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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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 21, 1902.

Imagine President Roosevelt's dismay when he learns that Lynett's Times will not let the Schley verdict stand!

Judge Taft's Programme.

FOR SOME time the opponents of the government's Philippine policy have possessed the strategic advantage of being able to say glibly just what they would do should they get control of affairs. They have also twitted the Republicans with not having a definite policy formulated. Being themselves free of all responsibility, to criticize was easy. But Judge Taft in his testimony before the senate Philippines committee has changed all this. He has defined a programme. It is definite and specific. It includes:

1. A declaration on the part of the United States of its intention to hold the islands indefinitely, with the understanding that "when the latter are suitable for such a condition they may be given quasi-independence."

2. The grant of a qualified suffrage with a gradual growth in popular government, which should be enlarged through education in the English language and in American institutions.

3. The institution within a reasonably short time of a local legislature, to consist of two bodies, one to be chosen by vote and the other to be appointive.

4. Representation of the islands at Washington by two or three delegates.

The clause in reference to "quasi-independence" is the weak point in this armor. It really means nothing whatever. By Judge Taft's own testimony it will certainly be years, probably decades, possibly centuries before the Filipinos will be qualified for orderly and successful self-government, let alone any notion of independence. There is not at present, therefore, any pressing necessity for idealizing in their behalf. Sufficient unto the day of their fitness for independence are the political perplexities thereof. For the present, the call of duty is to a grubbing hoe contest in preparing the rough and stormy ground for the most elemental crops of good citizenship.

The investigation of the alleged cruelty cases at Manila has again demonstrated that a lie can travel more rapidly than the truth.

The Vicissitudes of Odell.

IT SEEMS to be true that Governor Odell of New York has lost caste as a successful politician within the past year. One year ago he appeared to be the coming figure in Empire state Republican politics. His mastery of the legislative machine at Albany, which on one or two test occasions was found to surpass that of Senator Platt, was supplemented by a formidable hold upon the good opinion of the best elements in the state. He was looked upon as a rare combination of political sagacity with business instincts and administrative courage. His succession to the place in Republican party councils long held by Senator Platt was regarded as assured as soon as the vacncy occurred; indeed many thought it had already happened.

The assassination of President McKinley, however, swiftly recast Odell's prospects and plans, and put another New Yorker in the place upon which the eye of his ambition had, it was believed, been more than casually gazing. About this time, if political gossip is to be believed, Governor Odell found Platt influences at work undermining him and had to execute a swift change of tactics on the excise question to prevent those influences from enfilading his rear. Then came the legislature—the second of his term. He had exhausted the meat of his reform plans in his message to the first legislature. In his communication to the second, nothing was left for him but to pick the bones. Some of these he picked very vigorously. One in particular has raised a commotion. He decided to consolidate under one management, to be appointed by him, all the state asylums for the insane, heretofore managed by separate boards and consequently always managed without uniformity and sometimes with scandalous extravagance. There was a vociferous kick, the echoes of which are still reverberating, but he had the votes, and the bill was passed and signed.

In consequence of these firm stands for real improvements in methods of state administration and of the antagonisms they have evoked, there is talk in certain circles that Odell should not be renominated. Feelers are appearing in the Platt organs to develop how the people would take the turning down of Odell in favor of some new man, not hampered by a past. In recoil from their extravagant praise of last year, the Mugwumpish press and those stalwart Republican journals which reflect the wishes of the senior senator are now inclining to be critical and censorious of Odell. The signs are unmistakable of subterranean preparations on the part of somebody who evidently knows the game for a tussle with the governor in the next convention. He will have to step down quietly or fight. If he fights, there will be a casualty list, for he is a fighter who disdains padded gloves.

Governor Taft must be surprised to learn how many people there are who from a long range view have been able to determine just how the Philippines should be governed.

For a Pacific Cable.

THE CORLISS BILL providing for a government cable to Hawaii and the Philippines and rejecting the offer of the Commercial Pacific Cable company to build a cable without cost to the government and to allow precedence to government business has been reported favorably in the house and will probably pass. The sentiment is widespread among congressmen that the government ought to be certain of its control over such a cable; that the political interests are too important to permit the taking of any chances.

Nevertheless the offer of the Commercial Pacific Cable company, which is the Postal Telegraph company under a different name, is a liberal one and it shows that the far-seeing business men who compose that company look forward to a time when the interchange of business between the United States, proper, and the Philippines, China and the other countries bordering on the Pacific ocean will be sufficient to make a cable a profitable investment. That offer was embodied in a letter by John W. Mackay to Secretary Hay, dated Aug. 22 last. In this letter Mr. Mackay said: "I wish to lay and operate a submarine cable or cables from California to the Philippine islands by way of the Hawaiian islands, by means of an American corporation to be organized hereafter. I ask no subsidy or guarantee in connection with the same. The same conditions that have been prescribed by the United States in connection with the landing of Atlantic cables owned by domestic corporations will be satisfactory to me in connection with the proposed enterprise. I do not ask and shall not expect the United States government to insure or indemnify me against any existing landing rights of any company or companies, in respect to the Philippine islands or any other islands in the Pacific." Subsequently the Mackay company accepted what is known as the "post road act of congress of 1866." This gives the postmaster general power to fix the rate to be paid on government messages and also enables the government to purchase the cable whenever it so elects, at a value to be fixed by appraisement.

It is contended in behalf of this private enterprise that if it is left alone it will have its lines laid and ready for public use within two years at the latest, while a government cable would cost much more and would not be so likely to be laid expeditiously. It is evident that these arguments had some weight at Washington, for the committee decided in favor of a government cable by the narrow margin of one vote. So far as the general public is concerned, we doubt that it cares much whether the ownership of the proposed cable shall be federal or private so long as public rights and needs are safe-guarded. The cable has become a prime and urgent necessity, and the public wants its construction hastened as rapidly as possible consistent with good workmanship.

The anxiety for a news scoop on the part of the premature correspondent in the vicinity of the negotiations for the release of Miss Stone has established his reputation as being the greatest liar since the palmy days of the Mole St. Nicholas dreamer.

"The Dead Line of Labor"

IN THE latest Lecture Bulletin of the Institute of Social Economics Professor George Gunton discusses with his usual intelligence one of the labor problems that is bound to force itself more and more on the attention of the American people as their industrial development increases in efficiency and complexity. That is the problem of taking care of outworn labor.

When a piece of machinery is put in a factory its life is calculated and an annual charge made against production sufficient to replace it at the expiration of the term of its efficiency. Owing to the rapidity with which new machines of improved character are placed on the market, each new design supplanting the pattern just preceding it, the necessity for a charge of this kind to cover renewals in equipment is generally recognized and established. But, as Professor Gunton observes, the frequency with which machines are being changed has a direct effect upon the labor employed to operate those machines. In the olden times, it was not uncommon to see many men engaged in factory or shop work above the age of 60 years. The workman of 60 or more was not as spry as the workman of 30 or thereabouts but he managed to do the simple duties of hand labor with tolerable efficiency, and he was kept on the payroll because he and the master had known each other for years and perhaps had learned their trade as boys together. But today, so intricate are the requirements of the well developed industry that it is extremely rare to see a man of 60 years at work in a mill or factory unless in a subordinate capacity.

There has come to be what Professor Gunton calls the dead line of labor; that is, an average age at which mechanical labor is outlawed and put as it were on the scrap heap. Many of the large corporations have already announced that they will not hereafter employ men above 45 years of age nor keep on the payroll men above 60. As a general rule it may be said that 60 is the age at which a man's earning capacity ceases in the manual trades. Yet it is equally true that not one workman in a hundred has stored up enough to permit him to await with complacency the day of retirement. In the lower grades of labor this is especially true. Men whose earnings do not exceed $2.50 a day and who have on such an income to rear a family, very often a large family, have little opportunity to lay aside for tomorrow. Professor Gunton says they should not be expected to; that it would be uneconomic for them to do so, inasmuch as it would withdraw large sums of money from rapid circulation and disastrously lower the American standard of living.

It goes without saying, however, that provision must be made in some way for the non-productive years of our outworn labor and that that way must be a strictly business way and not a way suggestive of charity or condescension on the part of the rich. The solution which Professor Gunton proposes is a new form of insurance, the adoption of which should be made obligatory on all industries by national legislation. He would require all employers to set aside a certain percentage to go into a general fund to provide annuities for workingmen dislocated by advancing years. Or, as he himself expresses it:

"All well-regulated concerns now set aside a portion of their earnings every year for depreciation. Depreciation is another name for replacing the machine when it is worn out or superseded by a new one. If displaced by a better one, then the better one must be purchased or the business is a failure. Now this economic principle can and ought to be applied to labor. When the laborer goes to work at, say 16 years of age, he is vigorous, agile and useful in almost any emergency. For forty years he is ordinarily safe against all innovations, except in case of accident or ill health. But there comes a time—it may come sooner or later—when he will be dislocated. Under ordinary circumstances, with no radical innovations, he can work until he is seventy, but in all probability ten or fifteen years before that time he may be dislocated just as the machines are, because he cannot be adjusted to the new order. This is no fault of his; the profits that have been created by the industry he has not received. The community has been made richer by the economic and advantageous use of his service, has used him as a part of a great industrial and social mechanism,—still, so far as he was concerned, involuntarily. He obeyed; he was a diligent, efficient part of the great mechanism which has contributed its quota to civilization. Any sense of morality and economic and social equity demands that the laborer who has thus faithfully served society during his whole term of usefulness shall live out his natural life without degradation and humiliation. During the forty or forty-five years of economic efficiency he ought to, and does produce enough to sustain him honorably according to his social standard to the end of his natural life. This can only be secured through the principle of insurance."

Professor Gunton is not clear in his attempts to explain just how this idea can be applied. Its application is a lifework in itself. But where there is a will there is usually a way. We have no doubt that the advances to be made in this direction within the next few decades will be notable.

If the Southern politicians are convinced that a reduction in the vote cast will also mean a reduction in the number of statesmen in congress, they may be persuaded to look upon the disfranchisement of the negro in a different light.

Come to think of it, Mr. Wheeler as representative of the moonshine whiskey district could not be expected to look kindly upon unusual preparations for the reception of a representative of a people whose national beverage is beer.

By the time the guests at the dinner given to Prince Henry at the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday night have sampled the five kinds of drink announced on the menu, the imperial yacht will probably look like a whole fleet to them.

Now that the Danish West Indies are ours, the statesmen familiar with the islands are beginning to talk about them with the enthusiasm of a real estate dealer who has town lots to sell.

In ten years our agricultural exports have increased 47 and our manufactures exports 143 per cent. Republicanism and expansion are coincident.

We are ready now to believe anything of the groundhog.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Protectionist, of Boston, for February, 1902, contains a full report of an address on this subject by the Hon. Albert Clarke, chairman of the industrial commission, delivered before the Massachusetts state board of trade, on January 24.

Mr. Clarke starts out with the assertion of his belief that while reciprocity with Canada properly outlined, would be of some advantage to the United States, yet it would be "much more important to Canada." He proves that our purchases of Canada have not shown any great changes in amount during the decade, 1890 to 1900, the annual figures ranging from $81,236,731 (1890) to $81,212,000 (1896). Our Wilson tariff favored Canada.

During the same period, Canada's purchases from us, range from $89,453,755 (1891) to $67,337,191 (1900). The Wilson tariff did not help our exports, but the contrary—the total steadily increased every year, till the first year of the Wilson tariff, when they fell $3,000,000 below the preceding year. In 1900 they were nearly $20,000,000 greater than in 1897, the year in which the Wilson bill was repealed, and this in spite of the 33 1-3 preference given by Canada to Great Britain."

By these results, Mr. Clarke contends that "tariffs, unless prohibited, have comparatively little to do in determining the commercial relations of near neighbors. Propinquity is the great factor."

Taking this is an argument, says Mr. Clarke, rather in favor of reciprocity than against it, it is "right here where the difficulty begins." "The selection of articles upon which duties may be lowered, without endangering the industries producing those articles, requires the greatest care, and even then must be somewhat experimental."

"I have," continues Mr. Clarke, "no respect for a policy which sacrifices one industry for the benefit of another."

The speaker was of opinion that Canada will never consent to sacrifice her fisheries and manufactures in order to get a free market in the United States for the raster products of her farms and forests, or to get cheaper goods for her people," adding, "this is the key-note of Canada's national policy," respected alike by Conservatives and Liberals, and to which they cling with loyalty equal to ours for the Union. Neither we, nor they, will gain anything by seeking to endanger the national prosperity of the other."

The present Canadian proposal, says Mr. Clarke, is for reciprocity in natural products only. "Without doubt this would be to their advantage, but it would hurt our farms and our fishermen, and would not help our manufacturers. We tried it from 1854 to 1866, and sustained a steady loss, namely, more than $5,000,000 yearly in exports, and some $38,000,000 in specie."

Mr. Clarke also points out that reciprocity with Canada means the opening by us of a market of 85,000,000 people, in return for one of only 5,000,000, minus the effect of their filial sentiment towards Great Britain, and also minus the fact that most of our arts are better developed than theirs. Canada's protective policy was begun in 1879, and has since been sustained at three general elections. As late as 1889, a motion in the Canadian parliament looking towards full reciprocity with us, was voted down by 117 to 71.

Sir Charles Tupper, minister of fisheries, said, "Canadians are not blubbering for reciprocity."

Sir John Thompson, minister of justice, said: "We can live without the American market; we are not going to become humble American citizens at the bidding of James G. Blaine; we will still wave the British flag, etc."

Sir John A. Macdonald, the premier, said: "The Canadian lamb would soon be inside the American lion," and soon——

As a matter of fact the natural products of the two countries are so similar that Canada really has nothing to offer the United States worth opening our 17 to 1 market for, to say nothing of her preferential tariff in favor of Great Britain.

Mr. Clarke's able address was well received.

American reciprocity with Canada, under these circumstances, or at any time on equal terms, is out of the question. Very truly,

—Walter J. Ballard.

Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 18.

Outline Studies of Human Nature.

Johnny's Logical Conclusion.

Little Johnny had been gazing thoughtfully at his book of animal pictures, when he suddenly called out:

"Say, pa, does it cost much to feed a lion?

"Yes."

"How much?"

"Oh, a lot of money."

"A wolf would make a good meal for a lion, wouldn't it, pa?"

"Yes, I guess so."

"And a fox would be enough for the wolf wouldn't it?"

"Yes, yes."

"And a fox could make a meal off a hawk, eh, pa?"

"And the hawk would be satisfied with a sparrow?"

"Of course."

"And a big spider would be a good meal for the sparrow, would it, pa?—wouldn't it, pa?"

"Yes, yes."

"And a fly would be enough for the spider?"

"Sure."

"And a drop of molasses would be all the fly would want, wouldn't it?"

"Oh, stop your chatter."

"But wouldn't it, pa?"

"Yes."

"Well, pa, couldn't a man keep a lion more'n a year on a pint of molasses?"

But just at this point it was discovered that it was time for little Johnny to go to bed.—Salt Lake Herald.

Company Balked on Carrying Cow.

Does an express frank cover the transportation of a cow? is a question which is causing comment and smiles in political circles in Illinois, according to a Chicago correspondent of the Washington Post. Governor Yates opined that it did, but the express company took the other view and its opinion held.

When Richard Yates was elected governor of Illinois he was presented with a pass from the Pacific Express company, which entitled him to a complimentary service over its lines. The general understanding of the use of these franks is they are like telegraph franks, and are to be used only for personal matters. The governor, however, seemed to take a different view of it.

When Mr. Yates moved his household belongings from Jacksonville to Springfield he sent most of them to the express office to be dead-headed to the state capital. Cook stoves and parlor sets were a little out of the ordinary kind of stuff handled by express companies, but it was the governor of the state who was using the frank, and the work was done.

Afterward an elderly, respectable and amiable cow was presented at the office of the express company in Jacksonville to be franked to Springfield under the governor's pass. Here the company balked. It said it was not in the live stock transportation business. Whether the cow ever got to Springfield or how is not recorded, but if it did the express company did not carry it.

He Wasn't Worrying.

It is not long since that a Baltimore woman visiting Colorado was starting for a drive along Boulder Canon. Her ideas of a canon, acquired wholly from illustrations, was a mighty cleft in giant rocks, and a drive along its edge meant following a thread-like road where the least swerving aside from the beaten track might result in being dashed to instant death.

Thinking to insure safe horses and careful driving on the part of the liveryman, she tried to impress him with the fact that she was prominently connected in her native city, her family one of wealth and much given to travel, so that if any disaster overtook her his reputation as a liveryman would suffer.

"Oh, that would be all right, ma'am, responded the Jehu, "I am an undertaker by profession, as well as a hoceman, and if anything were to happen to you, I assure you the remains would be sent home in the most scientific and fashionable style. Why, only last week I sent home two bodies—a mother and daughter—who were the very hon ton of New York society, and no man ever got up a corpse in prettier style than those two."—Baltimore Sun.

A Good Witness.

Several days ago there was a trial in one of the courts, and a lawyer was engaged in endeavoring to shake the testimony of an old lady who was one of the principal witnesses for the plaintiffs. Finally he asked:

"Who have you talked about this case to?"

"Nobody."

"Didn't Col. Blank, the lawyer, speak to you about it?"

"No, sir."

"Didn't Mr. Smith, the plaintiff, ask you what you would testify to?"

"No."

"Do you mean to tell this jury that you have talked to nobody about it?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, how did they know what you would tell?"

"They knew I'd tell the truth."—Memphis Scimitar.

His Possessions.

There was a fire in a local boarding house the other day, and among the tenants who were obliged to make a hasty exit was an actor out of a job, whose wife is considerably greater than his worldly possessions. He met a friend who congratulated him on his escape from harm and asked him if he lost any property.

"Lose any property?" repeated the brand saved from the burning. "Well, I should say I did. Why, I lost fifty-three pieces of property."

"Fifty-three pieces!" said the other in amazement. "Why, that must have cleaned you out. What were they?"

"A deck of cards and a nightshirt," said the other. "Give me a light."—Chicago Post.

A PLEA.

For The Tribune.

O! give us ships to sweep
The blue, unfathomed deep,
Ships wrought of oak and steel;
That foreign foes may feel
The fear they would not know,
'Tis ours, a charge to keep,
The freedom of the deep,
Which our forefathers won.

Why will we tarry so?
Why are our builders slow?
When every foreign foe
Is arming fast?

Have we not skill and gold?
Have we not seamen bold?
Who, like their fathers old,
Fear not the storm nor foe?

Aye! these we have, and more;
Why then not armed for war?
Our manhood fear no task;
Then grant; grant what we ask—
A Navy strong!

—Almus Oliver.

Damascus, Pa., Feb. 20.

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Kid Gloves, 75c This Week

For regular $1.00 and $1.25 qualities; these are not a job lot of gloves bought to sell at this price, but lines selected from our regular stock; stylish and serviceable qualities, in heavy and medium kid, suitable for street or evening wear.

Real Kid Pique Gloves

Are made from excellent quality kid, finished with 2 metal clasps, stitched in white or self color; come in brown, tan and modes.

Price this week, 75c.

Mocha Gloves

Made from fine soft Mocha kid of splendid wearing quality, with 2 metal clasps, colors are brown, red, tan, mode and grey.

Price this week, 75c.

Suede Mousquetaire's

8 button length; all sizes in white, some sizes of black, some sizes in colors.

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We do not call them Men's we are Honest.

Look to it—put our Shoes on thy feet, they are better than Putting Money in thy purse, they cure thy ills and save Doctor Bills.

Lewis & Reilly

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Toilet Ware, Manicure Pieces and Desk Furnishings.....

These goods are all good heavy weight, such as we always carry in stock.

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THESE ENTERPRISING DEALERS CAN SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS OF EVERY CHARACTER PROMPTLY AND SATISFACTORILY.

FOR SALE

BUGGIES and WAGONS of all kinds; also Horses and Building lots at bargains. HORSES CLIPPED and GROOMED at

M. T. KELLER

Lackawanna Carriage Works.

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Home office, 208-209 Mears Building, transacts a general building and loan business throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

E. JOSEPH KUETTEL,

rear 511 Lackawanna avenue, manufacturer of Wire Screens of all kinds; fully prepared for the spring season. We make all kinds of porch screens, etc.

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Makers of Paving Brick, etc. M. H. Dale, General Sales Agent, Office 320 Washington ave. Works at Nay Aug, Pa., L. & W. V. R. R.

We Are in a Position to Give You a Good "Understanding" At Very Much Reduced Prices

The new prices give these shoes a cordial, sociable, friend making time. We have been asked if our Special Bargains attracted customers. The question is answered. The business is coming our way. Why not? The reason is apparent.

BOYS' VICI KID SHOES—
These are fine Dress Shoes, good quality and better than you'd expect for the money. Formerly $1 pair, now..... **50c**

YOUTHS' VICI KID SHOES—
Extra quality, well made and fit for wear. Former price 75 cents. They are now **50c**

MEN'S GOODYEAR WELT SHOES—
These are double soled and extra good quality, usual price $2.50, but now we offer them at **$1.85**

MEN'S WORKING SHOES—
Strong, serviceable shoes that wear well, look well and are A No. 1 for the price; formerly $1.50, now..... **$1.00**
Formerly $1.25, now .....85c.

Of course there are people who feel skeptical about cheap Shoes. These are not cheap; simply low priced. And the more the prices go down the more the sales go up. Styles mean money's worth as well as quality, especially money's worth.

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You are invited to examine our new line before purchasing.

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