

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its readers bearing on current topics, but its rate 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.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of Paper, Price per inch each insertion, space to be used within one year.

TEN PAGES.

Says Bishop Potter, very truly: "Organized bodies of labor are making a mistake in trying to force men into their membership and in committing acts of violence and I hope that they will learn that their crusade is only of value when it is carried on along great moral lines."

The Inquiry to Continue.

THE HALTING of compromise proceedings in the strike inquiry is not necessarily a misfortune. If only a compromise was sought, that could have been effected at any time during the past five months, on terms certainly as liberal as those now suggested.

There can be no unfairness to any interest in a full and open hearing. To say that it will take time and cost money is true, but permanent peace is worth both. We have had three years of secrecy and intrigue and mischief in the coal business, with two main strikes and a host of little ones, involving every conceivable phase of lawlessness, persecution and intimidation.

The Stitch in Time.

CONSIDERABLE space has been taken in the papers of late in recital of labor difficulties at Schenectady. That city is undergoing about the same kind of fearful turmoil on the part of men in labor circles newly upheaved into positions of power and responsibility that Scranton has undergone.

It is interesting to note the starting point of the labor excesses in Schenectady. As in Scranton, the first fault lay with the employers. In Schenectady the big employing concern is the General Electric company. It is a liberally managed institution as such institutions go, but it has its share of subordinate officials more intent upon the mathematics of economy in production than upon the ethics of the wage problem.

Trade unionism never got a really secure foothold in this city until the big strike last spring. That it is so strongly entrenched now is partially due to the course pursued by the General Electric officials when that trouble began. The strike resulted from a determination to cut down the wages of a few men less than twenty in the polishing department. The cost of living here is exceedingly high, almost as high as in New York, in fact, and the men protesting vigorously against the reduction, pleading that they could not support their families on less pay than they were receiving.

The blunder of the General Electric officials in giving a cause for grievances and a soil for agitation is almost a direct parallel of the stupidity of the managing interests of the anthracite mines in 1901 in declining to heed the advice of far-seeing men in the coal fields who urged voluntary correction of the powder overcharge, an increase of wages before commanded by main force and the arrangement of a machinery of adjustment of local grievances whereby the individual miner could feel assured of fair treatment without running risk of revenge from an unprincipled foreman.

social cost, including a delirium of violence and incipient anarchy which will long leave a dark stain upon the annals of the anthracite industry, when all of these excesses and expenses could have been avoided and averted by a policy of candid honesty at the beginning.

If there is any lesson from the various phases of strife and turmoil now to be seen in the industrial world which needs emphasis above another it is that the stitch in time saves nine. Let the employer who fears a strike make sure that he is giving no just provocation for one, and then if it comes he can feel pretty sure that it won't put him out of business. There are times of excitement and ferment when the just suffer alike with the unjust, but among employers and among employees; but the old rule still holds good in the long run that honesty is the best policy.

Two Interesting Predictions.

IN 1894 Herbert Spencer, the great English philosopher, wrote to a friend in Brooklyn his opinion that the world-wide movement toward the dissolution of existing social forms and a reorganization of society on a socialistic basis was "irresistible" and he added this cheerful prediction: "We have had times before us and you have still more dreadful times before you—civil war, immense bloodshed, and eventually military despotism of the severest type."

Lyman Abbott is a scholar having some points of comparison with Herbert Spencer. He also offers a prediction on the same subject. He, too, looks upon reorganization of social forms as inevitable, but expects it to come to pass by evolutionary rather than revolutionary processes, and he sees this evolution at work today.

In the primitive state each individual himself conducts all forms of industry necessary for his comfort. He kills the game, skins it, makes of the skin moccasins, furs, and a coat for his body, digs out the log to serve as a canoe, erects his wigwam, cultivates his little patch of corn, makes and strikes his own bow and arrow, and fashions his own arrows; is, in short, butcher, tanner, shoemaker, tailor, boat-builder, horse carpenter, farmer, armorer, all in one.

Gradually he learns that he is more skillful in the chase than his neighbor, and that his neighbor can make a better bow and arrow than he. So one stays at home to construct, the other goes forth to hunt, and the two exchange their products to mutual advantage.

It is now generally admitted by those qualified to testify that banishing the canteen has injured the army. Yet the well meaning people who labored to accomplish the unpleasant result may congratulate themselves that they acted on principle.

The fact that the joint assembly of Oklahoma is Democratic by one vote may have a dampening effect upon the statehood movement in Washington. The voters in those ambitious South-west territories certainly were not political.

WAYSIDE NOTES.

To an ordinary layman it would seem that about the most probable cause for a disastrous fire in New York City would be at the top of a steel bridge tower, three hundred feet from the ground. And yet, the necessary element were all there, namely, a lot of loose lumber, a wooden shanty, filled with barrels of coal tar, and a gang of workmen lighting their pipes preparatory to going home for the day.

Kaiser William, among his accomplishments, which are numerous and varied, seems to be a crack shot. During the recent Russo-Japanese war, when he was haggard about 200 pieces of game, having three assistants to load for him. This may be good sport, but to a plain American citizen, the marksmanship necessary slaughter, if the Kaiser wished to show his marksmanship he could do it equally well with clay pigeons. It is said that he has been a record of his "kills" since he commenced shooting and that it figures up 11,435 creatures, including 15,801 hares.

The record of fatalities on the foot ball field this year is somewhat startling, no less than eight deaths resulting from injuries received in the game; and possibly some more, as reports are that deaths were not all those of unseasoned young players, but included some experienced men of the usual age for the best players. Besides the fatal injuries, there were some twenty or thirty serious ones, some of which may cause death later. Of course it is well for young men to develop physical process, strength and courage, as good foot ball players must, but it looks as if it was at a pretty dear cost, this year at least. The game is necessarily dangerous, but it is feared that many players are unnecessarily rough against their opponents, and injure them without regard to consequence in order to add their side to win. This feature ought to be eliminated in some way.

Good laborer and poor laborer are paid the same wage; and both follow the dictation of their walking boss. The shrewd business man and the unbusinesslike widow invest their earnings in the same company and both get the same interest on their investment. Both leave their capital at the absolute disposal of trusted directors. For they have learned that in combination under chosen leadership both got advantages which neither could get acting alone.

The right of laborer not to join a labor organization is absolute. The right of the individual to work antecedent and is the necessary foundation of the right to work in a union. It is like the right of the capitalist not to invest his money in a corporation, but to continue in an individual enterprise.

Combination both of property and of industry, of capital and of labor, is inevitable, because of the law of human development. It would be no more possible to go back to the individualistic organization of the first part of the nineteenth century than to go back to the feudalism that preceded it.

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An investigation by the Editor of this paper of the many miraculous cures made by Warner's Safe Cure has impressed us with the curative powers of this great medicine that we publish two of these letters for the benefit of our readers.

Mrs. Lucy Baxter, of Newport News, Va., who is 62 years old, says: "About twenty years ago I was afflicted by Bright's Disease and kidney trouble, which was well developed. Dr. Martin, of Syracuse, N. Y., prescribed Warner's Safe Cure in connection with Safe Pills. After taking two bottles I was able to resume work, and by degrees cured. I now thank Warner's Safe Cure for being alive today."

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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 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.

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