

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 4 columns: DISPLAY, Rate, Position, and Remarks. Includes rates for 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000 lines.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

After asserting that the announced advance in fire insurance rates in Philadelphia is evidently based upon no other idea than that of terrifying the owners of property and exacting from them as much as it is believed can be made to pay, that high salaried officials may carry on their business upon an extravagant basis of costs...

Blind Leaders of the Blind.

ONE OF TWO things seems certain to come to pass, and at a date not distant, as time is measured in history. Either the Republican party must accept the wise prompting of William McKinley to ameliorate the inequalities of superstitious Protection through tariff concessions to other countries reciprocal in character...

The amazing fact in connection with the row in congress over Cuba relief is that so few Republicans foresee this. The opposition to small concessions to a dependent little island, peculiarly bound to the American system, which has been disclosed during this obstructed performance of a plain duty has amounted to a challenge to that great and growing sentiment within the Republican party which agrees with McKinley that high Protection having done its appointed work by nurturing home industries capable of underbidding foreign competitors in their own markets...

We believe it is not an exaggeration to say that 90 per cent. of the Republicans of the United States are cordially in sympathy with the McKinley and Roosevelt position in this matter and out of sympathy with the special interests which interpose selfish and largely unfounded obstructions. Discussion has simply intensified their convictions, while at the same time the exhibition of the power of special influences at Washington has filled them with suspicion and distrust. Heretofore the charges that their representatives were under the thumb of special interests has proceeded mainly from Democratic sources and been discounted accordingly; but now there has been an exhibition bound to have a damaging effect among the Republican people.

Out of this situation a temporary peace may come; but it will be for the moment merely. Great issues are pending which must sharply divide those who believe in legislation for the greatest good for the greatest number as measured by standards of conscience and honor, and those whose loyalty is to special interests first. The Republican party has heretofore been a national party and a people's party. It cannot be less in the future if it would live.

Delaware county also seems disposed to obtain a portion of the gubernatorial advertising that follows the introduction of a favorite son.

Unkind.

FROM a reading of yesterday's Philadelphia North American it would appear that the political elements represented by that paper are somewhat difficult to satisfy. Commenting upon the failure of Colonel L. A. Watres to appear in Blair county in a joint debate with Attorney General Elkin in response to the latter's invitation, the North American's political writer says:

"A candidate who is against the machine in a merely negative manner, who does not court every possible opportunity to put himself squarely on record against the gang and all it stands for, is not the one to supply the needed inspiration. In the estimation of Blair county independents as well as those of other counties, it signs read ardent, Colonel Watres has not in this campaign arisen to the full dignity of a machine-independent candidate."

The recent statement made by the Boer delegates in this country to the effect that Kruger's fighters do not want intervention, must have had a dampening effect upon the heroic class of the United States who think that

our government should send troops over and assist the Boers in driving every Englishman out of Africa. Not content with vaccination scars, dog muzzles and other measures of precaution, the germ discoverers now insist that the flowing beards that lend dignity to age and protect the wearer from bronchial disorders are the most prolific germ breeders on the entire list. We may next expect to see a lapel button which bears the inscription: "These whiskers have been disinfected."

Of Far-Reaching Importance.

WE ARE NOTED yesterday and briefly replied to the questions of the New York Sun, asked in connection with the government's bill of equity against the Northern Securities company, namely, "Cannot any citizen, for example, Mr. John Pierpont Morgan, buy and possess shares, to the extent of his purse, in the Northern Pacific railroad or in the Great Northern railroad, or in both? And cannot any other citizen, say the Northern Securities company of New Jersey, do the same?"

The Philadelphia Press answers these questions more fully and brings clearly before the public the important issues in this litigation. Says the Press: "Corporate rights as to holding property differ, as all know, from the rights of natural persons. A man can own all the property he can legally acquire. No limit is set by law to his holdings. A corporation, if the law chooses, can only have a certain amount of capital, and the amount of property a corporation can hold is, in many cases, duly limited and may always be limited by its creator. The right of Mr. Pierpont Morgan to own property is therefore not the same in kind or in degree as that of the Northern Securities company. Whether under our system the right of a man to hold property could or could not be limited has never been raised. But there is no doubt that New Jersey could limit the right of the Northern Securities company to increase its estate indefinitely. Whether congress could limit or has limited the right of a state corporation to own shares in corporations competing in interstate commerce, thus eliminating competition, is another issue.

"The paramount issue, therefore, which underlies this epoch-making suit is whether the state corporation, organized as a mere 'holding company' or corporate trust, can grow to any size, own any amount of property, or eliminate any competition by buying the competing corporations, or whether congress can limit by regulating this ownership in matters relating to interstate commerce. All issues are small by the side of this issue. So far as the trust and railroad corporations are concerned, nothing could be worse than a decision that congress can do nothing. Let this case show that, as the attorney general's bill asserts: 'The entire railway system of the country may be absorbed, merged and consolidated, thus placing the public at the absolute mercy of the holding corporation and drastic legislation is certain. Competition may be wise or unwise in transportation; but it is the law and not capital which must decide when competition is to cease, to the extent that this may be a land ruled not by men, however rich, able and enterprising, but by law.'

Looked at in this light, it can be seen that the questions raised in the government's suit go to the very heart of the so-called 'trust' or combination issue. Is it now lawful for one corporation to acquire control of an entire industry? If it is, should it be? If it is not, should it be, and on what terms? The answer of such an inquiry is almost infinitely in the air, depending upon present business conditions; but it is obviously essential that the power of government in these premises should be defined.

Miss Helen Giggis, daughter of the recent attorney-general, who has formerly embraced Christian Science, is in danger of becoming as familiar to the reading public as some of the thankful people who have been 'cured' by some of the well known proprietary articles.

General De la Rey.

IT HAS BEEN the misfortune of the Boer leaders to be comparatively unknown to the great majority of spectators of the South African tragedy. Nor can it be said that the developments of the war, surprising as some of them have been, have done much to make them better known. It is true that their words speak for them; but in this age of personal gossip and anecdotal biography curiosity calls for much more than is known about such men as De la Rey, De Wet and, last but not least, General Botha's captor, Jacob Hendrick De la Rey. Fortunately there is available some light upon the career and personality of the latter.

Michael Davitt, the famous Irishman, who visited the Boers during the early part of their struggle and made the acquaintance of most of their leaders, is about to publish a book telling of his observations and experiences. From advance slips furnished by the American publishers, Funk & Wagnalls, we learn that it was General De la Rey who planned the first victory won by the Boers, the capture of an armored train at Kraaipan, and who laid and sprung the trap at Magersfontein which caught and decimated the famous Highlanders. To him and De Wet Mr. Davitt accords jointly the credit for the abandonment by the Boers of military movements in mass and the substitution of nimble guerrilla warfare, a plan which Mr. Davitt thinks cannot fail to wear Great Britain out in the end. The following sketch of De la Rey is from Davitt's book:

"Jacob Hendrick De la Rey first saw the light in the district of Lichtenburg fifty-four years ago. His father was born in the Orange Free State and was of Huguenot origin. He took part with Pretorius in driving the English out of Bloemfontein in 1848, and had his farm and property confiscated after Sir Henry Smith had reversed the situation by forcing the old Boer warrior back again across the Vaal. The De la Reys sought a new home in the west of the

Transvaal, where Jacob Hendrick spent his early life. The general is a man over the medium height, snovy in build, and remarkable for his quiet, dignified manner. He has deep set, dark eyes, a prominent Roman nose, and a large dark-brown beard, giving to his face a strong, handsome, and patrician expression.

"He was born of a fighting family, and has had the experience and training of campaigns in conflicts with hostile Kaffir tribes. His first command was in the war which the English inflicted the Basutos to wrest against the Free State in the early sixties, when he was quite young. These experiences qualified him for a prominent military position when the present war broke out, and he was unanimously elected to the command of the Lichtenburg burghers who became part of Cronje's western column.

"He represented his native district in the Volksraad for ten years, and was a consistent supporter of the Joubert, as against the Kruger following in that Assembly. He favored a large franchise concession to the Uitlanders as a means of averting a conflict with England, but soon saw that a demand for political reforms was only a pretext for precipitating a conflict. He was one of the most ardent advocates of an attacking as against a defensive military policy when England forced a resort of hostilities upon the Republic.

"Like General Cronje, he carries no weapons in the field. His field-glass, wooden pipe, and, last but not least, his Bible, are his inseparable companions. He is a universal favorite with the burghers of both Republics, and inspires great confidence in his men by his almost unerring military judgment, splendid generalship, heroic courage, and an indomitable tenacity of purpose, and an all-round personal prowess in all emergencies. He is remarkably self-contained in his actions, never getting excited, even in the thickest of the fight, but always remaining cool, cautious, and alert."

It is to be hoped that a time will come when the splendid fibra shown by these indomitable Boers may have a proper part in building up a new commonwealth on foundations broad enough for all mankind to stand on without discrimination, one against the other. It can hardly be doubted that that will be the outcome.

Plain Comment on the Boston Strike

NOTHING could be more unreasonable than the demands of the workmen who precipitated the great Boston strike. Only one alternative to a labor market is available: to all law and that the whole country must, without interest or knowledge, instantly on the demand of a few labor leaders take on the burden of the strike. No strike that takes in Boston is justified. No strike of men in civilized society promises to hold up a whole nation for the settlement of the petty grievances of a limited number. The strike of Boston is not a strike; it is a simple grotesque. The whole trouble arises out of an insignificant quarrel between organized labor and a local business concern. What the cause of the strike is, or the question involved in issue were we to attempt to determine. No matter how justly these labor unions may have been against the cause, they were not in the least justified in sending their ill will on the public at large, as they have done, causing suffering to thousands who have never heard of the striking company and are perfectly helpless to influence the struggle.

Having declared a boycott against the striking company, the strikers demanded that the railroads and steamship lines should refuse to handle any goods brought to them by the striking company. Such a demand, of course, could not be granted. The railroads and steamship companies are common carriers. They are by law obliged to handle the freight of all comers. They may dislike the longer and quarrelsome with the strikers against him; nevertheless, his right to the equal privileges of public transportation is absolute. It is a right which these who profess themselves the special friends of labor are always seeking to surround with additional safeguards. Transportation corporations, it is demanded, must make no distinction between customers; they must charge the same rates to all, they must favor nobody, whatever his power or his relation to the business. But, if they must favor nobody, they must also favor nobody. If they refuse to handle a man's goods because he is boycotted by a labor union, they can refuse to handle another's because he is competing with some other of the labor union. If they refuse to handle one man's goods because he is boycotted by a labor union, they can refuse to handle another's because he is competing with some other of the labor union. If they refuse to handle one man's goods because he is boycotted by a labor union, they can refuse to handle another's because he is competing with some other of the labor union.

TO CARMEN SYLVA.

If her beauty, though fading, outlasts Our oldest and loveliest story, Say, since she's so charming at last, What name she has been at last?

Office Desks and Office Furniture

Office Desks and Office Furniture. 25 to 50 per Cent. off regular prices. Mercereau & Connell, 132 Wyoming Avenue.

New and Complete Assortment

LARGEST FURNITURE DEALERS IN SCRANTON. We carry the greatest assortment of up-to-date Office Furniture. You are invited to examine our new line before purchasing.

Hill & Connell, 121 Washington Avenue.

do you suppose, can any sane man suppose, that they are like the revolutionary soldiers who won the independence of the United States? Why, they are not an inspired leader, from Agassiz to the lowest, intelligent chief of them all who could not be fired and convicted of foul murder and assassination.

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

Walter J. Ballard, of Schenectady, N. Y., whose communications appear occasionally in the Tribune, has a very interesting statistical article in the February number of the Protectionist in relation to our commercial progress about 1900. It is a careful study of the most important statistics, and his views are worth remembering. The article in the Protectionist is particularly interesting and valuable as it shows the great export and import trade this country is enjoying with other nations.

Mr. Ballard says that the exports of American machinery rose from \$19,300,000 in 1891 to \$71,600,000 in 1900, an increase of \$52,300,000. The figures for England are \$76,000,000 to \$85,000,000, an increase of only \$9,000,000. Germany shows \$10,000,000 against \$34,000,000, an increase of \$24,000,000. The other countries do not figure at factors of moment. Germany ousted England, and we came within \$5,000,000 of outstripping England and Germany added together in this one line. In France and Austria-Hungary there is an unusually large demand for machinery. It was Victor Hugo who said: 'To open the door of a school house is to close the door of a factory. Apply this doctrine to Paris, Rio, etc.' Mr. Ballard says: 'Tranquillity and contentment prevailing, increased exports, more profitable agriculture, roads being built, debts being paid, followed by a more common and more common school open with 934 teachers and 4,500 scholars, 23 school houses constructed, increasing revenues, and \$2,000,000 on hand, in the New Year's greeting of Governor Hoke to the people of the island of Porto Rico, and to its best friend, the United States.'

Some statistics of trade are furnished that show our wonderful increase as a nation. The fact is cited that Switzerland bought \$11,541,000 of us in 1900, against \$7,531,000 in 1896. Republican gain. Norway bought of us, directly for the first ten months of 1900, \$1,000,000, \$300,000,000 in 1900, but we got very little of it, because of our lack of direct, American owned merchant vessels sailing regularly to Italian ports. Hungary bought of us \$2,000,000 in 1900, and sold to us the same amount. Our prospects are bright. Field and farm products sold abroad last year, produced no less a sum than \$50,000,000 for the first ten months of 1900. This is compared with \$47,747,818 against \$5,105,110. Owing to the heavy home demand, the export of leather was \$37,747,818 against \$18,777,252, an increase of only \$2,000,000.

Japan is becoming a very good customer of ours. From Puget Sound, in the three months ending Nov. 29, we shipped her 12,127 bales of cotton, valued at over \$1,000,000, again \$29,000 for the same period of 1900. Steamship facilities have been largely increased. During 1901 the steamer Alaska and Oregon shipped to Japan nearly 2,000,000 sacks of flour, weighing 40 pounds each, at the rate of \$2.50 per barrel. California also sent some about 1,500,000 sacks. We also sent large quantities of cigarettes, as well as bicycles, photographic supplies, liquors and luxuries. To Bombay, India, we quadrupled our export of boots and shoes during the past year.

EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Editor of the Tribune: Sir: To help remove the prejudices caused in some minds as to the value of our educational work in the Philippines, by reason of the misstatements of various parties, I appeal for publication the following letter from Dr. Fred W. Atkinson, of Manila:

Dear Sir: Out of a total of 225 teachers which we now have, 20 are men and 215 women. The number of teachers' attention is 145, of which 200 are ungarnered and about 245 garnered. The question of personal safety of the teachers has been raised in fact. I have received assurances from time to time that the workers in the educational movement would be well treated by the so-called instructors who recognize the value of the work. I have received a large number of very large numbers of soldier teachers, about half of whom are good and the rest incompetent and inefficient. A good many of the latter have already left the service of the department and the former are still acting as teachers of English. Of course all the teachers understood before coming over here that they could not expect to find here the agencies so common at home; and after their arrival and assignment to their stations, they have learned to accept the conditions such as they are, and thoroughly interested in their work, they enjoy their surroundings.

Very truly yours, Fred W. Atkinson, General Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Philippine Islands. The letter needs no comment. Very truly yours, -Walter J. Ballard, Schenectady, N. Y., March 12.

Office Desks and Office Furniture

Office Desks and Office Furniture. 25 to 50 per Cent. off regular prices. Mercereau & Connell, 132 Wyoming Avenue.

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Fancy Embroidered Lace Hosiery, in plain black and color novelty effects, at 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75.

Ladies Black Silk Hose

In plain, drop stitch and openwork, at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.50.

Ladies Hosiery—Black, in fine cotton and lisle thread, in all black and black with white soles, at 25c.

Fancy Hose—Black lisle lace, silk stitched, striped openwork, 25c, 35c and 50c.

Children's School Hose, 12 1/2c, 15c, 25c. Children's fine cotton lisle and lisle openwork, 25c to 75c.

610-612 Lackawanna Avenue.

ALWAYS BUSY.



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New and Complete Assortment

LARGEST FURNITURE DEALERS IN SCRANTON. We carry the greatest assortment of up-to-date Office Furniture. You are invited to examine our new line before purchasing.

Hill & Connell, 121 Washington Avenue.

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Is filled to overflowing with NEW GOODS

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