

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, and its 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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REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

Controlled by EVAN R. MORRIS. Election February 18.

In the controversy regarding events prior to the Spanish war, Lord Pauncefote has wisely decided not to take chances with the ubiquitous interviewer.

Not a Genuine Party.

WHATEVER may have been the merits of the case which prompted the decision of Judge Penny-packer against the so-called "Public Opinion" party at Philadelphia the other day, the ruling of court, which refuses to allow recognition upon the official ballot the candidates selected by any coterie of ambitious people who may have handed themselves into a so-called party for the time being, seems proper. The court wisely holds that the "Public Opinion" party which seems to have no definite object in view is not a party in the sense contemplated by the act of June 19, 1887, and that its candidates are not entitled to an official column under certificates of nomination, that is to say, certificates by a political convention or committee. When the "McKinley Citizens'" party was denied the right to nominate by certificate of nomination it was decided, in effect, that "a party is a combination of persons united in opposition to others in the community, having a policy, some system of organization, and to some extent the idea of continuity."

Russian Diplomacy.

MOST persons who keep in touch with current events know that when Russia occupied Manchuria, one of the most valuable provinces of the Chinese empire, a province with a temperate climate and great possibilities in the form of undeveloped natural resources, she excused the seizure by alleging the necessity of preserving good order and protecting foreign interests; and promised to withdraw her troops upon the completion of those tasks. As one of the signatories of the "open door" guarantee, negotiated among the powers, by the government of the United States, she also pledged herself not to exact for Russian interests exclusive privileges of right open to all. Sometime ago Russia drafted a treaty for acceptance by China covering the conditions upon which Manchuria would be restored. Among them was that China should secure Russia in the permanent enjoyment of certain marked and exclusive commercial advantages. To this provision in the treaty the United States and other countries included in the "open door" agreement objected. Their objections proved potent. The provision was stricken out. But now comes the unpleasant part of the story, if advisers from Washington are to be believed.

What Became of Their Fathers.

It is the saying of children that make men wise, children prattle truths to which men are the rich. In each sweet-tongued expression there is a lesson learned or an argument conclusively settled. This is particularly true of two tiny tots who toddled down the street hand in hand the other day. In a few words they decided a much mooted question, and those who believe that the human being is a descendant of the monkey and wonder what became of the monkey, should still adore the Simian tribe, can now rest in peace.

Tired of Hearing of Col. Andrews.

Colonel A. B. Andrews, first vice president of the Southern railway, once lost his private car to General Cleveland as he went on one of his periodic check-trips, says the Atlanta Journal. Colonel Andrews took great care to coach his letter to "Mr. President" every time he addressed the Hon. Governor, and by the time the ex-president got in the car the negro had a dozen fine "Walk in, Mr. President," was his first remark. "Have a seat, Mr. President," was the next. "Dinner is served, Mr. President," was the third. "I will show you to your stateroom, Mr. President," followed. "This is Colonel Andrews' private room, Mr. President," said the porter. "Nobody was in this room but Colonel Andrews, Mr. President," said the negro in a patronizing

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST BY WALTER J. BALLARD

BETTER landing facilities, a reform of the currency, the purchase of the lands by the State, electric and steam railways, electric light plants, more schools, the right of appeal in certain cases to the Supreme court of the United States, \$4,000,000 for local improvements in Manila, wider margin in timber exports, which will be recorded in a printed form on a similar machine at the receiving office.

Nearly eight million copies of six penny novels were sold in England last year, the circulation of each book having ranged from 25,000 to 100,000.

The London Times reports, on the authority of the Press association, that, at the close of the Boer war, the British government will offer special inducements to facilitate emigration on a large scale, to South Africa.

The report of the Philadelphia civil commission shows the finances of the new American possession to be in good condition. In one year, in spite of large expenditures for harbor and road improvements, the cash balance available for appropriation, has risen from \$3,023,824 to \$6,101,518. This is in gold, allowing two silver dollars to one gold dollar.

English investors show their faith in the future of South Africa by subscribing nearly 200 times over for the \$13,000,000 Cape of Good Hope consolidated three and one-half per cent. stock, at a premium of 2.06 per cent.

Germany imported 2,134,200 tons of wheat in 1901, an increase of \$40,000 tons over 1900. Her whole harvest of winter wheat only amounts to 1,567,000 tons.

In rejoicing over the securing by an English company of two temporary electric lighting contracts in Paris, the London Times significantly says, "English electrical work is not usually encouraged abroad."

For the United States the Panama route, acquired at the agreed price, has many advantages and some disadvantages. It is further than the Nicaragua route, but it is only forty miles long as against one hundred and eighty-three miles, which means twelve hours against thirty-three. The Panama route has a natural harbor, while the Nicaragua route will require a good deal of improvement. It is estimated that the cost of working the Nicaragua canal would be more than a million and a half dollars per annum greater than that of the Panama route. The Panama route is also more direct, and offers more abundant abundance of water, but the Nicaragua route is considered to be more healthy and offers engineering difficulties of a formidable kind. Upon the whole, it seems reasonable that the choice should turn, as it has turned, upon the Panama route.

The illuminating gas industry is not on its last legs in this country, by any means. The census reports show that there are 2,882 central electric lighting plants, with a capital of \$670,000,000, and 747 establishments devoted to the manufacture of gas, with a capital of \$28,000,000, furnishing out a product of \$56,837,000.

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OUTLINE STUDIES OF HUMAN NATURE

A Story of Lyman J. Gage. To a Chicago bank president, in his honor office, entered one day a man with hesitating steps. He was a whole, gross, supple, by the trade he was pretty well-to-do, says the Saturday Evening Post.

"Unless I can have some aid from you, I am ruined," he said. "Your bank holds my paper for \$40,000, which begins to mature next week. I have had one extension already, and your cashier tells me there is no use of applying for another. I have seen this thing coming, but hoped till now that I could avert it. I have not seen your assets," asked the president. "I have a stock of goods on hand worth several times my debts, but they are slow and, sold under the hammer, they would not clear me." He drew from his pocket an inventory which corroborated his statement.

"You have always been a straightforward man, and I am willing to back you for another extension, but on one condition: If you do not succeed as you hope, you are to come to me before any one else and tell me your failure." Several weeks later the merchant entered the same office, haggard and bowed. "I can keep up the struggle no longer," said he. "I have not seen for six or seven months. I must go to the wall, and as I promised you, I am here to tell you just of my defeat."

"No, I could not call at any time and have a comfortable sum to the good. But I cannot endure the strain, would rather face bankruptcy and be done with it." The bank president rose and put his hand on the visitor's shoulder, saying, "Go home, and go to sleep. Get your good night's rest, hereafter, are you going to be behind your time, you though, if you will follow my advice. Write to all your friends in the jobbing trade and endorse to them a schedule of goods on hand. Tell them that you are selling out of business, having reached a time in life when you feel that you ought to make way for somebody else. Ask them, wherever they have an order for anything in the line of goods mentioned in your schedule, to turn it over to you, and say that you will fill it at 5 or 10 per cent. less cost than they can buy the same thing in the market. Make it a clean retail price, and remember me that you will whisper no word to any one of your bankruptcy projectors."

The merchant followed the advice humbly. His credit was saved, he retired with a snug little sum in bank, and was able to invest his money so as to insure at least a decent subsistence for his family. He is now a successful and respected member of the community.

What Became of Their Fathers. It is the saying of children that make men wise, children prattle truths to which men are the rich. In each sweet-tongued expression there is a lesson learned or an argument conclusively settled. This is particularly true of two tiny tots who toddled down the street hand in hand the other day. In a few words they decided a much mooted question, and those who believe that the human being is a descendant of the monkey and wonder what became of the monkey, should still adore the Simian tribe, can now rest in peace.

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How Do Marconi's Signals Come? How did Marconi's signals come across from Cornwall to the Newfoundland shore? There is a carving of water and earth crest 110 miles high in between. Did the electric waves go over the hill, or through it, or how? That is the puzzle the electrical world is bothering over at the moment. Some German experiments seem to indicate that the waves are absorbed by water as they are by metals. Professor Fleming, of London, who has done an elaborate work on the scientific side of the subject, puts the matter a little differently. His results would make water opaque to these electrical waves, as it is, in large quantity, to light. Either way, it seems as if the signals didn't come straight through. They went round the hill. In this case they must somehow have followed the curving earth. But how? The scientist who is also an engineer, says that the waves are just long, invisible light-waves. And light goes straight. Professor Fleming thinks the waves might bend, or it may be, the upper air, which is not so dense as the lower, bends the waves. This would form a shell round the earth, in which the signals might travel anywhere. Would they go clear round? And if they did, would they stop when they got back to where they started, or been going round and round? Evidently, until they had been absorbed by substances like the metals. But what became of the waves then? Here is a wide field, and it is as hard to say as it is to say that the waves are just long, invisible light-waves. And light goes straight. Professor Fleming thinks the waves might bend, or it may be, the upper air, which is not so dense as the lower, bends the waves. This would form a shell round the earth, in which the signals might travel anywhere. Would they go clear round? And if they did, would they stop when they got back to where they started, or been going round and round? 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