

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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Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of Paper, and Position.

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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 21, 1902.

The Times is printing more elaborate reports of the proceedings of the anthracite coal commission than any other newspaper on earth. Wednesday's Times.

Inches the comparison to the close of Thursday afternoon's session stood as follows:

Tribune 1,068 Times 815 Tribune excess 253 an excess equal to 11% columns or 31 per cent.

In Regulation of Trusts.

THE ASSAULTION of President Roosevelt that a constitutional amendment may be necessary to clothe congress with power to regulate corporations or trusts doing an interstate business has served what was probably the purpose for which it was made.

Attorney General Knox's Pittsburg speech asserting the right of congress to prescribe conditions upon which corporations may use common carrier facilities in the transaction of interstate business pointed the way; and it is announced that Senator Cullen and other men of experience in this field of constructive statesmanship are now at work upon drafts of legislation in this direction.

Attention has also been directed to a section of the Sherman anti-trust law by which any person who can prove that he has been injured in his business or property by reason of any unlawful combination, may sue in the United States Circuit court and is entitled to recover three times the amount of damage sustained in addition to the costs of the suit and reasonable attorney's fees.

Here, it would seem, is the foundation of a remedy. It supplies a method of redress where proof of unlawful conduct is forthcoming. There remains the problem of facilitating the ascertainment of proof; and one obvious solution would be to require the production in court of books and papers where unlawful combination should be specifically alleged. That this might contribute to attempted blackmail or to instituting insinuate and wholly meddlesome and annoying litigation is very evident; but that danger exists already, and is better removed by frank publicity on the part of incorporated enterprises than by an attitude indicative of a desire to shun investigation.

A law authorizing the department of justice, upon responsible complaint, to bring into court for investigation any corporation accused of unfair methods, these to include either dishonest capitalization, dishonest selling or conspiracy to restrain trade, and clothing the court with power, upon conviction by regular process, not only to inflict punishment by fine and imprisonment or either upon the offending person, but also to say that small parcels be enjoined from use of the mails, telegraphs or other carriers engaged in interstate commerce, would, if constitutional, provide an effective means of safeguarding the public interest.

The holder of Attorney General Knox that such a law would be declared unconstitutional is entitled to respect until cancelled by a final court decision.

Trial by Newspaper.

WILLIAM S. FOREST, a prominent Chicago lawyer, has been visiting England lately. Among the objects of his study while in that country was the relation of the newspaper to judicial criminal proceedings.

severely reprimand the editor who permitted in his paper the expression of an opinion on the guilt or innocence of the accused and be upheld accordingly, by public sentiment in doing so, while in this country the custom has become obsolete and popular opinion on the whole seems to be against its practical application.

It will be recalled that in the first trial of Roland E. Molineux in the yellow journals virtually paid a price upon his head. The two leading yellow journals of New York were brutally, outrageously active in manufacturing evidence that would lead to his conviction. They got what they wanted because they held for it. It was more shameless still that the detective forces of the district attorney's office made what use they could of the result of this inquisitorial still hunt and Recorder Goff accepted it as testimony. But this was a notorious instance in which an excess of journalistic activity was natural if it was altogether unjustifiable. All the pertinent facts in the Molineux case which the public needed to know or had a right to know, or even that the jury should have had before them, could have been fully and easily obtainable under any legitimate restriction of newspaper enterprise within its proper sphere and functions. Mr. Forest would have this limitation established by law. We do not think such statutory enactment is at all necessary. The gutter sheet finds its natural outlet into the sewer. It may survive for a time, or even flourish, but if there is one aspect of the American press more predominant than another, it is the fact that the newspaper that is conducted with sanity, honesty and on rigid moral principles, is the only vehicle of public information that can live. Trial by newspaper is not only a nuisance, but an outrage, and it is not a permanent evil.

MEXICAN NOTES.

The Home Market club of Boston, the influential protectionist organization, will hold its annual banquet November 25 at Mechanic's hall, Boston. The list of invited guests is a notable one. It includes Hon. James Wilson, secretary of agriculture; Senator Hoar, Congressman Grosvenor and Littlefield, five state governors and three governors-elect. Our esteemed Schenectady contributor, Walter J. Ballard, is also invited.

The Best Index of Prosperity.

IN SPITE of an expenditure on betterment of track and equipment last year averaging more than \$1,000 a mile for all the mileage in the country, the railroads of the United States find themselves short of carrying facilities to an amount represented by more than 30,000 standard cars. This is in spite of the fact that in the past few years not only has the average size of the freight car more than doubled, but there has also been such an increase in motive power and improvement in grades and quality of track, that train loads have nearly quadrupled.

There is no parallel in our history or in that of any other country to the growth in transportation demands which has taken place in the United States during the last six Republican years. The figures, so far as they are comprehensible, read like works of magic. Let us look at them, taking first the number of miles operated, the ton or freight mileage and the freight density, which is the number of ton miles per mile of road:

Table showing Mileage, Density, and Freight Density for years 1889-1901.

Look next at the percentage of business done in each year, taking the figures of 1888 as 100 per cent.

Table showing percentage of business done in each year from 1888 to 1901.

The provision in added equipment made to take care of this increase is shown by the following figures: In 1894, locomotives 26,204, freight cars 1,228,781; 1895, locomotives 36,610, freight cars 1,230,798; 1896, locomotives 36,638, freight cars 1,245,040; 1897, locomotives 38,410, freight cars 1,241,792; 1898, locomotives, 26,746, freight cars 1,284,807; 1899, locomotives 37,245, freight cars 1,283,081; 1900, locomotives 28,065, freight cars 1,330,258; 1901, locomotives 29,729, freight cars 1,409,472.

In view of this wonderful expansion in our internal commerce, which has not only resulted in the additional employment of thousands of railway workers, but has notwithstanding this addition, put a large tax upon the endurance of all the workers by the unavoidable necessity for overtime work, it is not surprising that the large railroads are voluntarily advancing wages after having, also, in many instances, instituted pension features in the nature of profit-sharing. Wage increases already announced or foreshadowed in the railway world affect nearly three quarters of a million men and involve the additional disbursement of close to \$26,000,000 annually. It is a good illustration of the truth of one of President Roosevelt's favorite remarks that, upon the whole, the American people go up or go down together. Just now, in spite of certain foolish excesses both among speculators and among unwise leaders of organized labor, the American people are still going up.

Eight per cent. of the population of this country is still illiterate. In Germany, only one per cent. of illiterates exists, and in Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemberg, and Scandinavia there are no totally uneducated people. The American schoolmaster needs reinforcements. According to a writer in Success, the aggregate capitalization of the industries at Pittsburg is more than two billion, five hundred million dollars.

The production of steel at Pittsburg, in 1901, equaled that of England, was more than that of Germany, twice that of France, five times that of Russia or Belgium, and twenty-five times that of Spain. No wonder Pittsburg crows.

If all the railroads in the United States should grant the 10 per cent. increase given to employes, by some of the more prominent ones, it would aggregate \$60,000,000, a sum equal to half the total railroad dividends declared last year. This looks a good deal like profit sharing.

There is now some question whether the High volcano was the real article or simply the smoke raised over the senatorial campaign of Apostle Smoor.

Memphis, Tenn., does not often celebrate, but when she does, her citizens demonstrate their ability to thoroughly enjoy that campaign feeling.

One in four of the 650,000 immigrants who arrived last year could not read or write. Is it safe to take such chances?

IN THE CITY OF MEXICO:

California fruit sells for 29 cents a pound. Strawberries are sold every day in the year. The summer climate is the finest of all the year. The demand for a big, modern hotel is still unmet. Blankets are a necessity every night, summer or winter. Priests are not allowed upon the streets in their clerical robes. A dozen free open-air concerts by military bands are given every week. Newsboys are forbidden to cry anything but the names of their papers. Many modern houses, particularly those built by foreigners, are being provided with refrigerators. The copper output in Mexico is increasing very rapidly, as shown by the exports of the first ten months of the fiscal year 1902-1903, which amounted to more than \$31,200,000, a gain of nearly \$2,000,000 over the corresponding ten months of 1901-1902. It is predicted that the production of copper in the current fiscal year 1902-1903 will show a still greater increase, as a result of several new mines of large producing capacity being started. Practically all the copper produced in Mexico is exported, a large part of it as assorted ores—Modern Mexico.

Mexican railways, built from 1877 to 1894, 1410 miles, equal to 6,624 miles. Subsidies have been granted or promised to be paid on stipulated rates.

In cash \$30,328,328.00 In bonds 4,021,342.00 In railway bonds 36,349,670.00 Total \$70,700,340.00

The difference between Mexico and some other countries is that this country has a continuous government, a well-thought-out set of public policies, and that here experts take the place of professional politicians. Wherever the too talkative purveyor of eloquence is kept in the background there is real progress, peace-abounding, and a chance for the peace-making private citizen to go his own way unmolested. Here we are all talking of solving the problem of immigration, but no one doubts that the administration is doing a deal of hard thinking about the monetary situation, and that in the end, it will announce a sensible decision, and avoid upsetting the business community. Elsewhere there would be the usual blarneying, and the usual tussle and superficial orators, professions and brass bands, Mexico settles her problems differently. Meantime, we are all industriously pursuing the big silver peso, knowing well its depreciation, but also knowing that we are not in any danger of a flood of rag money. Mexico, in any case, is going to have a stable currency to back her bank notes and give stability to her expanding trade, internal and external.—Mexican Herald.

The average annual value of Mexico's agricultural exports to the United States for the last five years has been \$15,500,000 gold. American imports of agricultural products last year reached a value of \$302,000,000. Mexico occupies eleventh place among the countries supplying these products, furnishing only 3.7 per cent. of the total. These figures indicate the great possibilities that exist for the extension of tropical agriculture in Mexico.

A company has just been formed in Trieste, Austria, under the name of the "Austro-Mexican company," to trade and encourage trade between Mexico and Austria. The company also proposes to establish a fast line of steamer between Europe and Mexico. Why are we not also establishing lines to foreign ports to give us orders for our multiplying factories? The answer is "We are waiting on congress for a ship subsidy bill."

SCRANTON'S BUSINESS HOUSES. THESE ENTERPRISING DEALERS CAN SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS OF EVERY CHARACTER PROMPTLY AND SATISFACTORILY.

Free Distribution FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT TESTED THE VIRTUES OF Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy Kidney Disease, Female Weakness

Men's Gloves, \$1 The \$1.50 Kind for

A full one dollar and a half's worth at a saving of 50 cents on each pair. It is a Cape Glove, lined with silk or unlined, dressed or undressed, soft skins, modern backs, all sizes, and in all the popular colors. A real bargain at \$1.00 per pair. Each pair warranted. One of the best street gloves you ever saw for \$1.00.

Louis H. Jones 412 Spruce Street. 300 Lackawanna Avenue. LINE OF IMPORTED WOOL GLOVES, PLAIN OR FANCY, 50c.

The Moosic Powder Co. Rooms 1 and 2 Commonwealth Bldg. SCRANTON, PA. MINING AND BLASTING POWDER Made at Moosic and Bushdale Works. Lafin & Rand Powder Co.'s ORANGE GUN POWDER Electric Batteries, Electric Exploders, Exploding Blasts, Safety Fuses. REPAUNO CHEMICAL CO.'S HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

Headquarters for Incandescent Gas Mantles, Portable Lamps. THE NEW DISCOVERY Kern Incandescent Gas Lamp. Gunster & Forsyth 233-327 Penn Avenue.

EDUCATIONAL. Do You Want a Good Education?

Lafayette College Easton, Pa. which offers thorough preparation in the Engineering and Chemical Professions as well as the regular College courses.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, EAST STROUDSBURG, PA. Regular State Normal Courses and Special Departments of Music, Education, Art, Drawing, Stenography and Typewriting; strong College Preparatory Department.

SCRANTON CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS SCRANTON, PA. T. J. Foster, Pres. Elmer H. Lawall, Treas. R. J. Foster, Stanley P. Allen, Vice President. Secretary.

The Sanderson Oil and Specialty Co., 1 Race Street, City. HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District for Dupont's Powder Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokeless and the Repauno Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuses, Caps and Exploders. Room 401 Conwell Building, Scranton.

WHO WANTS \$20.00 in GOLD For a Christmas Present? Twenty Christmas Presents \$50.00 To Be Given by The Scranton Tribune to the Children of Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

THE TRIBUNE'S SECOND ANNUAL Junior Educational Contest. A Contest in Word-Building. Who Can Make the Most Words Out of the Letters in T-H-E H-O-M-E P-A-P-E-R

THIS IS much easier than last year's contest, and twenty of the brightest boys and girls will secure Christmas Gifts in cash for making the largest number of words out of these letters. It is lots of fun to think out the words and hunt them up in the dictionary, and besides it will help you with your spelling. You will be surprised at the number of different ways these twelve letters can be used.

Rules of the Contest. Presents will be given to the boys or girls, whose parents or guardians are subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, building the largest number of words out of the letters contained in "The Home Paper." No letters must be used any more times than they appear in these three words. As an example, only one "A" could be used, but there might be two "H's" or three "E's."

CONTEST CLOSES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH at 5 P. M. All letters of inquiry for information will be promptly answered. Address your list of words, or any question you wish answered, to CONTEST EDITOR, SCRANTON TRIBUNE, SCRANTON, PA.

BED ROOM FURNITURE We have now in stock the finest display of these goods ever made in Scranton. Mahogany sets in the Colonial and Napoleon post bed styles. They are elegantly rich. Dressers and Chiffoniers in beautifully finished Mahogany; Colonial and Louis XIV styles. We invite inspection Whether You Are Going to Buy at Once or Not. Hill & Connell, Washington Avenue 121

Smoked Everywhere Successful Everywhere In the North, East, West and South—all over the city, smokers are finding that the "Henry the Fourth" is a permanently successful cigar. Henry the Fourth Cigar Made in but one quality, absolutely clear Havana. O'Hara's Cigar Store, 431 Spruce Street. Box trade receives careful attention.