

The Scranton Tribune

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LIVY & RICHARD Business Editors. O. F. BYRBE Business Manager.

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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 the 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, NOVEMBER 24, 1920.

Schuykill county is acquitting strike rioters as fast as they appear for trial. Schuykill evidently intends to keep pace with the fashion of the times.

The Commission Paramount.

WHEN the Anthracite Coal Strike commission appeared for instructions before Theodore Roosevelt, its creator, acting, as he said, for the third party in interest, the American people, it was told not only to hear and adjust the immediate differences between the operators and mine workers, but also, and as the really important part of its mission, to seek a basis of permanent amity and justice in the anthracite industry. We believe that if that instruction of Theodore Roosevelt had any weight then it has the same weight today and will have no less weight on and after December 2.

It is, of course, sincerely to be hoped that within the next ten days the legal representatives of two of the parties in interest—the mine workers and operators—may find a basis of agreement as to the mathematics of the coal industry. It is decidedly to the best interests of these anthracite fields that the mine workers should secure an increase in wages, a reduction in the hours of labor and, if possible to find it, a better basis of payment for piecework in the mines. On all of these points the sympathies of the whole community and its self-interest as well as are wholly with the plaintiffs. The more money distributed in wages in and about the mines, the greater the volume of local trade and the more chance each man has to advance his personal business. A ten per cent. wage increase would be welcome, but a twenty per cent. one would be better.

But when we come to the ethics of the problem there dare be no shirking. The third party in interest looks to the commission to see to it that the rights of any man to dispose of his labor as he pleases within the law shall not be abridged. For this is a right not local to the coal industry. It is a right which vitally concerns the entire American public. And next to it in importance we believe to be the necessity of stamping out the spirit of anarchy hitherto rife in these parts and in requiring better order. Unless this shall be done, the spectacle will be presented of a semi-official invitation being extended to wage-earners to seek increases of pay by methods of terrorism.

Good Work Wasted.

IF PATIENCE, punctuality and efficiency in details constitute successful administration, then the disfavor into which the Low administration in Greater New York has fallen is undeserved, for it has been exceedingly diligent in looking after the odds and ends. For example: In ten months the law department collected twice as much in arrears from tax-dodgers as during the entire four years of the preceding administration. The penalties collected for violations of laws and ordinances are double those collected in an equal period under Tammany. Judgments entered against the city are \$214,000 fewer and in favor of the city \$13,000 greater under Low than under Van Wyck. More money has gone for schools than ever before and more children are in school. Appropriations in the health department have been decreased, while the work has been increased, until the death rate is now at the lowest point in the city's history. Nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in water arrangements have been passed on really been of immense service to Cuba in teaching the planters economy. This is the more significant for the reason that it is unusual for British diplomatic reports to be made public through any other channel than the foreign office in London. Minister Carden's action in giving out his report in Havana is regarded as being indecorous and unfriendly. The degree of success with which this anti-American

generally and fearlessly, with the result that in ten months 1,200 old tenement houses have been altered to comply with the law, while plans for 519 new buildings, to cost \$18,000,000, have been filed. In the department of bridges a twelve per cent. saving with increased efficiency has been effected, one instance of this economy being the discharging of one \$3,200 a year inspector, whose only work was to inspect two \$600 a year bridge tenders. A reduction of one-fourth in the number of dock-masters has been attendant upon a fifteen per cent. increase in dock-masters' collections. The office of the district attorney has disposed of 238 more indictments and has 231 fewer than pending a year ago. And so on down the list—everywhere economy, curtailment of snags, grafts and pulls and, as far as possible, even fair dealing.

But because the police department in New York city has remained largely true to its many years of Tammany teachings and nobody has been found big enough to reconstruct it, in a twinkling, and also because the politicians are not pleased with the fusion distribution of patronage, all this good detail work is likely to count for nothing at the next election and Tammany is likely to be returned to a greater boldness in power than ever before, because of the inability of the American people, or at least New York people, to appreciate merely ordinary goodness and hum drum efficiency unrelieved by the picturesque, the bizarre or the spectacular.

Henry W. Brown, a Philadelphia insurance expert, makes a statement which is significant if true. He says that while the public gets dollar for dollar in life insurance, losing only interest on the investment while the risk is being carried, the investor in fire insurance pays in a dollar and a half to get back a dollar. Yet it is claimed that the insurance is not profitable. The public would be interested in having this apparent discrepancy explained.

Queer Doings in Cuba.

THOSE WHO have been keeping watch upon affairs in Cuba are noting some peculiar developments in that island. The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune writes: "Minister Squieres and General Bliss are encountering unforeseen difficulties at the beginning of their task of negotiating a reciprocity treaty with Cuba. Never has one country been so generous to another as the United States proposed to be to Cuba in the draft of a treaty which General Bliss carried to Havana. In framing it Cuba and her industries were thought of. The primary object in view was to furnish Cuba with a market for everything which she raises for export. This was to be done in spite of the fact that her principal exports are sugar and tobacco; that sugar and tobacco are largely produced in the United States; that those interested in these industries in this country have strongly opposed reciprocity; and that the United States government would surrender a large amount of customs revenue. In return, the United States asked only for such concessions in Cuban tariff rates as would give to American merchants that predominance in the Cuban market to which their geographical proximity entitles them. Cuba's revenues were not to be reduced, but the inevitable effect of the new tariff would be to increase them."

"It was naturally supposed that when this plan was laid before President Palma's government it would meet with ready acceptance, but information which reaches the officials in Washington leads to the fear that anti-American influences at work in Havana will be able to block the framing of the treaty. It is almost incomprehensible to the administration that any faction of intelligent men in Cuba should allow themselves to be led into opposition to this treaty, and members of President Roosevelt's administration cannot understand why the president should encounter opposition in Havana after having taken issue with many of the leaders of his party on the subject of generous treatment for Cuba, having appealed to the country for support in the recent campaign and having won at the polls. Yet it is undeniable that such opposition exists, and that it is powerful enough to embarrass President Palma, who is believed to be personally alive to the advantages of the proposed treaty and to the great importance to Cuba of its consummation."

"This conditions of affairs in Havana has been brought about, to some extent at least, by the activity of the agents of European business houses, who see that if the treaty goes through their sales in Cuba will be seriously affected. They have been zealously supported in their anti-American campaign by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the countries from which they come, and all the influence of Great Britain, Germany, France and Spain in the island has been arrayed against the United States. No opportunity has been lost of suggesting to the Cubans, whose experience under Spain was not such as to encourage them to believe that any nation could be disinterested, that the United States had ulterior motives, and that the proposition for closer trade relations and for the retention of coal stations were simply indications that the great Republic of the North was determined to keep the Cubans in vassalage."

"It is pointed out that there is a strange significance in the fact that, just on the eve of the opening of negotiations by General Bliss minister plenipotentiary of European governments have entered the field of controversial pamphleteering, as has been illustrated by the publication in Havana of the British minister's report, in which he contends that the crisis in Cuba has been exaggerated, and that the distress through which the planters have passed has really been of immense service to Cuba in teaching the planters economy. This is the more significant for the reason that it is unusual for British diplomatic reports to be made public through any other channel than the foreign office in London. Minister Carden's action in giving out his report in Havana is regarded as being indecorous and unfriendly. The degree of success with which this anti-American

campaign has been carried on is shown by the fact that in the reorganization of the Cuban house of representatives the anti-Americans were able to elect the president, the first vice president and one of the secretaries."

Informal reports from Havana have even gone so far as to say that foreign influences have led many Cubans to believe that the officials of the Cuban republic would be sustained by the powers of Europe were they to denounce the Platt amendment limitations upon Cuban sovereignty as void, because having been written into the Cuban constitution by force. It would be interesting to witness the result of an attempt to carry out this suggestion.

If the United States should frankly assert the logic of the Monroe doctrine by notifying Colombia that in the interest of civilization it proposes to take possession of such portions of the isthmus of Panama as are required for the construction and safety of an isthmian canal, leaving the whole question of compensation to The Hague arbitration court, we believe that the enlightened opinion of the world would justify the action and that its immediate influence in stifling petty hold-up statesmanship in South America would be most desirable. The day has gone by when a sovereignty of sheer cussedness counts for much in the processes of international progress.

Very general complaint arises that members of the National Guard, since returning from their recent service in the coal fields, are finding difficulty in resuming their former civil employment or in securing new employment. Whether this is due to the prejudices of labor unions or the meanness of employers or both, it is a disgraceful situation, which should not be tolerated. It is the duty of the state to protect its soldiers, and it should see to it that this protection is not merely nominal.

As they scan the cable news, how many Americans realize that Brazil is one-tenth larger than the United States, excluding Alaska, and that Argentina is nearly two-thirds as large, while her chief city is as large almost as Philadelphia and ten times as beautiful? Yet we all know a lot about the other hemisphere, with which our destiny is but lightly linked. More study of modernized South American geography in our schools would not be amiss in these days of Yankee expansion in Latin countries.

The cheery Cubans, in swelling with present importance, seem to overlook the future. The future is going to be long drawn out and in the course of the drawing we have an opinion that the asset of American good will would prove very valuable to Cuba.

Ex-Queen Lili, of Hawaii, is once more knocking at the door of congress for reimbursement for personal property seized when her throne was overthrown. As the beneficiary of that grab, Uncle Sam ought to do something.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden argues for a 400 per cent. increase in the postage rate on magazines. He evidently believes that, if there is to be an era of price-jumping, Uncle Sam should get in the push.

MUSICAL GOSSIP.

The wealth, fashion, beauty and musical culture of New York will be at the Metropolitan opera house tonight for the opening of the greatest operatic season in the history of that temple of song. The season will extend over a dozen weeks. All the standard operas of the great masters of music will be presented. The performances will be given in Italian, French, German to satisfy the most exacting cosmopolitan taste. Instead of the customary "Faust," the piece selected for the opening performance is "Otello," with James Hammer, Alvarez and Scott. Among the eminent artists to be heard during the season are Nordica, Eames, Semblich, Patti, Schott, and others.

The third in the series of autumnal recitals by pupils of Miss Julia C. Allen and Miss Cordelia Freeman will take place at St. Luke's Parish house tomorrow evening. Miss Florence Robertson, who gives the programme, will have the assistance of two brilliant young artists, Mr. Harold Stewart Briggs, pianist, and Mr. Karl Kirk, violinist, both of the Powers-Alexander studios, New York. They will appear in solo numbers and in concerted music, with Miss Allen as violinist. Miss Robertson has so often and so graciously used her lovely voice for the benefit of charity that she is already known as a charming singer.

The debut of the Bohemian violin virtuoso, Koelan, is fixed for this evening, Nov. 22, at Carnegie hall, New York, in conjunction with Miss Julie Gever, solo pianiste, and Walter Damrosch's grand orchestra of one hundred musicians.

A very elaborate and distinguished social event, Mrs. N. J. was the wedding of Miss Wilhelmina Lentz, daughter of Major Carl Lentz, last Wednesday evening. The marriage took place at the old South Park church, and during the half hour preceding the ceremony a violin and voice recital was given by Miss Julia C. Allen and Miss Cordelia Freeman, an innovation which was a complete success and received the most flattering recognition of the nine hundred guests assembled there. The programme: Organ-Overture, 3d Act Lohengrin Wagner. Violin Adoration Borowski. Voice and violin Villanelle. Violin and voice Folk Song Ambrose. Violin A Dream. Voice The Wedding Gift Blumenthal. Voice and violin Salutaria Bisset.

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The Crane Store Place on Sale This Week

- 25 English Box Coats of imported zibiline cloth, in black and oxford; a \$35 value for the low price of \$27. Interesting, is it not?
50 Monte Carlo and English Walking Jackets, in kersey, Montenc and all good cloths. They were made by a good manufacturer to retail at \$30. Our capacity for quantities enabled us to buy the lot and put them out at \$25.
250 Jackets, in addition to the above, all new goods, for we did not carry any over from last year, ranging in price from \$8.50 to \$40.00, are placed on sale at prices that can't be undersold, when the quality is taken into the consideration.

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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.

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Who Wants \$20.00 For a Christmas Present?



Table showing gift options: One Present \$20.00 in Gold \$20.00, One Present 10.00 in Gold 10.00, One Present 5.00 in Gold 5.00, Two Presents 2.50 Each 5.00, Five Presents 1.00 Each 5.00, Ten Presents .50c Each 5.00. Total—Twenty Presents \$50.00.

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 of 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 letter 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." Only words defined in the MAIN PORTION of "Webster's International Dictionary" (edition of 1898) will be allowed. Any dictionary can be used, but in judging the contest THE TRIBUNE will debar all words not found in Webster's. Proper names, or any other words appearing in the "Appendix" will not be allowed. Obsolete words are admitted if defined in the dictionary. Words spelled two or more ways can be used but once. Words with two or more definitions can be used but once. No single letters counted as words except "A" and "O."

How to Write Your List. Write on one side of the paper only. Write very plainly; if possible, use a typewriter. Place the words alphabetically. Write your name, age, address and number of words at the top of your list. Write the name of parent or guardian with whom you live and who is a regular subscriber to THE TRIBUNE. Fold the list—DO NOT ROLL. CONTEST CLOSSES 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.

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