

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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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 3, 1902.

The statesman at Washington who does not aim a bill at the trusts during the present week must indeed be lacking in thirst for glory.

The Message.

LIKE ALL of his deliverances, whether oral or written, the president's message is a straightforward communication, clear in meaning, earnest in tone and mentally sincere.

The president believes with all his firmness of conviction that the immense powers inherent in large combinations of capital and enterprise need to be better safeguarded by legislation than they now are, and he says so plainly.

He does not say it in a manner to imply that his interest in the subject is languid or detested by personal vengefulness; he speaks of the earnestness of the man in his words. He wants action. Yet his message exhibits the teaching of experience and responsibility. It shows that he appreciates the large difference between an ideal of legislation and what is possible and practicable in view of the limitations of human nature.

He no longer jumps to the conclusion of a constitutional amendment; he has been brought down to the more immediate problems of securing an enactment whereby an effective information and proof of misbehavior trust may be disciplined through direct court process without involving all the activities of corporate business in the application of theoretical remedy. In other words, the theorist is being superseded by the statesman.

It is somewhat singular that the message contains no direct allusion to what many persons consider the most significant and momentous step taken by Mr. Roosevelt since his accession to the presidency—namely, his course of intervention in the coal strike, culminating in the appointment by him unofficially of a tribunal to adjust relations in that industry on a basis of permanency.

Possibly the fact that this action was, nominally at least, without official aspect explains the omission; yet certainly a lack in the authorized processes of government so glaring as to have called for a venturesome and unprecedented unofficial experiment warrants serious and constructive discussion before the law-making power. The duties of a president of the United States should be defined and limited by the constitution and laws; and if, in the development of our institutions, new duties arise not thus authorized, opportunity should be afforded the law-making branch of supplying the deficiency. Opinion may divide ever so sharply as to whether or not the president's view of his duty in this matter was the wise one, but there is no room for division of opinion as to the advisability of having his duties defined.

In the paragraphs in his message treating generally of the relations which should exist between capital and labor, the president is eloquent and impressive though the tone is that of any essay rather than a state paper intended to guide legislators toward specific enactments. The ethics which he there asserts are not in dispute, but the practical problem is to enforce them by laws and regulations, effectively asserted, which shall assure to men the liberty and fair dealing from their fellow men which he emphasizes as desirable. In our own community for many months the violation of these fundamental principles has been continuous and general, reaching at last a condition which has been truthfully described as intolerable. It is possible and it is hoped that the expedient of moral suasion as personified by the Anthracite Coal Strike commission may suffice to allay this unrest and smooth the way to a reassertion of law, order and fundamental Americanism. Such doubts as exist in this direction rest more on the manifest reluctance of holders of political office to do their sworn duty in such premises than upon any real distrust of the underlying conscience of the people, once it comprehends the situation. A permanent compromise with anarchistic tendencies is impossible.

The other portions of the message are more satisfactory because more specific. From a literary standpoint the message is notably readable. Its felicity of wording being quite unusual in state papers. Its comparative brevity, too, is commendable. One can read it without fatigue, which is perhaps the highest compliment that can be paid.

An official British computation of the cost to England of the South African war places the total at a billion and a quarter dollars. Was it worth it?

Peter Cooper Hewitt, who recently invented a process whereby the vapor of mercury, introduced into glass tubes, becomes incandescent upon application of electricity, is to have his light exploited by a \$2,000,000 company, the capital for which has been already subscribed. The Hewitt light is said to resemble sunlight more nearly than any other artificial light now on the market, and to have beneficial effects upon the eyes of students and night work-

ers. How far these claims will be borne out remains to be seen. But if the coming American is not to be blind there will have to be marked improvement in our artificial light.

The Manila editors who have been defendants in a libel suit may now lay claim to having been thoroughly Americanized.

The Question of Recognition.

IT WAS Josh Billings who said it never paid to "argy agin" a conclusion. There was a time when it would have been in order to editorially recognize the miners' "argy agin" recognition of the miners' union, but the time has passed. The union is now a conclusion—for a time, at least, if not for all time. No sensible man in his heart doubts this. Those who are fighting against recognition are simply making a technical stand for something without substance. The union is here, closing eyes to it will not remove it.

Mr. Mitchell says that recognition of the union and full use by the operators of its machinery of discipline, which is open to improvement, through contract agreements would not increase but lessen the petty frictions concerning which the operators most bitterly complain. He also argues that recognition would put the union on his good behavior and bring into play the full measure of its power to win and hold public respect. These assertions are plausible and in conformity with what we know of human nature.

The operators had their chance to fight the union and to beat it and they lost. Success was within their grasp when they got cold feet and laid down. They have none but themselves to blame for this outcome and they must face its consequences. The durable existence of the union as a factor hereafter to be reckoned with is foremost among them and since fighting the union has not weakened or destroyed it, but on the contrary has only made expense and trouble for all concerned, the next thing to consider seriously is whether it would not be possible and expedient to co-operate with the most conservative influences within the union toward bringing out of the union its better capabilities.

It is true that during the past five months especially, though with varying intensity for the past three years, we have had all kinds of devilry and mischief in the anthracite fields. It is futile in John Mitchell to deny this. The evidence is overwhelming. But it does not necessarily follow that that kind of thing is a normal or permanent feature of the union's activities. The best men in the union deployed it as much as the men who were fighting the union and it remains for the best men on both sides, reinforced by the full power of the best American public opinion, to co-operate to bring about a cessation of these outrages, the extinguishing of this incipient anarchy and the restoration and advancement of civilization in the anthracite coal fields.

Human institutions are all evolutionary. Our splendid republic today bears but slight resemblance to the primitive one of Washington's time, having grown and strengthened as needs arose and education developed. Yet for even that small republic of Washington's time men were willing to lay down their lives. And so it is with the miners' union. It is only a germ compared with what, under wise leadership and the benefit of friendly public recognition and co-operation, it may become. Yet it has proved already that it holds the loyalty of the overwhelming proportion of its membership, with a grip which resists forcible separation. Out of this loyalty as a starting point which benefits may not evolve provided the evils are cut away?

We say this frankly notwithstanding the many criticisms which we have printed of excesses in the union movement—criticisms which we will repeat so long as these excesses and abuses exist. We do not oppose unions, but we shall eternally oppose anarchy, lawlessness and the forcible denial of fundamental American rights. It remains for the unions to prove that they, too, share in this opposition and are willing to govern their conduct accordingly.

In the matter of canal agitation, New York can shake hands with the isthmus of Panama.

Entitled to a Raise.

A DISPATCH from Wilkes-Barre to the Philadelphia Record says that the sentiment among the organized mine-workers of the Wyoming region is unanimous in favor of the re-election of President Mitchell and also in favor of raising his salary from \$1,800 to \$5,000 a year. We believe that this is correct.

If John Mitchell were to display in other walks of life the ability which he has shown in handling the miners' case he could probably earn more than one hundred times his present salary. Some time ago rumor credited Charles M. Schwab with getting \$1,000,000 a year as president of the steel trust. The figures were doubtless exaggerated, but it was subsequently said upon authority that Schwab's pay for ability was only \$200,000, or four times the pay of the president of the United States, though, of course, his income, by reason of investment and other legitimate opportunities, may have exceeded \$1,000,000 a year.

John Mitchell and Schwab both started as poor boys and worked their way up, one taking labor's side and the other capital's. But Mitchell's success has been the greater, because he not only had to contend against many of the very influences which helped Schwab, but he has also got into his trust a larger percentage of the field which it covers than Schwab has controlled in his. The steel trust comprises only about 60 per cent. of the steel producing industries of the United States and has large and keen competition, both present and prospective; whereas the organization whose head Mitchell is, and over which he wields a far greater measure of personal authority than Schwab wields over the United States Steel corporation, comprises to all intents and purposes a complete monopoly of the labor engaged in coal production throughout the United States, and its monopoly is nowhere seriously threatened. If pay were always proportioned to results, therefore,

Mitchell's income would be larger than Schwab's, in about the proportion of 100 to 60, or, say, \$330,000 a year.

This, of course, is a limited view of the question. There are forms of compensation other than money, and Mitchell is getting a liberal but not an unusual share of them in personal popularity, widespread recognition and the loyal devotion of friends and followers. Yet at the same time, as a simple business proposition, ability such as his is worth to the cause which enlists it far more than a paltry \$1,800 a year. Men who argue for better wages strengthen their argument by themselves paying better wages when they, in turn, act as employers.

Either the Turks or the Eastern newspaper correspondents are again committing "horrible atrocities." Suspicion points to the latter.

MR. CONNELL WILL CONTEST.

Washington Letter in Philadelphia Press. Mr. Connell has fully decided to contest the election of Mr. Howell in the Scranton district. Information he has received since the election convinces him that the few hundred majority his opponent received on the returns is not a true one, but on the contrary if a legal count had been made the majority would be largely the other way. It has been discovered, it is believed, that Mr. Howell's name was not on the regular Democratic ticket in many precincts that heket was counted for him. If ballots so counted are thrown out, Mr. Connell will have a large majority.

Editorial in Philadelphia Press. Congressman Connell, who on the face of the returns was defeated for reelection in the Lackawanna district, has determined to make a contest on the ground of alleged returns. Mr. Connell has been investigating and has reached the conclusion that he received a majority of the legal votes cast. Under such circumstances there was nothing for him to do but make a contest under which a thorough exposure will be made. He would expose himself and those who supported him should he submit to defeat which he believed to have been produced by fraud.

Editorial in Pittsburgh Gazette. If Congressman Connell of the Scranton district can prove the claim that is made in his behalf, Pennsylvania will have one more Republican member in the Thirty-eighth congress, making the delegation stand 20 Republicans to three Democrats. Mr. Connell has placed the matter in the hands of his attorneys, who will endeavor to develop the facts. George Howell, who is the opponent of Mr. Connell, is a Democrat, but the Pennsylvania ballot system and certain Democratic complications formed a conjunction that excluded both names from the ballot column on the official ballot. His name appeared, however, in another column, and the vote returned showed his election by a majority of 40. Since the return it has been learned that certain election boards had views of their own that do not harmonize with either the letter or the spirit of the law, and that in the counting of the vote their views prevailed over the statutes. Knowing Mr. Howell to be a Democrat they credited him with the vote cast for the Democratic ticket while the voter marked a cross in the circle above the Democratic column, though, as has been explained, Mr. Howell's name did not appear therein. Whether this was done in a sufficient number of cases to count him in does not yet appear, and Mr. Connell will endeavor to find out whether it is the case. If it is, there can be no question as to the result of the contest. Mr. Connell, however, is a Republican and does not require additional vindication, either in or out of congress, but this will be no reason for turning cold shoulder to his claims if he is entitled to his seat. Whoever had a majority of the number of votes lawfully cast for congressman in the Scranton district should have the prize.

REMEMBERED BY FRIENDS.

From J. S. Henry's Washington Letter in the Philadelphia Press on the Opening of Congress. Mr. Connell of Scranton, was on hand, really looking ten years younger than he did at the adjournment last July. The wealth of flowers placed on and around his desk put to blush the tributes paid any other member in the house and gave expression to the esteem in which he is held.

REPUBLICANISM IN FIGURES.

For The Tribune by W. J. Ballard. Public debt: 1896 \$2,348,529,285 1900 1,197,711,255 Reduction \$1,150,818,030 Public debt, per capita: 1896 \$79.66 1900 44.32 Reduction \$35.34 Annual interest on debt: 1896 \$120,000,000 1900 25,000,000 Reduction \$95,000,000 United States bonds held abroad: 1900, at least \$1,500,000,000 1902, less than 1,000,000 Reduction \$500,000,000

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1-Kt. Ring 20
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Gypsy Ring, 1 diamond and two rubies 25
Tiffany Ring, 1/2-Kt. 25
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Ladies' Brooch, 1/2-Kt. 25
Ladies' Brooch, 1/2-Kt. 25
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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 CLOSURES 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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