interest. After reviewing the evidence in the ase, which is not material to the part that is of general interest, the board proceeds: "This is distinctly an age of co-operation, of the achievement of results by concerted and harmonious action for the common good of all, we witness today combinations of capital of a magnitude scarcely dreamed a quarter of a century ago. There have been in connection with some of these combinations results that have created a widespread alarm; yet in the sober second thought of the nation, it is conceived that these combinations are a necessary part of commercial progress; that the evils that have arisen from them are of a purely incidental nature and ultimately will be minimized or completely eradicated by proper legislation. "So, likewise, the tendency toward

co-operation, to organize for the common good and to attain a common end, has extended to the industrial masses to such an extent that the labor union is now found in almost all trades and occupations. That men in these organizations, suddenly clothed with large power, have sometimes exercised it unwisely, and that the men composing the rank and file of the organization have sometimes acted upon bad counsel, is undeniable. Yet this is far from proof that such organizations are intrinsically bad. On the other hand, growing experience has shown them to e a powerful agency for good. We fail to perceive any reason for denying the workingmen the same right to combine for their mutual benefit and protection as is exercised with greater freedom by their employers. The labor union is based upon the recognition of the potency of organization. Men have learned in the great industrial struggle that man is but an atom. If he has a grievance standing alone he is powerless to redress it. But when he has the united co-operation of his fellows he is supported by a power that at least must command attention."

These are fair and truthful words and we cannot imagine how any fairminded man could possibly object to them. The possibilities which are within labor unions are great. But it is always timely to inquire if the trend of trade-unionism is in the right direction. Can those who are leading this movement justify its employement as a club to beat down the workingman who, in the orderly exercise of his constitutional rights, decides that he prefers not to join a labor union? Can they justify forcible interference with this non-union workingman when he occupies a place that unionists on strike have vacated? Is there any substantial justification for the attempt, which lies at the bottom of most of the tradeulonism of our day, to make the union an instrument for restricting the individual capability of its members by establishing arbitrary limits on production, so as to cripple the good worker's efficiency in the vain attempt to bolster up the incompetent worker?

Those who oppose what appear to them to be unjust and vicious features of labor unions, and who frankly give the reasons behind their belief, are not enemies but friends of organized labor. Undoubtedly labor unions can be so led as to do great good, not only to their immediate members, but also to the entire community. They can also be made the instruments of almost incalculable harm. There is nothing so sacred about a labor union as to make fair criticism a sacrilege, nor about the average labor agitator as to entitle him to do what he pleases, regardless of the consequences upon others. The cause of the American workingman is not to be helped by an attitude of blind sycophancy on the part of those who edit newspapers or hold public office. Nor is there any reason to believe that labor unions can be broken up from without if those within are satisfied that they are deriving substantial benefit therefrom. If the organized labor movement is under indietment'in this particular community it is because it has here developed unwarranted excesses and fairly earned the censure it has received. Until labor unions can show to employers very clearly that their effect is to make better rather than less efficient and less willing employes; in other words, until the union is a means of improving the individual member and making him a beter worker and a better citizen, there can be no general recognition of labor unions by employers except such as is forced, and that does not amount to

We believe a time will come when labor unions will merit general confidence and respect. Some of them already have reached this plane and others are approaching it. But captious strikes, boycotts and the arrogance that small men are accustomed to show when clothed with a little brief authority simply retard the general recognition which the more ambitious labor leaders seek and do unmeasured harm to all of labor's real interests. This is a fact which intelligent workingmen must sooner or later face-the sooner the better.

One Stubblefield, a Kentucky genius, claims to have found out how to harness the electrical energy of the earth so as to do away with wires in telephoning. Already, it is said, he has thrown his voice a quarter of a mile. That is nothing. Colonel Watterson beat that record long ago.

The Supreme court of North Dakota has decided that any contract between

continue business is illegal. The court king kicked him as he haelt at his feet. recognizes the right of one firm or corporation to nurchase and then make whatever disposition of the property of a competing firm or corporation that it may see fit; but the competitors must not get together in secret and set up schemes for bleeding the public. This strikes us as being sound judgment.

Certainly the most unique proposition yet advanced in the discussion of our obligations to Cuba is that of the beet sugar growing interests that the United States shall not reduce the duty on Cuban sugar and tobacco, but give a bounty to Cuban sugar and tobacco growers. When the American people consent to give a bounty to foreigners it will be some years hence,

American newspaper suspicious of me place a bit of this on your tongue? My Germany's good faith towards the taste has become vitlated by tasting all sorts of United States will become tiresome some day. Then what will the "yellows" print?

OPEN LETTER TO MR. CONNELL.

Sir: Recognizing your public letter in this orning's issue of the "Republican" and the

rport of its contents, I gladly welcome it with he advent of the new year. Your article is second my treating in detail though its merits lemand a volume of reference, and will very forcibly suggest itself to the attention of all citizens priding themselves in a conscientious interest in the welfare of their city. I fully realize your position and see its justification Histing enjoyed for many years a citizenship of this commonwealth, and more particularly of late the pleasure and distinction of being a resident of Scranton, of which you are an houored and public servant of the people, it natur-ally follows that any benefits to the city that will redound to the common good of its people I welcome with concern. Such good, if not coming directly through your influence I yet greet its consummation if but helped by the people's representative in congress, whom I take the liberty of addressing. Further, I have for many years in view of such, entertained of you the opinion of being actuated with the noblest motives looking to your city's progress and its good name. Your letter of this New Year's day fully corroborates my long established opinion of you and of which you are the deserved object of this letter. Yours,

Frederick Hasknoll. Scranton, January 1, 1902.

Outline Studies of Human Nature.

Colonel Parsons' Great Ride.

Colonel E. Bloss Parsons, of New York, was general revetted for distinguished service during the war, but characteristic mod-esty forbade the use of that title when he returned to civilian life. Not only did he perform the only authentic feat of decapitation during the Civil War, but he was the hero of a remarkable battle ride. A few days before the battle of Getty-burg was fought, General Meade had an important message to send to General Harding, one hundred miles distant. As the route was through a country swarming with rebels, the message was written on tissue paper, that might be swallowed in case the carrier was captured. The commander was in doubt re-garding a suitable messenger. He summoned General Davis to headquarters.
"General, who is the hardest rider as well as

the most trustworthy man in the service?" asked "Colonel Parsons, sir," was the prompt reply

"Send him to me at once," It was 6 o'clock on a Monday night when Gen eral Meade gave the young officer his instruc-tions. He was to ride with all haste to General Harding's headquarters and return at once with The messenger retired. Two hundred miles

were to be covered. The roads were heavy and they led through the enemy's country. Exactly at meen the following day, Colonel Parsons entered General Meade's tent. The bat-ter's face grew purple with rage and he ripped ut a string of cathe.
"Is this the way you obey orders?" he thu

"What are you hanging around cann for You ought to be with General Burding by this "I have just returned from General Harding

"You lie!" exclaimed the evasperated general Parsons' tuce paled, and he dog the nails into its hands to restrain himself. "General Meade," e said, in a voice that ill-concealed his angeyould knock you down for that insult,

Without the formality of a sainte, he turned on his heel and left the tent. Meade afterward made an ample apology.

Colonel Parsons Lilled two borses and wen mself without a particle of food. For eigh teen hours he was not out of the saidle. Ban

His Nerve Brought Popularity.

The maiden speech of Private John Allen, of Mississippi, in the house of tepresentatives proved a lucky one and took an instant and seure, hold of the auricular appendage of the originator of funny sayings that he has won escause, which he held to the end, says the Chicago Chronicle. The river and harbor bill was up. John wanted to offer an amendment making an appropriation for the Tombighee river. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Willis, of Ken-tucky, had prourised him time and had then forgotten it. John asked unanimous consent to adt, but someone objected, whereupon John, with cars in his voice and looking doleful as a hired mourner at a funeral, said, with melanchely

"Well, I should at least like to have permision to print some remarks in the Record and sert 'Laughter and applause' in appropriate

That was his astonishing exordium. The palpable hit at one of the most common abuses of the house, "the leave to print," tickled the members greatly and he secured the ununimous consent which he desired. He closed that speed with an amazing exhibition of gall, which added to his fame more than the speech itself. He cound up by saying:

Now, Mr. Speaker, having fully answered all arguments of my opponents, I will retire to he cleakroom a few moments to receive the con se wild with delight,

He did retire to the cloakroom and did re-give the congratulations of admiring friends, a performance which has been going on a frequent

A Mark Twain Story.

Mark Twain tells thus the story of his firs great London banquet, at which, by the way here were 800 or 900, guests. He admits that not having been used to that kind of a dinure, that the one for which he was being tried, when he felt somewhat lone-some. "The lord mayor, or somebody, read out a list of the chief guests kindest feelings, arose and remarked; before we began to eat. When he came to prominent names the other guests would appear to the chief guests would appear to the chief guests would appear to the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the chief of the state, that the design of the chief of the state, the chief of th

Just as we got to an interesting subject there was a tremendous clapping of hands. I had hardly ever heard such applained before, I straightened up and set to clapping with the rest, and I noticed a good many people round bout me fixing their attention on me, and some of them laughing in a triendly and encouraging way. I moved about in my chair and chapped

Who is it? I asked the gentleman on m, 'Samuel Clemens, better known in England as

Mark Twalin, he replied.

"I stopped clapsing. The life seemed to go out of me. I never was in arch a fix in all my days."—M. A. P.

A King's Apology.

King James It one day last some important papers. He hunted for them until at last he got into a great rage because he couldn't find them. Then he met an old Scotch servant, who had been a long time in his service, and charged him with the loss. Gib (that was his name) said that he knew nothing of these. But the kingrow very augry and sald: "Gib, remember, mstance. There is also this especial competing business interests whereby you done with them?" Gib fell on his knees and abjection to compulsory arbitration either agrees to restrict output or dis-

cose and left the apartment, saying: "I have al-ways been faithful to your majesty and I have not deserved such treatment. I cannot remain in your service. I shall never see you again!"

Not long after, the person to whom the king had actually given the papers returned them. The king was ashamed of his conduct and sent someone after the old servant. Very reluctantly, Gib came again into the reyal presence, when the king got down on his knees before him and said that he would not rise until he forgave him. The servant tried to evade the matter and begged his master to rise, but he would not till assured that the insult was fully forgiven.

It is a maxim in a monarchy that "the king can do no wrong." It is pleasant to find one who, having done a wrong, was humble enough to confess it and beg pardon, even of a servant. -The American Boy,

In the Interest of Science. .

A well-known Australian visited his friend, Prof. Rice, at the latter's laboratory. The pro-fessor was examining a dark brown substance

things."
"Certainly," responded the over-accomodating visitor, holding out his torque.

The professor took up a little of the substance under analysis and placed it on the other's torque. The latter worked it around for fully a minute, tasting it much as he would a fine

infection. "Note any effect?" inquired the professor.

No. none. "It doesn't paralyze or prick your tongue?"
"Not that I can detect."

"I thought not. There are no alkaloids in it, ien. How does it taste?"

"Bitter as the dickens." "Hem-m-all right."
"What is it?" inquired the visitor.

"I don't know. That's what I'm trying to find out. Some one has been poisoning horses with

How a Senator Was Victimized.

Senator Deboe, of Kentucky, was standing in the lobby of his hotel the other day when Nat Cureton, of Louisville, came hustling past, value in hand, relates a Washington correspondent of the Chicago News. Cureton is a constituent of the senator's, so the latter felt compelled to show some interest. He asked where Cureton was

"Home," came the laconic reply. Then a sail den idea seemed to strike the traveler, and he

turned to the senator, saying:
"It's a shame to go home without taking some
little present to your namesake, senator." "Why, have you got a child named after me?" isked the senator, his face beaming. "Sure thing. His name is William," came the

inswer.
"Well, here, you don't go home without some thing for that boy," said Deboe, as he dug down in his pocket and brought out a shiny \$5 gold piece and gave it to Cureton. "I forgot to tell him," said Cureton, as he watched the barkeeper making the gold-piece into cold drinks, "that William Cureton was born about ten years before Deboe ever suspected

A Justifiable Homicide.

that a public career was before him.

"Prisoner," said the judge austerely, "you are charged with murder, which in this region is a Are you guilty or were you brought up in

"If it please your honor," replied the prisoner, "I will relate the circumstances, and as to my guilt will be guided to a decision by your opinion. The gentleman who is no more, a resident of New York city, came to me at my home and said: 'The overthrow of Tammany is a striking proof of the wisdom and virtue of the masses, nemorable demonstration of the value of the miversal suffrage in municipal affairs, a sharp rbuke to Mr. Hewitt.'

"I admit, your littler, that I killed the man be moment he had done speaking." "Where is your home?" the findge asked, not "where is your name," the name asked, not may mantifically, "where did this occur," "An untoward fate," replied the prisoner, complete me to live in Philadelphia." "Let the prisoner go," said the judge, and the resecuting afterney left the court without a ain upon his reputation. - Ambrose Bierce i

Joke on a New York Author.

an Francisco Examiner.

A New York man who has written a book we telling about it the other day to a friend who had once done bim a service. "By the way," said the author. "I would be delighted to give you a copy of my work if you

"I should be more than pleased to have it," was the reply: "especially it you will write you e corner. If you will accompany me, we will

py in my office Just now," After they had stopped to plance at some one new things in the book store the author miled a clerk, and, pushing his chest out yer ar, asked for the novel that he had written. "Yes, sir," the clerk said, "We have fround here somewhere, I believe, but you are, he first one who has ever asked for a copy, and may take me some time to find it. Wouldn't something else do just as well? We have a great many better books at the same price,"—Wash ngton Star.

No Friend of His. The Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks, rector of Eur

manuel church, is noted for his skill in repartee. He is also a good story teller, but it is as at pecial distinction.

Not long before he sailed for Europe he was

guest at a public dinner. On his left sat a young man who had contracted the babit of profanity, and the habit was so strong that it had got be yord his centrol. The young man had ticular weakness for the expression, "C devil!" He used it thoughtlessly and without in a sort of punctuation for every sentence he ut

necessary to give him a hint, and said to him: "You'd better be a little careful of your exressions. You're sitting next to the Boy. Dr Leighton Parks." "The devil" said the young man in surprise

And then, recovering his presence of mind, lactured to the elergyman and made a very politic apology.

"Oh, you needn't apologize to me." said the doctor. "The devil is no friend or more." Hose ton Herald.

His Client Not Insane. There is no more distinguished advocate at

the Virginia bur than Senator John W. Daniel, tays the Chicago Chronicle. His eloquetice is known the country over, and he is as famous for his wit as for his great legal attainments. Shortly after the war, he was prosecuting a mountaineer in one of the western counties for forgery. The court rules at the time were very lax, and it was common for lawyers to comment openly in court concerning the cases of their col-leagues. On this especial occasion, Mr. Daniel had just asked the prisoner a very pointed question concerning another shady transaction, other

laud. 'I found the man next me rather a good talker, to a check, b ut-"

t there Turning quickly around, Senator Daniel gave I had the lawyer a searching look, and then, turning I to the judge, remarked: "If the court please, I would like to say that I am not trying to prove the prisoner insane.

His French Not Appreciated. John Drew, the actor, speaks French with an excellent accent, of which he is pardonably

proud, and hence he was tunnensely pleased when Mme. Bernhardt said to him recently: "You must really come to Paris and appear in a Parisian theater; yes in my theater and play Mr. Drew was naturally flattered to have his

French so greatly appreciated. He felt several inches taller as he unswered: Really, Mmc, Bernhardt, this is most gratify What sort of a part would you like to have "Oh," said Mmc. Bernhardt, with her sweetest smile, "naturally, the part of an Englishman."

"SHACKLETT'S" POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

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pletons, gives us the following aphor isms of practical politics: Bellef is the sinking-fund of politics.

The same trick won't work twice in the

own. The first maxim in politics is to take no chance that can be avoided. I really like the woman in politics when she

a a politician, for you can depend on her.

When the police have nabled the stakes, what's
he use of keeping on playing the game? If you must stop at any raving at all, you'd better not try to climb the mountain of politics, but stick to the flats.

When the other fellow has a bester hand, there's nothing to do but to put your cards in

the deck without his seeing them.

I am going to join the reform element here in the city to become the mayor and some other people that I don't like.

Oh, you'll find out quick enough if you'll remember to let the other fellows do must of the

talking while you look wise and bored and J Five never posed as a puritan in politics. You might as well try to make a prospector out of a tenderfoot as to expect to make a politicion

of a preacher. Whenever you're in doubt in politics or states monship, read up on the life of Lincoln. It's the Bible of the really successful politician who aspires above the legislature.

They might say he was a rescal, and a extere-all the baser elements, without hurring blamuch, but it thy had a pretty good case of itching palm against him, he was unished, Success in politics corresponds to right in other things, and it is hard to keep a clear head when unsuccessful in politics, as it is difficult to plan well with a guilty conscience in daily life.

Nothing makes a man work for you like flat-tering him by calling him out of bed in the mid-dle of the night on account of the importance of your message and rise extent of his influence.

The opposition was by no means as steple a thing as the hitangible force which it opposed; oppositions are always complex unless they consist of one man each, and then they are called

You can climb out on a limb for some distant all right, but if you crawl out too far, down you drop. You can get pretty far away from the ten commandments in politics, but when you get clear to the door of Hades you're mighty likely to get the stuffing knocked out of you in the most surprising way. You can't always tell what a man will do, for

there are all kinds of men in politics; but there are only two kinds of women; the ones that want to run politics as they do a church, but they don't amount to much in results; and the ones that take the bull by the horus and do in "Shacklett," Walter Barr's new and politics as the politicians do, and they go successful novel, published by the Ap-

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