

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 each insertion, space to be used within one year:

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of Paper, and Full Position. Rows include 100 lines, 100 words, 100 characters, 100 figures, 100 illustrations.

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SCRANTON, PA., OCTOBER 13, 1902.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

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

County. Congress—WILLIAM CONNELL. Judge—A. VOSHTER. Commissioner—JOHN FOURIER MORRIS. JOHN PENNMAN. Mine Inspectors—LLOYD ELYN M. EVANS. DAVID T. WILLIAMS.

Legislative. Senator—JOHN B. JORDAN. Representative—JOSEPH OLIVER. Second District—JOHN SCHEIDT, JR. Third District—EDWARD JAMES. Fourth District—P. A. PHILBIN. Election day, Nov.

Ex-Governor Pattison is having a difficult time in trying to make the people forget the fact that his last election was followed by a distressing period of commercial depression.

The Gasoline Explosion.

ON THE average of chances the explosion by which three men lost their lives in a house on Washington avenue on Thursday, would be more remarkable had it not occurred under the circumstances which attended this dreadful fatality.

The unfortunate man Robert Rankin was an amateur entertainer, who used a cinematograph in his performance. This instrument was driven by gasoline. Gasoline is a powerful and erratic explosive. Even those who have a scientific knowledge of its chemical irritability can hardly depend upon its normal action except in small and comparatively harmless quantities.

Rankin had a tank of it in the out-house in which he had set up his cinematograph. Calling upon two friends to witness or assist him in his rehearsal they were careful to lock the door, and as it seems had produced two or three pictures satisfactorily when by some means the gasoline exploded and they were caught like a rat in a trap.

In the shock of the explosion and the ignition of their clothing they were overcome by the fumes, or at any rate unable to open the door, and whatever chance they had of escaping with their lives was in this way unfortunately cut off.

Certainly there should be a law, and it would be a useful and humane one, to compel whoever is engaged in handling explosives in quantities sufficient to endanger life or property to hold a state or municipal certificate of competency in its manipulation. A lecture in these days is altogether insipid that is not set off by pictures thrown by a cinematograph, a kinetoscope or some other instrument of the kind with its gaseous motor power.

Cuba.

IT WAS a deplorable misfortune that the Cuban reciprocity bill was defeated by a group of senators whose political interest in beet sugar was more inordinately conservative than the financial interests of their constituents. The states in which the production of beet sugar is an industry were naturally very anxious that it should not be endangered by competition from without.

As the majority of these senators have now discovered the citizens of these states, which they were so solicitous to conciliate by refusing a moderate reciprocal concession to Cuba for her chief and almost sole industry, could place their principles before their pockets and concede to national expediency the prospect of individual gain.

President Roosevelt could do no more at the time than he did. In his strenuous advocacy of Cuban reciprocity he had the country and the press with him in an unanimity which is seldom witnessed on a question which had, so far as the American people could appreciate its importance, only a sentiment of justice and humanity to recommend it.

The bill, however, was defeated and we can hardly blame the Cubans if they do not accept the effectiveness of our good intentions in speeches and newspaper articles as a material obligation. Since the defeat of the reciprocity bill the Cubans have been growing more and more hostile to us, nor have they striven in any way to conceal it.

The Cuban government has prepared a tariff of its own which would practically annihilate our trade with the island, such as it is. It is endeavoring to float a loan with foreign financiers which might lead the country into devious paths from which she might not be able to extricate herself without our interference.

the administration labors. We have made vast sacrifices for Cuba. We do not wish to recall them every time we have to remonstrate with her. But she should remember, her president and executive should not need to be told, that we have no designs upon her liberty; that we have no desire to dictate or frame her national policy. All we ask of her is that she will have a little patience. She endured for three hundred years a despotism from which we unmanumitted her; and now she cannot bear with her friend and benefactor a matter of a few months in which to fulfill the one obligation that we conceive we are bound morally and politically to establish.

The tree-trapping craze which seems to have taken possession of the city may be regarded with some misgivings. To the average man it looks as though it would have been better to have performed the operation five or six months ago. We do not shear sheep in the fall; and do not reserve summer garments for winter wear. Horticulturists as a rule recommend the protection of plants and shrubs by covering them to ward off the chill blasts of winter. Why it should be deemed necessary to remove the bark from shade trees at this period in view of these facts, we are at a loss to understand.

Lesson of a Tragedy.

SCIENTIFIC investigators can no doubt find much to interest them in the recent tragedy at Homestead where several members of a family became the victims of a delirious boy whose mind had been unbalanced by mental work of a character that should have been left to older heads. The boy had for some time been engaged upon inventions and had succeeded in producing several which in time might have been valuable. But before the goal had been reached, his mind gave way and six of his relatives were sacrificed to his frenzy.

While the results of overstudy are not as terrible everywhere as in the Homestead case, it is a question whether children of the present age are not encouraged or driven beyond their powers of endurance by ambitious educators who seem to exercise but little judgment in training pupils under their care. All about us may be seen attendants of the "high school," who ought to be playing marbles or dressing dolls for several years yet, wrestling with problems of magnitude sufficient to puzzle the brain of a modern scientist, and pupils are graduated at an age when they should be in the rudiments of the branches that they have mastered. It ought not to need the opinion of a specialist to point out to the modern educator that this sort of pressure, except in cases of extraordinary bodily vigor, will exhaust the nerve force of children and make them old men and women before their time.

Life is scarcely worth the living if it is to be made a test of endurance from childhood to the grave. There should be more in the existence of the average boy and girl than a tiresome struggle to master knotty problems that require constant application in school and out. It is not necessary for any boy or girl to win fame before arriving at majority. In fact, had as it may appear to the progressive educator, history set down points out a case where an infant prodigy ever amounted to anything in after life. The greatest men and women have been the ones whose brains were allowed to grow and develop with their bodies during the halcyon days of youth.

Boer Generals and the Emperor.

THE REFUSAL of the Boer generals to be presented through the British embassy to the Emperor William has aroused all the indignation and vehemence of the German press. The Germans consider it an act of ingratitude, if nothing worse. When the generals intimated their intention of visiting Germany and of paying their respects to the Kaiser, they were informed that this could only be done through the intermediary of the English ambassador. They readily acquiesced in this arrangement, but for some reason this appointment was shortly after cancelled and the Boers suggested that if they were to pay their respects to the emperor the invitation should come from him. If he were ever so willing to accommodate them the emperor could not, without outraging all diplomatic usage, conform to such a request. The Boer generals are British subjects; they have sworn allegiance to the British crown; they solemnly promised to the colonial secretary that they would refrain from all acts which would actually or seemingly subvert the terms of the treaty of peace. The British government has acted toward their late enemy more than generously; they have conformed justly to what they believed the exigency of the situation demanded for them through the intermediary of the English ambassador. They readily acquiesced in this arrangement, but for some reason this appointment was shortly after cancelled and the Boers suggested that if they were to pay their respects to the emperor the invitation should come from him.

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Germany cannot afford to offend England gratuitously. For the emperor to have received the peripatetic Boer generals as if they were still the representatives of a government which has a potential status would be a mortal insult. The emperor understands that well. Whatever may be his admiration of the Boer generals as soldiers and as patriots, his attitude toward them as a sovereign statesman must necessarily be platonic. It is said that the Boer generals were induced to appear at Berlin to be something more than what they really are, at the instigation of Dr. Leyds, the evil genius of the Boers, as he has been called and epithetically is. If this is so, and it is likely to be so, this pertinacious intermeddler has deliberately frustrated the success of

the mission of the Boer generals, as philanthropic emissaries gathering the moral sympathy of the world in behalf of their distressed countrymen. Instinctively they were drawn to Germany as the most practical base for their tour around the world. There was every preparation made there to receive them with enthusiasm. Although this feeling is not likely to be allayed greatly in the Fatherland by the egregious blunder of Leyds or somebody else, the envoys will meet with no indirect imperial recognition there and, worst of all, may be passively ignored by the official and semi-official hierarchy.

We are all a little tired of the Boer war. Of Boer history and British blundering we have had a surfeit. Sir William Napier in his "History of Peninsular Wars," says: "In the beginning of each war England has to seek in blood the knowledge necessary to insure success, and like the fabled progress toward Eden her conquering course is through chaos followed by death." There has been scarcely any apparent diminution in the price of the blood knowledge she has acquired in all the wars she has waged since 1812.

Here the Boer generals will be heartily welcomed as lecturers and expounders of that fatal struggle which ended in the overthrow of the independence of their country. They will, however, do well to adhere to this programme. We are not greatly interested in the cause of the war, its justice or injustice. These are subjects for the philosophical consideration of posterity and not for us. The prescriptive right which follows upon conquest is the only justification which the world has ever demanded or is ever likely to demand for territorial aggrandizement.

Some of the Northeastern Pennsylvania farmers who have been hacking and burning fallows for the past few years now doubtless wish that they had reserved the timber on the briar lots for cord wood. Whatever other calamities may be in store, it is a pleasure to note that at least there is no immediate prospect of a drought. According to Dun & Co., property is bearing up well under the strain of industrial disturbances. BETTER NOT TAKE CHANCES. Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In 1886, when Great Britain adopted free trade, she had a favorable balance of trade of \$200,000,000 yearly, while now (that is, since she has adopted a policy of \$50,000,000 yearly) it would take our breath away to figure up and realize the thousands upon thousands of millions which she has lost in the aggregate of the yearly balances against her, during the fifty-five years from 1886 to 1901. Sir Guilford L. Molesworth, the eminent English economist, states in his "Our Empire Under Protection and Free Trade," just published, "He points out that in 1855 an era of prosperity set in all over the world, which England secured by the free trade policy. He quotes: 'The English people, generally, satisfied with this rush of prosperity and wealth, accepted, without enquiry, the persistent claims of the advocates of free trade for this result, and this idea has been so thoroughly ingrained into the English mind, that those who venture to question it, have been thought to be men beyond the reach of argument. In fact, John Bright, the great English statesman, declined a challenge to debate the question, with the consequence that no arguments could be placed before such a person with advantage.' John Bright's dogmatic attitude is typical of the statesman of that time, and many American opponents of protection. As the old saw says, 'None so blind as those who will not see,' which must be what is the matter with those who are clamoring for a general tariff revision or for revolutionary changes. In certain cases and under certain conditions, limited reciprocity in equal markets may be advisable and necessary, but not such a measure or measures of injudicious reciprocity, as shall amount, practically, to free trade. Nor the adoption of revolutionary reciprocity simply as a means of securing office. At the time, 1846, England adopted free trade, the leading bankers and merchants of London, assured parliament by resolution: 'That the commercial and manufacturing interests had been for some time in a state of great activity and prosperity. That is just such a resolution as the bankers and merchants of the City of New York would be justified in passing today. Right here is a chief danger of our present prosperity. We have to guard against assuming ourselves as this prosperity is so great, and likely to be so permanent, as to make it safe for us to experiment on changes in those successful economic policies, which we inaugurated on July 3, 1846, and which have so gloriously prospered us. We have to guard against the danger of assuming ourselves as this prosperity is so great, and likely to be so permanent, as to make it safe for us to experiment on changes in those successful economic policies, which we inaugurated on July 3, 1846, and which have so gloriously prospered us. We have to guard against the danger of assuming ourselves as this prosperity is so great, and likely to be so permanent, as to make it safe for us to experiment on changes in those successful economic policies, which we inaugurated on July 3, 1846, and which have so gloriously prospered us. 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