

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.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING. The following table shows the price per inch for each insertion, space to be used within one year:

SCRANTON, MARCH 18, 1902. Despatches from the blizzard belt indicate that the ground hog has gone west.

The Shamokin Convention.

THE CONVENTION at Shamokin today of the United Mine Workers of the three anthracite districts will undoubtedly respond to the counsel and guidance of John Mitchell. If he deems a strike wise, there will be a strike; if he has other plans, they will be carried out.

Of the demands which seem likely to come before the Shamokin convention for indorsement, that for a recognition of the union by the operators is probably the one having the firmest support among the delegates. It is not unreasonable. The union exists. It controls the labor situation in and about the mines. Declining to recognize it means withholding simply something technical, for every operator knows that it has to be recognized in many ways in the daily conduct of business.

Speculation as to what the convention will do and as to the local consequences of its actions is naturally interesting, but necessarily inconclusive. We do not look for a strike. The conditions do not seem propitious for one from the standpoint of the miners, both as individuals and as an organization. Individually, they could not hope to gain financially what they would lose by one. As an organization, they would run the risk of defeat, which would be fatal, while, should they win, they would be only technically and not actually stronger than they are now.

For these reasons, which are as plain to John Mitchell as to anybody else, we do not expect a strike, and we observe that in circles usually well-informed our view is shared. Nevertheless, it is for the convention, and not for the press, to decide. While a strike would be a serious matter and would impose great hardships upon many persons, both among the strikers and throughout other circles in the anthracite region, it is not clear that the public hereabouts does not view the possibility of one with the same degree of apprehension as in the fall of 1900. Many have been heard to say during the past six weeks that as between a six-months strike, to be followed by peace and freedom from frequent disturbances of business, and the indefinite prolongation of the unrest which has manifested itself since Scranton became a focus of labor politics, they would prefer the former, costly as it might be. We think that this sentiment is quite general.

General Givens, in announcing himself as successor to General Lukban, appears to realize the fact that he represents the small end of the cornucopia as far as the Philippines disturbance is concerned.

Conditions in Cuba.

FOR ACCURATE representation of conditions in Cuba the letters of Charles M. Pepper have gained widespread confidence. He is in Cuba now inquiring into the truth as to the business situation there and he writes to the Washington Star that while affairs from an economic standpoint are bad, the grinding season will not be over until the 1st of May, and most of the big sugar plantations have momentum enough to carry them forward until that time. The small plantations have already suffered all that

they can suffer this year. Many of them, he says, have gone by the board. There is little speculation and little excitement. People are waiting. Warehouses are full of sugar which is being held pending an adjustment of the tariff question. It can, he thinks, be held for some time yet, but in the meantime it ties up a lot of money and those who have surplus cash in quantity to lend it except in small amounts and at usurious rates of interest. The wealthy Spanish interests are complaining because they figure that they stand to win whichever way the cat jumps. If a reduction in sugar duty made, their plantations will increase in value and business will revive, in which event they will profit largely. If it is refused, they look upon annexation as certain to follow, in which event they will have free access to the American market. Mr. Pepper thus summarizes his view of the situation:

"Some exaggeration has been indulged in with regard to the present conditions. Nobody in Cuba is starving today or near starving; nor need anybody starve next year. But if the sugar industry does not get some encouragement in large proportion of the population of the island will have to live from hand to mouth, and the present dull times may be followed by worse times. Somehow it has not seemed as though the case of the Cuban people was presented in the testimony before the ways and means committee. They have a case and a very strong case. In a broad way it may be said that the whole population will be benefited by anything that helps the sugar industry. If the inhabitants of the island do not receive some such benefit, the difficulties of the new Cuban government, which in any circumstances are many, will be increased. It is a question between a good start and a bad start. After looking into the situation a little I understand better why the American officials are anxious for the American military authority to have its responsibility ended."

In the meantime, the news from Washington is that the administration will soon be in sufficient strength in congress to carry its point—a reciprocal trade arrangement involving a mutual reduction in duties of at least 20 percent, possibly limited to two years. What will be done at the end of the two-year period is a bridge to be crossed when it is reached.

Now that the dowager empress has issued an edict against the habit of insulting foreigners at Peking, it will soon be demonstrated whether the mob can be convinced that it is fostering misplaced patriotism.

Personal Registration.

THERE lies before us the draft of an act for personal registration which the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Electoral Reforms and the Merit System in Pennsylvania has prepared for submission to the next legislature. A summary of its provisions will no doubt be of general interest, especially since the bill has been accepted as part of the demands of those wishing a reorganization in state affairs. Section 1 directs the subdivision of city wards into registry districts of not to exceed 2500 voters, present election districts not to be cut in two. Section 2 provides for the appointment by court of three "wise and judicious persons, of good moral character, able to read and write" and not all belonging to the same political party, to act as registrars of electors, their pay and the pay of two clerks to be fixed by court. The third section fixes hours and dates of the meeting of this board—before a general election, on 5 and before a city election on 2 different days, with 105 hour sessions each day—and section 4 reads as follows:

Each person claiming the right to vote shall state his full name, occupation, age at last birthday, place of birth, time of residence in state, place of the lane, alley, court, street or road, and number or designation of the house in which he resides, and if the house has no number or designation, then such address as is given by it and its locality as well as the identity of and whether owner, lessee, lodger or boarder, and if lodger or boarder, the name of the person with whom he resides. If the claimant has not resided in the state from a date one year prior to the next approaching election he shall state whether he was previously a qualified elector therein, and has returned thereto at a date six months prior to the next approaching election and the time and place of his previous residence in the state. He shall also state whether he shall require any assistance in marking his ballot, and the reason for such requirement. If he is a naturalized citizen he shall produce his naturalization papers for inspection, and if he is over the age of twenty years he shall produce a receipt for a state or county tax paid within two years prior to and at least one month before the next approaching election, or make an affidavit stating the character of the tax paid by him, the person to whom he paid the same, and that he received a receipt therefor, which has been lost or destroyed. If the claimant is not known to any of the registrars or if they are not satisfied that he is entitled to registration, they shall require him to produce a legally qualified elector of the district, who knows the claimant, and is personally acquainted with the facts, and will make affidavit of the truth of his statement.

Every claim for registration must be made in person and sworn to, the claimant subscribing his name in the register book or declaring his inability to write. If the majority of the registrars are of the opinion that the claimant is entitled to vote in that election district at the next election, his name shall be immediately placed on the register of voters for the election district wherein he lives, which said registry shall state:

1. Full name; 2. occupation; 3. age at last birthday; 4. place of birth; 5. time of residence in state; 6. time of residence in district; 7. if formerly a resident in state, time of return and previous place of residence; 8. place of residence, including name of street, lane, alley, court or road, and number or description of house, if no number; 9. whether owner, lessee, lodger or boarder; 10. if lodger, name of person with whom he lodges; 11. character of tax paid, and date and place of payment, and name of person to whom paid; 12. whether tax receipt produced, or affidavit of loss; 13. name of voter, if any; 14. whether or not assistance will be required in marking ballot, and if required, the reason; 15. signature of claimant if required by one of the registrars or one of the voters. There shall also be provided a column at the end of the line where the voter, if challenged, and able to write, shall sign his name on election day before receiving his ballot. No person not so registered can vote. Copies of the list of names are to be on exhibition at the place of registration until the day of election and also in the office of the clerk of the courts.

One copy goes with other election papers to the prothonotary. Any citizen objecting to the work of the registrars whether for registering or refusing to register a man claiming the right to register shall appeal to court, which must dispose of the matter before election. Each party may have three certified watchers in each place of registry. No registered person shall be excluded from voting, except it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the election officers, by affidavit filed, that he has changed his residence, and is no longer a resident of the district. Before receiving his ballot, every voter shall satisfy the election officers of his identity, if challenged, by signing the registry list containing the signatures of electors in the place provided for that purpose, if able to do so, and by the production of such other evidence as may be required by law. In case of loss of tax receipt affidavit may be made showing kind of tax and when, where and to whom paid. There are provisions to insure faithfulness of registrars and penalties for those who regard personal registration as a means to the betterment of political conditions. It is intended to apply to cities only; but no doubt when the cities are purified a bill will be forthcoming to correct the moral ailments of the rural voters also. We have at this time no comment to make.

It is now announced that the wireless telegraph has an X-ray attachment to send messages through mountains, if necessary. This may perhaps be correct, but it is believed that the wandering current of electricity that threaten the destruction of gas and water pipes will cause more stir in the near future than this latest feature of the Marconi system.

Whom the Boycott Hurts the Most. From a Paper Read Recently in Dayton, O. WHEN strikes, riots, assaults, destruction of property, picketing and intimidation fail of accomplishment of the desired purpose, the boycott is resorted to. The law, and the decisions of the courts of all grades throughout the country, including the Supreme Court of the United States, declare a boycott to be a conspiracy of persons or organizations to restrain one's business relations with others by threats, intimidation, compulsion or force. In every instance an injunction has been granted when petitioned for and severe penalty imposed when the order of the court has been disobeyed. Under the constitution and the laws, boycott is as much a crime as are any of the hundreds for which men are arrested, tried, convicted and punished—the only difference being, that the law does not provide a penalty for its violation by a boycott. This absence of penalty explains why the violators of this law can not be punished until an injunction has been obtained and a restraining order issued, for the violation of which the perpetrator is arrested and punished. His offense then becomes one for which the law provides a penalty, viz: contempt of court.

A very careful investigation of the results of boycotts, in hundreds of instances, demonstrates that almost without exception they are injurious to the interests of those against whom they are declared. When organized labor contended for just and humane prices in its affairs with manufacturers, men of character, capacity and integrity, it had the sympathy and approval of that public sentiment which is essential to success in all such enterprises or undertakings. Then, however, resorted to for the purpose of correcting some palpable wrong, some glaring abuse, were made effective by public opinion. But during recent years, the tactics of judgment have been replaced by the tactics of force, and the violation of law, riots, assaults, unjust and intolerable demands; the long catalogue of trespasses upon the rights of the community in all departments of its life, have attracted public sentiment, until organized labor is condemned by a large majority of its own members, and a still larger majority of the public in general. The reputation of the industry will be conceded by intelligent men, and is evidenced by the lack of attendance, compulsory payments in free shops, and also by the general attitude of all classes of business men.

It is a lamentable fact that in very many instances, boycotts are declared against establishments which pay the highest wages and which the welfare of the worker is the highest consideration influencing the management. An unscrupulous management, in order to find or manufacture some trivial excuse for a complaint or misunderstanding, and suddenly becomes possessed of an intense ambition to show his personal authority and maintain the power of organized labor to "bring the biggest and best of you to their knees." Demands are made which are so outrageous in character that no self-respecting man can even consent to entertain them. Then, reason, justice, the welfare of fellow workers, give place to a mad passion to "do the best," and a strike and boycott is declared without a shadow of justification.

In view of all these facts, there is no responsible public sentiment to the demand for a boycott. When the demand is made on an honorable, intelligent and good citizen, he admits this unfair and unjust policy, his sense of right asserts itself, his American conscience is aroused and makes him a friend rather than an enemy of the boycotted. This is human nature—at least of our American kind—and you can't change it. To be placed on the "Fair List" is the best possible advertisement, a guaranty of material benefits. Every business man knows the value of any method which will bring his goods into general public notice, and the only way to do this is to make their name "a household word." This is the legitimate and business result of a boycott, and the article thus advertised, if otherwise mentioned, is certainly to be avoided. The animosity aroused by this appeal to prejudice may have generally done away a temporary influence, but it passes like all abnormal conditions and in a few weeks or months the reaction comes which carries even the most pronounced advocates of the wrong, over to the side of right and justice, bringing unprecedented prosperity. Such is the history of every permanent boycott that has been declared in the United States.

Admitted that some business may be diverted by reason of a boycott, and that there is a temporary reduction in the amount of sales, who are the real sufferers? Reduced sales means reduced production, which means reduced employment—fewer workmen or shorter hours. As a rule, the concern whose product is boycotted are the growers in resources, and in capital invested. It is a matter of little concern to the company whether it sells a few more or a few less of its goods. The investment of the stockholders is such as to afford them large incomes independent of that received from any one business. In the event of a material reduction of income they might feel called upon to reduce the amount of their contributions to

charitable and benevolent institutions, such as hospitals, colleges, associated charities, Y. M. C. A., etc., but no personal necessity or luxury need be curtailed in the smallest degree. They will have enough and to spare. But how about the man who loses his job or is laid off? Unmistakably, the real sufferers, the actual victims, are those for whose benefit it is claimed the boycott is declared. It is amazing that in the face of this common sense business proposition the leaders are so indifferent to the true interests of those who entrust them with the management of their business affairs. The fact that the workmen are the real sufferers from boycotts is recognized in the following quotation from the proceedings of the American Federation of Labor convention, held at Scranton last December: "Whereas, in the past many boycotts have been placed by labor unions upon large plants, firms or individual business houses, where other labor organizations are interested; and "Whereas, such boycotts often work a severe hardship upon such organizations; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, does recommend that no boycott or strike shall be authorized or induced by any labor union affiliated with this body in any such plant or firm until all other organizations whose members are employed in or around such plants, are consulted and their indorsement secured." The following quotation from the report made to this convention by its executive council, indicates a conviction that boycotts are ineffectual and that they prejudice the union in public estimation: "We are forced to the conclusion that when the Fair List contains a large number of names it weakens the effect. While we do not recommend the dropping of all names, we think it advisable to eliminate such as have become obsolete, and we urge a restraint upon its increase." The consensus of the business sentiment of the country is that boycotts fail ultimately; that if they are effective temporarily, the workmen are the real sufferers; that they result in increased sales of the boycotted goods because of free advertising and the American sense of justice and fair play.

TO A TOMCAT. Creature of night; bold, brazenly immoral, Responsible to neither gods nor men; From out the dark thy irreligious clowd Jars on my nerves and angers me again. When dogs and other honest brutes are sleeping, And not a cur awakes to bay the moon, With low companions thou thy watch art keeping, And giving tongue to thy unlovely tune. What demon, deep within thy black heart hidden, What base promoter of falsehoods and strife, Malicious and hate and war has hidden Thee from the dissolute and vicious life? Art thou provoked by influence internal? To levy war on all thy wretched kind, Profane the air with rovelly nocturnal, To gratify thy mark and bloody mind? Thy fur, once thick, is largely dissipated, Thy ears are notched, thy lips are gashed and torn. Six inches of thy tail has been abated, Thou art a thing to look upon with scorn. Yet thy waste hard-wrought verses in denouncing, Thy manifold transgressions, calous art? The word for you I'll lose no time pronouncing, Take good care that you heed it, Thomas: Scat! —Portland Oregonian.

"Keep to the Right" With eyes open. This caution may be spiritual—and maybe not. Which?

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EDUCATIONAL. Food in Boarding Schools THE HOTEL PLAN. No doubt the common complaint made by students about the food served in boarding schools is often ill-founded, and is sometimes made by those who do not live well at home; but it must be remembered that most students in boarding schools are passing through a period of the most critical physical and mental development and their appetites, for this reason, are capricious. They need a variety of foods from which to choose. Food not relished, does not nourish well. At the BLOOMSBURG STATE NORMAL SCHOOL the best the market affords is purchased. Food containing the nourishing ingredients in the proper proportions needed by growing bodies and active brains is provided. It is prepared by professional cooks who know how. Students enter the dining room at their convenience between certain hours, and order from the bill of fare what best suits their appetites. The food is served hot on warmed dishes, to each student separately. The order may be repeated until the appetite is satisfied. For breakfast: tea, coffee, cocoa or milk may be chosen. Toast with hot milk, some cereal; fruit either a choice of at least two meats; potatoes; eggs when they can be had fresh. From this the character of other meals may be judged. Quite different this, from the stereotyped boarding school breakfast, where all sit down at the top of the bell, eat what is placed before them or nothing, within a fixed time and often with no privilege of replenishing the platter. We know of no other boarding school that provides this for the young people placed under its care. Send for catalogue to J. P. WELSH, A. M. PH. D., PRINCIPAL. The Spring term will open March 24.

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