

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.

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 14, 1902.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

Controller—EVAN R. MORRIS. Election February 18.

There is no excuse which will justify a Republican in a Republican ward in forgetting to vote on election day because there's no light on in his ward. To forget in politics is to lose.

Next Tuesday's Election.

THE IMPORTANCE to the citizens of Scranton of the election to be held on Tuesday next cannot be overestimated. It involves the handling or supervision of the handling of nearly if not quite half a million dollars of the people's money; and the enactment of laws which touch their daily interests at ten points where the laws passed at Washington or at Harrisburg touch them at one point.

It would not be true to say that this important election is approaching without an appearance of interest among the men and women it most affects. There is some interest; in some of the wards there is keen interest. But there is not nearly as much interest as the magnitude of the consequences involved would seem to warrant.

The statement of the engineer, who fell asleep at his post and caused a fatal wreck near Philadelphia, had been on duty for thirteen hours, sought to furnish food for reflection. No engineer should be allowed to remain at his post continuously for that length of time even upon a yard pusher.

The Milk Problem.

TO REGULATE the movements of those who endeavor to regulate the sale of unwholesome milk in the large cities is a task that taxes the ingenuity of health authorities both in this country and Europe. While it is altogether likely that the class of unscrupulous dealers who disregard hygiene in the preparation and sale of milk is not as large as has been asserted, it is true that scarcely a city of medium population in the land does not furnish examples of the dishonest milk dealer. The movements of the milk-man who deliberately increases his product at the town pump are not as dangerous to the consumer as the carelessness of the individual who keeps his cows in dens of filth upon improper food; bottles up warm milk, and doctors the fluid with chemicals to keep it "sweet."

In Europe and America milk is practically a universal article of food and its consumption is perhaps greatest among the weaker members of society—the very young, the very old and the sick and feeble of all ages. As the Washington Star aptly says: "One might not go wide of the truth in making the assertion that there is no other common article of food which is chosen by consumers with such reckless disregard of hygiene as milk. It would appear that with a large percentage of consumers anything that is sold as milk is milk. The only points upon which he insists are that the article sold as milk shall be fluid, white and not sour. It may answer all these requirements and yet be poison. And it may be poison without criminal design on the part of the dairyman. He may be ignorant or careless. Milk is a most sensitive fluid to careless or unclean handling. It may be from an unclean cow; it may have been exposed to the odors of a dirty stable; its temperature may not have been maintained at the proper degree, and it may have been poured into unclean cans or bottles. Then there is the question of deliberate adulteration and the introduction of chemicals to improve the appearance of the stuff and to delay the souring process."

The New Ballots.

THE DECISION of the secretary of the commonwealth to the effect that there can be no question of the adoption of the constitutional amendment nullifying the provision requiring the numbering of the ballot, may be considered among the important political developments of the day. While the secretary does not instruct local officials respecting the municipal elections, it is understood that all will take advantage of the decision. Under the new order of arrangements the ballots at the coming elections in this county will not be numbered, and as further required by law, the voter will personally deposit the ballot in the box.

It is true, as the Philadelphia Ledger says, that under the new system, the ballot loses its identity and cannot be individually verified or disproved in the event of a contest, but contests will henceforth probably be more rare, and whatever disadvantage attaches to the omission of the number is more than compensated by the greater secrecy in voting which is secured by such omission. It has happened occasionally, if not frequently, that the paper used for the official ballot has been of such flimsy texture that the number, even when folded over and the corner sealed, could have been readily ascertained by holding the ballot up to the light.

are vague and insufficient is demonstrated by the many questions concerning such laws that confront the courts at almost every election. The election laws should be revised both in the interest of clarity and fair dealing and should be adjusted in a manner that will do away with the constant change of system that is puzzling to the voter who does not make a study of politics.

Ninth and Seventeenth ward Republicans must show on Tuesday next that their politics is in the right place.

A Stimulus to Pride.

THE VISIT of Prince Henry, taken in connection with the publication of a treaty of alliance between England and Japan on the exact lines of the policy laid down by the United States in its correspondence with the other powers on the subject of the "open door," and also in connection with the extraordinary pains which nearly all of the powers are taking to establish that they were not unfriendly during our war with Spain, goes to show conclusively that no mistake was made when this country "expended."

No doubt our great natural and cultivated advantages would in time have won from the other nations the recognition they are all now so eager to bestow, had there been no war with Spain and no sudden bursting forth of the reserve strength of this great people. Expansion was in progress quite independent of the war; the war was an incident of expansion, not expansion an incident of the war. But the war gave us an introduction to the masses of the people of Europe sufficiently telling to make it now feasible for the foreign chancelleries to play openly and audaciously for American favor when such recognition of democratic institutions a few years ago would have been inexpedient if not disastrous.

It is certainly a long step in the education or evolution of European diplomacy from the blatant cynicism and brutal stolidity of a Bismarck to the shrewd sensing of values shown by the present ruler of Germany in his treatment of the proposition of a joint European intervention to prevent our interfering with Spain in Cuba. While it would be easy to make of the Kaiser's part in that matter more than it deserved from the American standpoint, nevertheless the publication of the fact that the Kaiser with his own hand endorsed on the proposition his terse and sufficient dissent will lay a foundation for a better feeling in this country for him and for his government than has prevailed heretofore, and possibly count for much in the mutations of the future.

In any event, the American citizen today has a feeling of pride in his citizenship which exceeds any experienced before the guns of Dewey and Sampson invited Europe's present unexampled homage; and though he has outgrown the vanity of this nation's primitive days and no longer thinks it degrading to exalt his Americanism by depreciating the other great nations of the earth, the enlarged view of obligations and opportunities, resulting from what the civilized minority calls "imperialism" and the run of mankind expansion, is certainly very new, very pleasant and very promising.

The advanced prices of opera boxes at the entertainment to be given in honor of Prince Henry show that music is not the only thing that "hath charms."

The Democrats who believe that all things come to him who waits, evidently also think that they will come quicker if the candidate is noisy while waiting.

Although the war in Africa is practically at an end, the occasional escape of General De Wet proves that the game of hide-and-seek still continues.

It seems that it was the German press and not the German government that was lighting the United States at the beginning of the war with Spain.

At present the United States seems to be about the only nation not in hysterics over the possible future movements of the Russian bogie man.

It might be a good idea if General Kitchener would employ a squad of Bulgarian brigands to round up General De Wet.

THE SLEIGHRIDE.

For The Tribune. Speed along! Speed along! Hark to the merry song, Hark to the sleigh bells, Now load and now loose, List! to the crunching sound, As o'er the snow-cold ground, Grinding the tiny clogs, Chirped we go.

Speed along! Speed along! Now for another song, Let's make the winking thing Both for and near, Each of you lend a note, Even though you rend your throat, Some joyous offering, Bring with you here.

Speed along! Speed along! Oh! what a happy throng! Mischief and merriment, Mischief together, I Would wreath the holly leaves, No fear of frozen toes, Though Old Boreas sent stern wintry weather.

Speed along! Speed along! Noted in spots that are strong; No one can keep; For the hollidays here, But little we care, For each and every pair, Love's lights keep, Side by side.

Speed along! Speed along! Surely it is not wrong; Even though the old ones, Their wise heads may shake, Even though they shed the same, They why do they blame, Their daughters and their sons, If they partake.

Speed along! Speed along! Hearts that are glad and young, No need to hurry; From sorrow or care, They will come soon enough; They will bring rain rough; And of life's sorrows, Each gets a share.

Speed along! Speed along! Hearts leave and true and strong, Over life's rugged road, As smooth may you glide, As smooth may you glide, With the moon shining bright, This laughing, merry load, Take their sleighride. —W. E. P.

able. National and municipal lawmakers cannot too soon enact measures to regulate this evil.

Mr. Carnegie will now do well to instruct Paterson on the list for distribution of libraries.

Poor Saint Valentine.

SAIN'T VALENTINE, says the Chicago Tribune, is another of those ancient and honorable gentlemen in whose name many follies and absurdities are committed. He was a bishop of rare virtues, one who stood for saintliness rather than for sentiment, and it is a little hard on him that he should be held responsible for so much modern sentimentality and superficiality. For any one who has a grudge against an over-zealous golf player, or who wishes to show scorn for some self-elected spinster, may express his feelings in memory of the beheaded bishop, and every smitten swain invokes his name when he pours out his loveverness on lace paper.

The edict has gone forth against the comic valentine, but the sentimental one is here to stay. Yet the modern valentine frequently has substance as well as sentiment; it may take the form of a volume of love poetry, and if it bears the somewhat hackneyed assurance that violets are blue and sugar is sweet, it may emphasize these statements by accompanying bunches of the real flower and boxes of genuine confectionery.

It is perhaps just as well that there be set aside a day when sentiment may have a legitimate outlet, and if this sentiment should be expressed in real poetry instead of the execrable twaddle which is usually to be found beneath the gilded paper, good literature might be disseminated and a belated justice done to the poor beheaded bishop, whose martyrdom ought not to extend beyond his death.

There is no reason why the House should not pass at once the Senate joint resolution changing the date of the presidential inauguration. Everybody wants the date changed and there is no call for delay or the wasting of eloquence upon the proposed measure.

If the New York police have really discovered the anarchists who hatched the plot to murder the late King Humbert it is to be hoped that legal technicalities will not permit the fiends to escape punishment.

The Pittsburgh reporter who attempted to interview Minister Wu the other day discovered at the finish that all information gained had been furnished by the interviewer.

Marconi's backers have had his life insured for \$150,000, and now some of the skeptical ones insinuate that the inventor would be worth more dead than alive.

If the government could be persuaded to make promises that could not be fulfilled regarding the Philippines question, no doubt Senator Teller would be satisfied.

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TO A SWEETHEART AND WIFE.

You are my Valentine, Sweetest in all the line Of Humanity, You are my Valentine, Making my thoughts sublime Of Eternity, When in my dreams I see, You are my Valentine to be, My affinity, And, walking, and the mine, My glowing Valentine— My sovereignty. —Anonymous.

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A VALENTINE.

For The Tribune. A GAIN the fourteenth of February had arrived. For some reason, known only to herself, a certain young lady, the retirement of her room earlier than usual. About her were many pretty romances of the day, here a rose-bud filled with choice blossoms, there a silver tipped arrow. But one was missing.

Knocking down, she unlocked a trunk, and took out a box. This she opened, and stood gazing fondly at three tokens of by-gone days. She was obliged to prefer these tokens of love, because they did not rot in a day. Perhaps there were other reasons also. Scaring herself by a table she removed the contents of the box, one thing at a time. The first was a dainty valentine with a dear little cupid in the center, partly concealing in a fold a picture of a pretty cottage in the distance. This had been the first revelation to her of the thoughts of the one who gave it were connected thus with the future for them both. At this time no word of love had been spoken, but somehow it was easier after that, and the next year the valentine was blue.

Blue, meaning to be true, and she had intended to be true; yet, she had been true. There had been no necessity to mind this, yet how exacting had he been. She remembered how she had told him all this and more.

"Now please don't ask me to be the only girl without a partner in my school pleasures." He could not attend these receptions, and as you are not in the school and cannot go with me, you would not ask me to stay at home, surely? I cannot go alone and you know I care for my classmate only as a friend."

He did object, however, and the next valentine was a delicate creation in yellow. Soon after that, there was a square, the valentine was blue and he immediately left the city. There had been plenty of time for repentance on both sides, but love's enemy, pride, still separated them.

As she sat looking at this last token, it seemed to grow indistinct in her hand, and somehow his face seemed to gaze through the pretty cupid's head. Yes, this suggested his nature best; passionate jealousy, it felt from her grasp to the table; across the back as he had written it, was her name and the date—two years ago. Retreating to the past, she could see things more clearly now than then. He had regarded her love and honor from an ideal standpoint. She, lacking years and experience, could not fully realize the high standard of love and trust he placed within her. Not knowing his ideal she could not live up to it. All this has been the cause of many lovers' quarrels.

There was a ring of the door bell and the good natured servant announced to the young lady, "Miss, your maid, and a young gentleman is waiting below."

"If do not wish to be disturbed tonight," was the answer. "Did he send a card?"

"Sure and he did not, miss, never a word did I think to ask him for, but just yet wait, I'll fetch your card."

A short silence followed and then— "Here's the bit of card-board miss, an' sure, it's a queer name the gentleman he after havin'."

On the card were these words, "A Valentine." The girl glanced at the words and with a joyous laugh ran from the room and down the stairs. The servant, much astonished, picked up the card and placed it carefully beside the three valentines on the table. There was a marked similarity between the handwriting of the name on the valentine and the words on the card.

"What a queer name the gentleman he after havin'!" "Sure and he did not, miss, never a word did I think to ask him for, but just yet wait, I'll fetch your card."

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