

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 rules are 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, AUGUST 18, 1902.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

State. Governor—S. W. PENNYPACKER. Lieutenant Governor—W. M. BROWN. Secretary of Internal Affairs—ISAAC B. BROWN.

County. Congress—WILLIAM CONNELL. Judge—A. VORBRIG. Commissioners—JOHN COURIER MORRIS, JOHN PENNAN.

Mine Inspectors—LEWELLYN M. EVANS, DAVID T. WILLIAMS. Legislative. First District—JOSEPH OLIVER. Second District—JOHN SCHUBER, JR.

The Democratic plan of battle is to claim much for Patterson, and yet they have no hope of electing him, and all of them know it. They are looking for congressional gains in the senate and a gain of four members, sufficient, under their calculations, to give them control of the next house.

A Man to be Missed.

SO MANY rich men die and leave nothing to charity that when one has been so generous during life that his death makes the world much poorer, notwithstanding the fact that he cannot take his wealth with him, more than passing notice should be made of the event. Such a man was the late Senator James McMillan, of Michigan. Few people knew that his charities every year amounted to \$200,000 and more, so unostentatious was his giving, so bountiful were his benefactions. He expected no thanks and demanded no applause for his fine deeds. Best of all, he saw that his gifts achieved the good for which he planned. He built a hospital and maintained it as a memorial of his dead daughter, and it is free to the poor and sick and needy of his state. He gave a handsome library to the State university and made rich donations to other colleges. Another benefaction was the endowment of a school for colored girls in Texas and thus continuously and wisely divided his prosperity with those less favored. His wealth was all of his own making and represented hard work and keenest application of a great brain to the simple details of a business life. Not the least of his good works was the employment of thousands of men in the shops under his control.

The man himself was worth more to his country and to his race than was his money. The same cannot be said of the majority of rich men.

The effort to rumor Mr. Schwab out of office seems to be unavailing.

The Farmers' Trust.

THE FARMERS of the Northwest are organizing a trust with a contemplated capital of \$50,000,000. Chicago is to be the center of this vast agricultural organization, but its operations are to embrace the entire country. The idea underlying the combination is the elimination of the middle man. The farmers are to raise their produce as usual, but instead of selling it or shipping it to middle men or commission agents, it will be disposed of and handled by the salaried representatives of the trust. In this way it is believed that the producer and the consumer will be benefited. Uniform prices will be established, gluts will be prevented and the demand for any particular article will be met by uniformity of supply. Say the cabbage crop has been a failure or a comparative failure in the farming districts around Scranton, the agent of the trust here would only have to telegraph to a point where a plentiful supply of that esculent is known to be on hand and the deficiency in a day or two, would be relieved without the creation of artificial prices. All kinds of farm produce are to be handled on a commission basis or for cash. In other words the farmer will have only to raise his products and the trouble of disposing of them advantageously will be the work of the trust or alliance.

The machinery by which the trust is to carry on its operations has not been yet erected. It is easy enough to form a notion of the principle which will govern it, but only time can prove its practicability. In order to dispose of the stock of fifty million dollars, agencies will be established in banks, one in each county in every state. We should not think that there will be any great delay or difficulty in disposing of it. A block of that stock is a more desirable acquisition to any enterprising farmer than a mortgage parchment. It secures to him at once an investment and a working partnership in a colossal firm. To amount to be subscribed for is not large considering that agriculture is not only the staple industry of this country, as it is indeed of every other, but that it represents three-fourths of the invested and productive wealth of our land, directly or indirectly. Farmers are proverbially conservative, but the farmer of our day with his fringe, his newspaper and his magazine is in a far more enviable, enlightened and progressive stage than his

predecessor of twenty or thirty years ago. If in recent days his political credulity has led him astray, dollar wheat chastened him. He is no longer the slave of an illusion; he no longer dreams that the government can create money, or that the intrinsic worth of a silver dollar is equivalent to its circulation value redeemable in gold. The populist is in training to be a monopolist. A stranger thing never happened in the political world. No indeed.

Taking for granted that the stock will be taken up, what are the prospects for the success of the experiment. The rumor of the death of the middleman has so often turned out false that it is tired of accepting obituary notices of his happy dispatch, and until time or circumstances bring us a duly authenticated certificate of his demise, we had better accept his existence as a fact. The hour has not yet come for the producer and consumer to shake hands over his grave.

We are afraid the scheme is too ambitious, that there are too many difficulties to be overcome in realizing it. Co-operative farming has been often tried without any large or permanent measure of success. There must be some inherent principle in it antagonistic to economy, durability and natural adaptation to existing conditions. Unless it possess these three essentials of progress and prosperity, it cannot succeed, no matter how plausible it may seem. One of the most difficult problems of the industrial world is economic production, and an infinitely more perplexing one. Durability is the second great factor. Will a scheme which appears to be perfect in times of prosperity, stand the test of adversity? If it does not, it is a bubble. Will it adapt itself to existing conditions? If it does not it is a chimera.

We believe that the suppression of the middleman is not practicable. He would not exist in the dispensation of things if he did not serve some purpose. Unquestionably farming products pass through too many hands. The beef barons were in their day middlemen. Like the feudal barons of the Middle Ages, they have come to tyrannize over those whom in their upstart beginnings they pretended to serve. If the trust can subordinate the middleman to his proper functions as a distributing agent, it will be of incalculable benefit.

Speaking of the big crops, says the Philadelphia Press, there is Indiana that wants to be looked at. According to the state statistician, the yield of wheat, oats and corn will exceed the totals of any previous year and put more money in the hands of the farmers than any season's crop returned them. That places Indiana in the anti-Bryan, anti-Democratic column.

The False Charge of Suppression.

(From the New York Sun.) STATEMENTS are appearing in various Democratic newspapers accusing the Republican members of the senate committee on the Philippines of suppressing evidence in the interest of the Republican party. That charge is false is well known to those who had the time and inclination to follow the voluminous proceedings closely. But others may be led astray by the reiterated of the charge, unless they are made acquainted with the facts.

The Committee on the Philippines began the investigation on Jan. 28. With the exception of a week when, owing to absences, it was impossible to get a quorum of the committee, witnesses were heard steadily from Jan. 28 until June 6. The hearings were held as a rule every day in the week, and always three or four times a week. During the same period the committee prepared and reported the Philippine Tariff bill and the Philippine Government bill, the latter being an extremely long and elaborate act. This work was all done by the committee while the hearings were in progress and thus constantly were its members engaged in addition to their duties in the senate chamber. During the same period, also, the Philippine Tariff bill was passed after five weeks' continuous discussion in the senate and the government bill, after a little more than seven weeks of continuous debate. On June 6, after the government bill had passed the senate, Senator Lodge left Washington for ten days, and the hearings were interrupted, although during his absence the committee heard two witnesses. After the return of the chairman there was further interruption owing to the fact that the close of the session was approaching and the members of the committee were so occupied in conference that it was almost impossible to get them together. Nevertheless, the chairman called Admiral Dewey before the committee at that time, and he was heard at length in the closing days of the session.

The Philippines committee took during its hearings about three thousand printed pages of testimony. So much for the work of the committee. It is doubtful if any committee of congress ever worked harder or more steadily than the Philippines committee during the same period of time.

The committee refused to hear the following persons: Mr. Edward Atkinson, because he had never been in the Philippines and had no testimony, but merely opinions to offer. Sixto Lopez, who had not been in the islands for twelve years. Aguinaldo. Mabini. Rio De Pilar.

The committee refused to call these men because it did not consider it proper to summon as witnesses as to the army of the United States persons who had been actively in arms against us and were then either held as prisoners or in exile.

These were the only witnesses refused. The refusal was public and the reasons for the refusal were given. None of these witnesses could have thrown the slightest light on the conduct of our army because they were either in the field against us, or in prison, or in the United States. Every other witness asked for was called by the committee and heard at length. Every witness suggested by the minority with the exception of those just mentioned was ordered by the committee to be summoned. The list of wit-

nesses was such a long one that it was not completed when the session closed, and a number remained on this account uncalled, but that was not the fault of the committee.

Before the hearings began, the committee voted unanimously not to admit the public to the hearings. The room was entirely inadequate for such a purpose and experience has shown that admitting the public only delays investigation. The committee admitted representatives of the several press associations, covering substantially all the newspapers of the United States. They had stenographers present and were at liberty to take down every word uttered in the committee room and did take down a great deal of it. They sent out very full reports which the entire newspaper press of the country was at liberty to use to any extent. Copies of the full stenographic reports of the hearings were furnished on the afternoon of the same day that the testimony was taken to the special correspondents, and the official report of the proceedings was always in print on the following day and ready for distribution to any one who desired it. No more thorough means could have been adopted for the utmost publicity.

There was no suppression of testimony or of witnesses, and no refusal to call anybody except in the five cases mentioned. These are the plain facts about the alleged suppression.

The death of Luther R. Marsh at an advanced age, and the announcement that he died poor, recalls one of the most remarkable and deplorable cases of victimizing in the history of spiritualistic frauds. This man, possessed of great wealth and 'all the kind instincts of a philanthropist, fell into the coils of an adventurer, who, working upon his credulity through his devotion to departed friends, pretended to receive messages from the dead until she secured hundreds of thousands from him and left him practically a ruined man. The notoriety of the Debar affair will long be remembered as a monumental piece of impudence and a singular example of what a man will do in his search for evidences of life beyond the tomb.

John W. Gates' idea that if a boy wants to play poker or gamble in any other way it is better to gamble with his father than with anybody else, is undoubtedly sound philosophy but it is not a sure safeguard for the boy, any more than it is to get drunk with him if he is determined to get drunk. A great many fathers have tried the plan of gaming with their sons but this method has not prevented some of the boys from becoming confirmed gamblers, who have not confined their passion for play to the paternal society. Possibly, as they say, the boys were foreordained to go to ruin any way but that will not remove the firmly fixed belief in the minds of many good people that parents should set a better example for their children.

It begins to look as though the Democratic state leaders would be obliged to deal in prize campaign essays if they expect to secure any material worth reading for the coming contest.

From present indications King Edward will not be in condition to necessitate carving for some time hence. This appears to be an "off year" for all of the prophets.

Mr. Ochs appears to have discovered that conservative journalism was no novelty in Philadelphia.

As a professional "innocent" Mr. Neely continues to attract attention and accumulate profit.

WE MUST STAND BY CUBA.

The main argument used by opponents of reciprocity with Cuba is, that the chief beneficiary would be the American sugar trust. This contention is not borne out by the evidence put before the committee on ways and means during the first session of the Fifty-seventh congress. That evidence shows that of the 960,000 tons anticipated sugar crop in Cuba for this year, only 230,000 tons were owned by American interests, and that all the rest was owned by Cuban and Spaniards, who mainly reside in Cuba.

The sugar trust is not the principal advocate of sugar tariff reduction for Cuba. The only item of profit to the extent of the mere pitance of \$2,500 which Mr. Havemeyer gave Mr. Thurber towards the expense of the latter's Cuban reciprocity campaign, was the interest on a loan compared with the trust's financial ability and necessity, were it likely to be vitally affected by the failure or success of the bill. What is \$2,500 as against the "millions for the sugar trust" cry of the opponents of a broad minded interpretation of our interest in Cuba, and of our obligations towards here.

Hon. Lorenzo Payne, chairman of the committee on ways and means, stated our obligation clearly and conservatively when he said on the floor of the house: "We are in the position of a guardian who has settled with his ward, paid over every dollar of the principal and interest, and yet every guardian, be he a right minded man, is interested when that ward goes into the world, to use every endeavor that he consistently can, to make the career of that ward successful. Cuba came to us as a ward or trust, self-imposed, it is true, but still a trust, and we should not try to escape any of the obligations of that trust, expressed or implied. After bringing a child into the world, we are bound to educate it, and to help it get a start in life."

The Cuban reciprocity bill as drawn by Mr. Payne, approved by the committee, passed by the house, and shelved by a contingent of the senate, does not injure in the least degree the sugar planters of the United States. It does not give a benefit to Cuba at the expense of those planters, nor (factually) at the expense of our people. It simply means that our people will, to the very fullest extent of its provisions, stop taking that much money out of one pocket and putting it into the other, nationally speaking. This is undoubtedly so while we, with our dependencies, only produce 100,000,000 pounds of the 1,600,000,000 pounds of sugar we use each year. But our opponents say "Why not cover the point under the law providing for reciprocal treaties." At the time the Cuban reciprocity bill passed the house, this was impossible as there was no one in Cuba to make a reciprocal agreement of treaty. It could only be done by passing such a law as Mr. Payne proposed. The hope and expectation now is that such a treaty will be negotiated in full accordance with the provisions of the Dingley tariff law, although the time limit in those provisions may have passed. The proposed law would give us the right to Cuba would establish too dangerous a precedent, and probably result in scandal, if distributed to Cuban planters as proposed, far more aggravated than those

which resulted from our own bounty system under the law of 1890. This plan, after it was discussed in caucuses and in the house, never had a corporal's guard of supporters. The talk about driving an entering wedge into the tariff by Cuban reciprocity is absurd from men who, with Mr. McKinley, have favored reciprocity, where it suits us as in this case, as the hand maid of protection. The bill was not one-sided, but conferred as great benefits upon American producers and people, to say the least, as upon our wards, the Cuban planters and people. Either by passing a Cuban reciprocity bill, or by treaty, it is our interest fully as much as our duty as guardian, nay, more, as parent, to stand by Cuba, till she is able to earn her own living. — Walter J. Ballard, Schenectady, N. Y., August 17, 1902.

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CONTEST EDITOR, Scranton Tribune, Scranton, Pa.

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