

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.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Rate per inch per week, Position, Length, etc.

For each of thanks, resolutions of condolence and similar contributions, in the nature of writing The Tribune, a charge of 5 cents a line.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 18, 1902.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

Controller-EVAN R. MORRIS.

Election February 18.

This is truly a world of changes. The Philadelphia North American sadly announces that "the gang," as it calls the Philadelphia Republican organization, has captured the Union party.

Concerning Card Inspection.

THE ACTION of the convention of United Mine Workers of District No. 1 in penalizing with suspension locals which enter upon a strike before it has been sanctioned by the district executive committee is a judicious and timely step, which ought to exert a quieting and beneficial influence upon industry in these parts. It is essential to the life of the miners' union that an end should be put to capricious local strikes, many of which are upon the flimsiest pretexts, many precipitated by mischievous boys, who think strikes are funny.

Our fear that the good effect of the action in discouragement of petty local strikes will be somewhat weakened by the decision to enforce more stringently the working card rule. The right of a labor organization to station men at the entrance of a place of employment and demand that all who shall seek to enter must produce a card setting forth that they are members of the union and in good standing has never been upheld by law and cannot be upheld until a radical change is made in the constitution of the United States.

There is need of less wildness and more careful thinking in the handling of this problem. And now it is the majestic Count von Waldsee who is to favor the United States with a visit. Let them all come. It will be mutually educational.

Back to First Principles.

IT DOES the heart good to read that society, after satiating itself with pink teas, bridge wafers and other forms of inane diversion, has at last gone back to first principles. Perhaps this generalization is too broad. If so, we shall qualify it by saying some society—some Philadelphia society.

The President's Position.

VARIOUS interpretations of the president's action in appointing William McCoin to succeed Penrose McClain as collector of internal revenue for the Philadelphia district are appearing in print. One version credits the president with having said that he refused to re-appoint Mr. McClain because the latter had bolted his party ticket in order to support the insurgent movement in Philadelphia. This is not true.

eral office must be capable and fit men. But that being assured, he declines to invite unnecessary quarrels with senators and representatives in congress, who have the choosing of candidates for executive appointment subject to this one condition of fitness. No other rule is possible without party disruption; and Theodore Roosevelt, however independent mentally, is a Republican and a believer in party organization.

The secretary of the Minnesota board of health, who says that every smallpox patient, after recovering, ought to be sentenced to jail for not having been vaccinated and thus rendered immune, may put it strongly. Yet there is much in what he says. No civilized community ought to fear smallpox.

The City's Power to Fix Prices.

ACCORDING to a decision by Judge Grosscup of the United States circuit court, the city of Chicago, in the absence of a specific contract to the contrary, has the right to regulate the price of gas within reasonable limits. The question of what constitutes reasonable limits is left to the state courts to determine. In Chicago a merger of competitive gas companies was lately formed and a rate named which, in the opinion of the city officials, was excessive.

In one sense this is a victory for those who claim large municipal rights of supervision over public utility corporations; but in another view it leaves the subject about where it was before. It has long been understood, for example, that a Scrantonian not satisfied with the charge made for either water or gas by the Scranton Gas and Water company could make an appeal to court, and upon production of evidence showing that the charge was excessive a reduction would follow. In the case supposed, however, the burden of proof would be upon the petitioner for relief; and if he succeeded in establishing his point it would exercise no force in the case of his next door neighbor, who would have to go through the same tedious and expensive process if desirous of relief.

The obvious difficulty with this mode of procedure is that it gives a decided advantage to the corporation. The corporation has its regular corps of lawyers and with comparatively little additional cost can pursue an action from court to court until it exhausts the financial strength of its single adversary. Where an excessive rate is proved the corporation does not have to repay past exactions nor is recovery possible; the only benefit of winning a long drawn out and costly suit against it is in reference to future charges. So that it might easily happen, and in our judgment very frequently does happen, that the individual citizen, although conscious of being excessively charged, feels that it is cheaper to pay the overcharge than to pit his feeble strength against the mighty strength of the exacting corporation in a legal battle into which he would enter heavily handicapped from the beginning.

That state of affairs is but slightly affected by Judge Grosscup's decision, assuming that his decision is valid and final. It still remains that the artificial person, as the corporation is called in law, has the advantage over the natural person, who was on earth first, and who, in the eye of humanity at least, is certainly as much entitled to consideration as the chartered child of legislative favor. There have been wild revolts against such inequalities; and they have usually, by their very wildness, played directly into the hands of the interests at which they have been aimed. This seems to have been particularly true of the five percent tax lately levied on the gross receipts of the local water company. Although there is one chance in a million that the city will ever collect a penny of this absurd levy, there is no doubt whatever of the company's ability to collect every penny of the \$2 additional charge put upon every property owner with that tax as its very convenient pretext.

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instruction. It should be welcomed back into vogue. If there could also be a few writing bees, to encourage the habit of writing thoughts on paper clearly, simply and concisely, great would be the benefit to mankind.

One of the erroneous impressions which have been generated in the course of the discussion over the question of reciprocity for Cuba is that those who favor concessions to enable the Cubans to set up their new republic with fair chance of making a success are hostile to the domestic beet sugar industry. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every intelligent American desires the prosperous development of this promising home industry. But it does not follow that this development will be impaired by reciprocal trade relations with Cuba. There is market enough in this country for all of Cuba's sugar and all of the beet product besides. And even then Uncle Sam's sweet tooth will ache for more.

An Illinois man has conceived the idea of publishing an organ designed entirely for lunatics under the name of the Lunatic Herald. He claims to be the logical editor of such a journal, as he has spent five different terms in various insane asylums. General Leeper, for that is the enterprising lunatic's name, probably believes himself the originator of the scheme which he proposes to exploit. He is mistaken, however. In that as in many other things Pennsylvania takes the lead. The idea of a lunatic journal for lunatics was devised two or three years ago in Philadelphia, under the name of the North American.

With Admiral Schley continually on deck and Prince Henry enroute, it will be well for Captain Hobson to enter upon that proposed engagement upon the lecture platform at once if he expects to catch a proper share of floating enthusiasm.

A Polish amateur dramatic society is among the latest organizations of the city. An amateur dramatic society that sticks to the Polish language is less to be dreaded by the public generally than the English-speaking enterprises.

The Chilean statesmen at the Pan-American conference in the City of Mexico have just reason to be proud. Few orators can boast of having their efforts followed by a real earthquake.

According to some of the enthusiastic friends of General Miles, it will now be in order for almost any army or naval officer who has a grievance to get even by becoming a presidential candidate.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 6:45 a. m., for Saturday, January 18, 1902. A child born on this day will undoubtedly have that characteristic feeling.

Ajacchus' Advice.

If a candidate, do not believe everything that everybody tells you; if you do you will be liable to get mixed.

ROCK ME TO SLEEP.

Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight, Make me a child again just for tonight!

NIGHTFALL.

For The Tribune. A shadow came behind the hill, And said to the noisy earth: "Be still."

Absentmindedness.

General Basil Duke, of Louisville, Ky., is very absent minded and walks along the street, as if he were blind.

Awakened Generosity.

A man from Dundee once visited the town of Wellington. An Irish friend invited upon the visitor staying at his home instead of at a hotel, and kept him there for a month, playing the host in detail, even treating him to the theater and other amusements, paying all the expenses and the rest.

WILLIAM B. ALLISON, THE LEADER OF THE SENATE



Senator William B. Allison's life is a story of public service. He has served in the Iowa legislature, in the United States House of Representatives, and in the United States Senate. He is a native of Iowa and has spent much of his life in that state.

Senator Allison's political life is one of the most remarkable in the history of Iowa. He has served in the Iowa legislature, in the United States House of Representatives, and in the United States Senate. He is a native of Iowa and has spent much of his life in that state.

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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

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