

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, OCTOBER 2, 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. A. VOSBURG. Commissioner—JOHN COURIER MORRIS. JOHN PENNYMAN.

Legislative. Senator—JOHN B. JORDAN. Representatives—First District—JOSEPH OLIVER. Second District—JOHN SCHEFFER, JR. Third District—EDWARD JAMES. Fourth District—P. A. PHILLIPS.

The fact that it is necessary to provide military escorts for certain railroad trains and trolley cars in portions of the coal fields, to prevent mobs from holding them up in order to search for non-union men whose crime consists of exercising the right to work, would be a good subject for consideration by Mayor Maybury's strike-cure convention in Detroit. It will explain a lot of things.

The Strike Enigma.

IT IS, of course, sincerely to be hoped that the efforts now being made to bring the strike to an end may be successful. The strike has reached a stage where it is pinching everybody. Not alone is it spreading misery and havoc throughout the anthracite territory, but it is menacing the employment of thousands of workmen at a distance and the comfort if not the health of millions in every direction. Without exaggeration it may fairly be called the greatest menace which the country has had within its borders since the days of secession and the longer it lasts the worse it becomes.

All these facts are fully understood by intelligent Americans, who are sincerely hopeful that the menace will soon break and disappear. But we confess our inability to see the usefulness of public meetings such as the one proposed by the mayor of Detroit, or of indiscriminate outcry by persons who have no practical suggestions to offer. The situation calls instead for calm judgment and self-control on the part of the leaders of public opinion. As an offset to some of the hysteria now prevalent, suppose we consider for a moment a few fundamental truths.

The coal mines are private property. The government can no more seize them than it could seize the furniture of the striking miners. As President Roosevelt found out when he consulted legal authority, there is no way by which the government can lawfully take a hand in settling the strike. And even if there were a way, the government, with all its power, could not legally force a single striker to work against his will. There is one thing and only one thing which the government can do, if it has not already done it; and that is to protect from intimidation and from any and all forms of unlawful interference or oppression of the man in the coal fields who either is at work in the mines or wants to go to work in them. Any man who lives in the mining region knows that there has been systematic and wholesale intimidation and terrorism directed to the end of securing into continued idleness men who want and whose conditions need work, wages and self-support. It is the duty of the government to put a stop to it as far as it can to such a condition of lawlessness. Then, if the strike long remains intact, it will be time to consider other measures.

the strike. We do not recall having seen the suggestion in print, but it occurs to us that there is only one feasible way by which persons not interested in the coal business as investors and employers may take, from those who are, the ownership and management of the coal mines, and that is by purchase. It is open to the critics of the operators to form a pool and try to buy out the existing holdings of anthracite. This would seem to be a time when a low selling price might be named; and the advantage of a change in ownership would be that those who now feel that the present operators are harsh and unfair to the mine workers on strike could substitute any policy of recognition and treatment which might impress them as being more equitable, and also establish anthracite prices to suit their present objections. Their attempt to manage a business which other men own is one that few of them would approve if it should be turned against themselves.

The strike split now prevalent among certain school children calls for some vigorous counter striking among parents, unless we are to have a new crop of anarchists in this country.

The Situation in Ireland.

ON THURSDAY of last week the Earl of Dudley made his entry into Dublin as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He passed through a city as indifferent to his advent or his presence as if he were an ordinary English tourist on his way to his hotel. His progress through the streets was marked, to be sure, by lines of soldiers and the gasconade of a few ultra loyal students from Trinity college; but these perfunctory demonstrations only served to emphasize the irony of the state entry of the king's vice regent, his first and maybe the last.

The new viceroy is a young man, very rich and in his own circle very popular. He bears no ill will toward the Irish, nor do they toward him. He would, no doubt, spend oceans of money to popularize his tenure of office; but he knows that during his brief stay in the country his political influence will have as little weight in conciliating or alienating Irishmen to the system which he represents as the system of the weathercock on St. Patrick's cathedral. This government blight has lasted, with some slight modifications, in Ireland for nearly seven hundred years, and grows more hollow in its hopeless fatality from generation to generation.

A Veteran Miner Suggests a Plan

THE following suggestion for a re-organization of the mining business comes from a man who has labored in and about the mines for nearly forty years and who thinks he understands thoroughly what is needed to tranquilize the labor situation: Mr. Editor: Necessity is the mother of all inventions, and the present strike has made it necessary to devise a new plan to work the coal mines hereabout. And if the new plan is a practical one, as many believe it is, then it would be the best and easiest to end the present strike by selling out and doing away with miners' contract work and have them to work on the same system as all others inside the mines—on daily wages. It has been said that about a high number for the best coal and most productive where the coal is tight and hard, because more holes would be drilled and fired; and especially it calls for the best judgment in the use of powder in each blast. I know of some people called miners, who judge the amount of powder by the depth of the hole drilled—four feet of hole, eight inches of powder; five and one-half feet of hole, two feet of powder—but a practical miner never does so. He always judges the amount of powder by the amount of coal that is thrown out, and he always knows how the grain of the coal runs, for it often needs more powder in the four-foot hole than it does in the five-foot hole. A good miner should always have good wages, the same as all other number one tradesmen; and I am of the opinion that the new plan is practical and put in operation, it would be the best, in the long run, for all concerned.

Republican party. The only times in that 41 years when the Democracy had a chance to try its hand at running the government were years of stagnation, distress, idleness and wholesale charity. Is it surprising, therefore, that, in the words of Mark Hanna, the American workman intends next month to "stand pat"?

A recent issue of the London Times in its South Wales correspondence told of fears of a disagreement between the mine workers and operators in that district upon the termination of the present sliding scale agreement, next year. It told of a meeting of 10,000 miners at Porth and of addresses to them by "Mabon," Vice-President Brace of the South Wales Federation, General Secretary Harvey of the Derbyshire miners and Sir Alfred Thomas, M. P., the tenor of which was that while no one wanted trouble the wishes of the miners must be respected or there was no telling what might happen. This was written before Americans had begun to order Welsh coal in quantity. Whether this state of things will modify the feeling in favor of a strike in certain contingencies remains to be seen. But the Times article shows that American coal interests are not having any monopoly of excitement.

The saying that what is one man's meat is another man's poison is illustrated in the following extract from yesterday's New York Tribune: "In spite of the fact that the bituminous is an industry entirely independent of the anthracite, the price of soft coal in this city has risen to an extraordinary figure. It is selling at \$9 a ton wholesale, with the promise of a daily increase. On the East Side dealers are doling it out at the rate of 25 to 35 cents a pound. Somebody is reaping a harvest, notwithstanding that mine soft coal is being mined today than ever before." There is food for thought in this quotation. But is the anthracite as independent of the bituminous as the New York paper thinks?

The reason given by the People's party for throwing up the sponge in this state, namely, that it has no campaign fund, is convincing. Fundless campaigns don't go far in Pennsylvania.

Evans and Williams will make competent mine inspectors. They will be inspectors who will inspect.

It is a safe guess that Ben Odell will make Bird Coler think he is a mud turtle.

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It is true that some miners would not like it, especially those that have the bad habit of hurrying out of the mines each every day. They would not be able to do so with the new plan. But in place of the miners getting into a habit of hurrying out, as heretofore they would get the same time as all other company hands. Furthermore, it would do away with the following matters, that may cause strikes and:

First—There is a strong desire and tendency among the miners' laborers to demand half of the earnings of the miners. Second—There is great demand and cry for the weighing of the coal these days, which must be heard sooner or later with the present mode of working. Third—The docking of coal has always been a bone of contention with the miners since I remember, back in the sixties. Fourth—The miners' certificate. The miners in the past were condemning the certificate law, saying it was detrimental to them in this strike, or fight, as we may call it. But with the new plan of working in the mines, there would be no docking of coal, and the miners and laborers for half the proceeds of the earnings; also, there would be no talk of the weighing of the coal, because all would be working on the same system, and there would be no need of so much ado on either side about the certificate. Therefore, being that those threatening dangers of strikes are cast aside, it would be better for both sides to get the new plan in operation; the sooner the better it will be, and end this strike. Strikes are killers. Labor is the sinews, marrow, blood and life of our country. Stop labor and all suffer. Strikes have killed every union that I was ever in. What will come of the union of today, time will tell. How much money have the workmen lost? How much money have the operators lost? How much has all business in general lost? If you have the figures, add them together and the sum will be enormous. What has caused all this sacrifice? The strike. How many families had made arrangements for a home for themselves, by paying so much each month, and have failed to do so? What is the cause? The strike. How many had to leave their homes to seek support for their families of late-for what cause? The strike. How many families that have always been neighbors and friendly all their lifetime have become enemies, and many in

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danger of their lives, because they use their personal liberty to work, while others use their liberty by lying idle? What caused all these enemies? The strike. This enemy and bitter feeling is the worst of all, because it has crept into different societies—yes, and into the most secret and loving of them—and sowed its diabolical seed there, and it will take many years to eradicate and uproot the same. Strikes are bad policy. It is not by striking another you may expect a favor from him. Let you not be deceived by those saying that the operators are the miners' enemies. It is all nonsense, because by the miners working they make their money. And through the operators' capital the miners make their money; hence what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Do not be carried away by the people that sow the wind and reap the whirlwind, but, like men that own themselves, try to fill up the gap that has been made between capital and labor—neither can get along without the other, but either can do great damage to the other. Therefore, let everyone do his part to get better feeling between both parties.



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How to Help Young Men and Women Secure Educations

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HOW YOU CAN HELP If you are not already a subscriber to The Tribune, send a note to some one of the contestants, requesting a call. Or, better still, send your subscription to The Tribune, together with the money to pay for same, designating some contestant which you wish to receive the credit. Contestants are credited with one point for every month you pay in advance. The price of The Tribune in advance is: Points: One month.....\$1.50 1 Three months.....4.50 3 Six months.....8.50 6 One year.....16.50 12

PRESENT SUBSCRIBERS can aid contestants materially by furnishing them with a list of friends who might be induced to take The Tribune. Or, they can personally request these friends to subscribe. Or, they can send The Tribune to the friends, paying the money themselves. Many are doing this and the contestants are very grateful for this whole-hearted aid. NEW SUBSCRIBERS ARE COUNTED.

TO CONTESTANTS Remember: The Tribune's Educational Contest closes October 25, at 8 P. M. No points net in The Tribune office by the first stroke of 8, as told by the Court House clock, will be counted. EXCEPT: Those received by mail and postmarked at or before 8 p. m.

SPECIAL HONOR PRIZES FOR OCTOBER FIVE DOLLARS IN GOLD to the contestant bringing in the largest number of points during the week ending Saturday, October 15.

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