

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 the 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.

Table with 4 columns: Rate, Day, Position, and Price. Includes rates for display, per line, and per column.

THE POSTAL SERVICE. The first batch of 1902 Scranton Gas and Water bills makes one feel like confining his efforts entirely to the temperance beverage in order to get his money's worth.

Our Postal Service. FOR MANY years the American people have cherished the opinion that their postal service was the best on earth. Is that a delusion? Evidently Editor Howard of Farm, Field and Fireside thinks so, for in a paper recently read before the National Agricultural Press league he pointed out a number of particulars in which it lags behind the postal standards of a number of other countries.

A citizen of the United States can not send a package of merchandise through the United States mails that weighs over four pounds, and the postage on such a package is sixty-four cents. A resident of England can send a four-pound package for twelve cents, and even an eleven-pound package can be sent to any postoffice in the United Kingdom for twenty-four cents; a resident of Germany can send an eleven-pound package to any postoffice in the German empire, or in Austria-Hungary, for twelve and a half cents, and in Switzerland an eleven-pound package can go to any postoffice in that republic for only eight cents.

The cost of an eleven-pound package sent by a resident of Germany to any postoffice in the United States will be sixty-three cents delivered. The cost of the same package mailed by a resident of the United States to any postoffice in Germany will be \$1.27 delivered. A little calculation will show, therefore, that the American exporter of an eleven-pound package of merchandise really pays over one hundred per cent, more for its transportation than his German competitor. It further appears that while an American manufacturer must pay \$1.22 express on an eleven-pound package to Mexico, an Englishman pays eighty-four cents and a German only fifty-eight cents postage.

The conclusion reached by Mr. Howard is that there is "not a nation in Europe but what has a more up-to-date mail service than our own," and he notes that the questions of parcels post, sub-stations in the great cities, pensions for old employees, etc., have all been settled long ago by the various European nations. But he forgets to allow for the immeasurably longer distances required to be traversed in the United States. Let this country become as densely populated as those he mentions, and we are willing to wager that our postal rates will fall far below theirs.

The safe plan when there's a small-pox scare on is to keep clean, cool and well vaccinated.

A Model Senator.

WILLIAM B. ALLISON, who is soon to be accorded the honor, which we think is unique in American history, certainly in recent history, of a sixth consecutive re-election to the senate of the United States, is a living reiteration of the notion that the successful man necessarily has to be blustering and noisy. For more than ten years Mr. Allison has wielded more actual influence upon public affairs, meaning by that term the affairs which are shaped at Washington, than any other man in our public life, and perhaps more than any other five men. During that period he has been the undisputed leader of the senate, which is the one part of the government machinery that has its way, and in that capacity has had his hand on every important act of legislation and been consulted with reference to every considerable diplomatic problem arising in the course of government. Yet there is no man in the public eye who is less assertive than he and none who moves forward to the accomplishment of practical results with less ruck or racket.

It has been said of him good-humoredly that he could walk from New York to Omaha on piano keys without making a sound; but it would be unfair to assume from this that he is a man of no firmness of conviction or courage of principle. The qualities of quiet tact and unobtrusive diplomacy which he displays are temperamental. It is his nature to be affable, conciliatory and adept in the practice of the polished arts of legitimate finesse. Some men drive the leads, and leads so cleverly that very often those who follow do so without being conscious of his leadership. Some come overboard and over-power; he remains on a plane with his fellow senators and dexterously rounds them up as he will.

In the thirty years of Mr. Allison's occupancy of the senatorial position he has had a part in most of the history-making of that period. It has been a

period punctuated by many scandals as well as by many splendid achievements of honest statesmanship. But through it all he has passed without a smirch or suspicion, retaining at once the confidence of his constituency and the respect of his colleagues, irrespective of party lines. Presidents have asked him to enter their cabinets; he has been urged and supported for the presidency, and practically without opposition his state has returned him as its representative in the senate—a series of circumstances going far to disprove the cynical assertion that republicans are ungrateful.

Congratulations, then, to this fine specimen of clean-handed Republicanism, and best wishes for the prolongation of his life and usefulness.

Fair Play for Marconi.

AT A DINNER given in his honor in New York Monday by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Senator Marconi told more about his system of wireless telegraphy. Many have wondered how, with electrical currents flying around in every direction, the privacy of wireless messages was to be maintained, if one were in business and wanted to communicate on confidential matters with an agent some miles away. It would certainly be provoking to have one's hated rival up the street haul out his receiver and capture the entire correspondence. And if one were in love and wished to hold more frequent correspondence with the adored party than is convenient under only two mail deliveries a day, it can easily be seen how embarrassment might arise if it were in the power of any jealous outsider to obtain duplicates of the tender missives.

But Marconi, the wizard, has provided against such a contingency. It has been found possible, he assures us, so to attune one transmitter to one receiver as to make it practically impossible for any one not acquainted with the qualities of those particular instruments to read the message. There is, also, the obvious possibility of using cipher codes, so as effectually to baffle snooping. Just how this attuning is done he does not explain. It presumably is one of the tricks of the trade. But the fact that it is done is enough for the present. A load of apprehension is lifted.

The Italian inventor expects within a year to have all these little points worked out on a practical and economical basis, so he says. Let us hope that he is not over- sanguine. The skeptical may recall that Nicola Tesla said much the same thing months ago, and many other things equally astonishing, causing the public to await anxiously the fulfillment of his dreams. But Tesla is different. All allowances have to be made for Tesla, Marconi has "made good" much that he has promised. There is no reason to suppose that he is at the end of his tether.

President Roosevelt has chosen wisely in his selection of representatives for the coronation of King Edward. The propriety of Mr. Reid's selection is obvious. He represented this government at the queen's jubilee, and for years has been a commanding figure in our public life, both in and out of journalism. The choice of General Wilson to represent the army is equally happy. Not only is he an accomplished soldier, but he has also had a career in civil life entitling him to more than ordinary recognition. Finally, in naming Captain Clark to represent the navy the president has at once avoided the controversial points of danger and conferred signal honor upon one of the efficient figures in the late war who had heretofore not received his due. From every standpoint the personnel of the special embassy is excellent.

Since 1880 the franking system in England has been abandoned. Members of parliament must pay postage on their mail, like the same our Britishers. An attempt has not long ago to revive the franking privilege was emphatically defeated. The United States ought to follow suit. Abolition of this much-abused privilege would go far toward making our postal service self-sustaining.

The recent collision on the Southern railway in which the fair prima donna received a severe jolt, has precipitated a harrowing flood of "before and after" pictures of Madame Nordica in the country press.

Preparations for the reception of Prince Henry indicate that German royalty will be given pleasing revelations as to the proper up-to-date methods of according the "freedom of the city" to a visitor.

It goes without saying that the agricultural statesman who introduced the bill against flitting in the legislature at Albany has passed the age when there is enjoyment in posing as one of the boys.

In these days of old country jealousies and invidiousities, it is pleasing to note from Pekin despatches that we still have the profound admiration and respect of the illustrious daughter of the Mins.

Manum's new leader says that the machine will be rebuilt on a foundation of honesty, and that "graft" must go. To carry this programme through will keep Brother Nixon busy.

Opponents have finally concluded that it will be unwise to take out graveyard policies in anticipation of Uncle Mark Hanna's political death.

It is now said that David B. Hill is to be the lord high executioner of the New York Democracy. He will make a good one.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE MANY-SIDED

From the Springfield Republican. POSTERITY is apt to remember Jefferson only as a statesman and politician, as the writer of the Declaration of Independence, the first President of the United States, and the first Secretary of State. But the man who was in this connection is not necessary to speak of him as a reformer of the democratic type in the pre-revolutionary days of Virginia, or as a parliamentarian whose original manual for parliament is still one of the highest authorities for deliberative assemblies, or as a successful diplomatist abroad in the service of his country. In public service in this republic he deserves to rank immediately after Washington and Lincoln among the presidents. But all that aside, Jefferson was in other respects, having done largely with his private life, the most extraordinary man who has ever flourished in our highest office of state. Jefferson was so pre-eminently that at 17 years of age he became an intimate associate of George Wythe, the first lawyer of Virginia. He was, in fact, the most extraordinary man who has ever flourished in our highest office of state. Jefferson was so pre-eminently that at 17 years of age he became an intimate associate of George Wythe, the first lawyer of Virginia. He was, in fact, the most extraordinary man who has ever flourished in our highest office of state.

OUTLINE STUDIES OF HUMAN NATURE

Senator Mason Taken for a Scalper. Senator William E. Mason declined to give his family a New Year's treat in the company of an afternoon at the matinee. He went to one of the leading theaters and asked the man in the window if he had any good seats.

Puzzled the Englishman. Mr. Thomas Lipton has a hotel, an Englishman by birth and an American by tenor of citizenship, who has been in this country long enough to absorb the American idea of humor.

Wife's Fame Overshadowed Him. Richard Harding Davis was recently in New York for the dog show, where Mrs. Davis, who has been introduced with a dog, had some time exhibited. Mr. Davis was in the smoking car on his trip down from Marlin, Mass., where he lives, which was accompanied by a beautiful stranger of somewhat "sporty" appearance.

The Trouble with Jack. "What's the matter, Jack?" asked one little member of a party, who was leaning against an elevated railroad pillar, the picture of distress. "Oh, go 'way. Do you want to see me?" said the other with a sly grin.

Economically Considered. "Some folks told the doctor some pretty good stories the other afternoon at the Massachusetts Medical society dinner about their own professions. One was about an old postmaster, who, because of advancing years, had relinquished all of his out-of-door practice to his young assistant. One night the other physician was called on by a woman in a hurry, one of whom wanted the doctor to come to his home, eight miles away, and attend his wife, who was very ill.

The Indian's Retort. Early in his career as a missionary to Indians Bishop Whipple had journeyed into the Indian country to preach a sermon to the assembled Chippewas in Chief Good Thunder's village.

FINLEY'S

January Sale of Fine Muslin Underwear. Fine Cambrie, Nainsook and Muslin Undergarments of superior workmanship and beautiful finish, some daintily trimmed in neat narrow embroideries, others more elaborate, in wide, rich laces—the kind that reflect the reputation of a store.

Corset Covers from 19c to \$6.00. Night Gowns from 75c to \$15.00. Chemises from 50c to \$4.50. Drawers from 25c to \$4.50. Long Skirts from 98c to \$15.00. Short Skirts from 35c to \$3.00. Children's Drawers. Special lot Children's Drawers, made from good quality fine muslin, nicely trimmed. Sizes from 2 years to 12 years. All at one price—19c each.

1902 Money Saving Sale. In now on. With every pair of our Feet and Health Saving Shoes you get a shoe shiner free. 200 pairs of Men's Double Soled, Vici Kid and Box Calf Shoes, worth \$2.00. Our 1902 Cash Price \$1.40. 200 pairs of Youths' Vici Kid patent tips, worth \$1.00. Our 1902 Cash Price 50c. 100 pairs of Youths' and Boys' Leggings, mixed lots, not all sizes in every lot, but the size you need in some of the lots, worth \$1.25. Our 1902 Cash Price 50c. 100 sizes of Men's Solid Tap Boots all sizes, worth \$1.50 to \$2.50. Our 1902 Cash Price \$1.00. 100 pairs of Men's Solid Tapped Soled Shoes, lace and Blucher, worth \$1.25. Our 1902 Cash Price 90c. 100 pairs Ladies' Vici Kid button and lace Shoes worth \$1.00 to \$1.25. Our 1902 Cash Price 75c. 200 pairs Misses and Children's Vici Kid School Shoes, worth 75c to \$1.00. Our 1902 Cash Price 50c. Mixed lot of Ladies' Dress and Fancy Slippers, toe a little bit narrow, worth \$1.00 to \$1.50. Our 1902 Cash Price 50c. You can see by the above list that very little cash is required to purchase good reliable and honest footwear.

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REMOVAL SALE

We have determined to reduce our stock prior to our removal to our new building at our former location, 129 Wyoming avenue. Special Clearance Prices on Entire Stock. Carpets, Draperies, WALL PAPER, Rugs, Linoleums, Shades, etc. GOODS STORED FREE OF CHARGE. Williams & McAnulty, Temporary Store, 126 Washington Avenue.

THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON. Organized 1872. Depository of the United States. Capital, \$200,000 Surplus, \$550,000. WILLIAM CONNELL, President. HENRY BELIN, JR., Vice President. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashier. DIRECTORS: James Archbald, Luther Keller, J. Benj. Dimmick, James L. Connell, W. D. Zehnder.

A Cut In Box Calf. The most serviceable leather for Winter Footwear you will find is Box Calf. You will get more real wearing value for the money than in any other leather. On account of mild weather and other conditions, we have reduced the prices on Ladies' Shoes as follows: Ladies' Box Calf Lace Shoes—Regular Price \$2.25, Special Price... \$1.75. Regular Price 2.50, Special Price... 2.00. Regular Price 3.00, Special Price... 2.50. Regular Price 3.50, Special Price... 3.00. N. B.—No old stock; every pair new and made on the most stylish lasts. LEWIS, RUDDY, DAVIES & MURPHY, 330 Lackawanna Avenue.