

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 printed on acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

THE FLAT RATE FOR ADVERTISING.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of, Reading, Pull Position. Rows include 100 lines, 50 lines, 25 lines, 10 lines, 5 lines.

For cards of thanks, resolutions of condolence, and similar contributions in the nature of advertising, The Tribune makes a charge of 5 cents a line.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 10, 1902.

An enterprising, successful and a public-spirited citizen is taken from our community by the startlingly sudden death of Dr. J. N. Rice. He had a mind which was unusually keen in its mastery of business detail but it was notably a fair mind, and always eager for the truth.

Every Tub on Its Own Bottom.

THE HEARTLESSNESS of the eviction process as represented in the testimony before the strike commission concerning G. B. Markle & Co., will profoundly impress the country. It is indefensible, because it is inhuman.

On the legal side it may be argued that the tenant who refuses to pay overdue rent is liable for eviction everywhere. But surely humanity calls for some element of mercy in all circumstances, and doubly so where the conditions of employment restrict the employe to tenure of company houses.

But, as a matter of equity to coal operators as a class, who differ little from other men in their prejudices and sympathies, it should be borne in mind that heartless eviction is by no means general. Whatever may be the truth concerning the methods of Markle & Co., instances abound in which operators have dealt generously with tenants in misfortune, not only carrying them on credit over tight places but even supporting them and their families over periods when employees were on strike, and cancelling many charges which might legally have been pressed.

The company house, like the company store, is not an unmitigated evil. Whether it is an evil at all or not depends upon the calibre of the management. Where mines are opened in out-of-the-way places, establishing suddenly new industrial communities, it is often a convenience to have the company from its available capital, invest the money needed to build homes for its employes and open well-equipped stores in which they can purchase the supplies for daily living.

To a large degree, at least in this section, the company store has disappeared or exists as a purely voluntary institution, resting fairly on its commercial merits. Company houses, too, are following in its footsteps, though in perhaps a majority of cases the company house still presents a more economic and satisfactory proposition than the independent tenement. But in view of the abuses to which these forms of company enterprise are liable and the prejudices which these abuses call into being, it is reasonable to consider whether both should not be abandoned uniformly. Where the worker can get steady work at fair pay he can well be left to paddle his own canoe in the matter of finding a house to live in and a store to trade in. And certainly the coal business will never be satisfactorily adjusted until there shall be steady work at fair pay for all honest and efficient workers needed in its prosecution.

It is recalled of the late Tom Reed that he made of President McKinley but one request, which was for the appointment of Theodore Roosevelt as assistant secretary of the navy. In this his judgment was certainly vindicated.

A Tempest in a Teapot.

WHEN speaking officially of the president of the United States the language of dignity and respect for the office should be employed. Especially should this be the case in proceedings which are in the nature of court proceedings, that are spread upon permanent records and heralded widely in the newspapers. As a people we are undoubtedly lacking in reverence for our own servants in authority, a lack which, while not serious among men and women of intelligence, may easily become serious when it supplies incentive to ill-balanced minds verging toward anarchy.

Roosevelt's opinions on the trust question. Men were wont to speak of Abraham Lincoln as "Abe" Lincoln, and even as "Old Abe" and "Father Abe," meaning no disrespect but rather the contrary, a sense of personal fellowship indicative of an unusually human regard. We think that this is the sense in which ninety-nine men out of a hundred use the familiar term "Teddy" in referring to President Roosevelt. They have for that familiarity the eminent example of Theodore Roosevelt himself, whose speech with visitors, even those who visit him on missions having to do with official business, is unceremonious, unconventional and without a trace of the austere solemnity commonly associated with the presidential office. He is "Teddy" to his friends and they are "Tom," "Dick" and "Harry" to him. The idea of disrespect does not enter their minds nor his. We are confident from what we know of Attorney Burns that it did not enter his. The sensitiveness of General Wilson on the subject does credit to the delicacy of his susceptibilities but has tended unduly to magnify a matter not in itself of grave or weighty importance.

The temperament of men largely decides how they are referred to by their fellow men. Colonel Roosevelt has, pre-eminently the vital, full-blooded, humanitarian temperament calculated to inspire affection and devotion but not ceremonialism. He will have to be made over before he can be anything but "Teddy" in the minds, hearts and speech of the great majority of his fellow-citizens.

Reed's Farewell Message.

THE MENTAL attitude habitual with the late Thomas B. Reed was that of the satirist, cynic and dogmatist, using the word cynic in its kindlier aspect. Mr. Reed's cynicism had no bitterness in it and no intent of wounding others. It was a characteristic akin to the dogmatism of his nature, which was very strong. He had little of that courtly tolerance for the opinions of others which was, for example, so marked a characteristic of William McKinley. Mr. Reed's successful rival for the presidency, it is necessary to understand this in order to approach fairly the last communication addressed by Mr. Reed to the American people—his article in the December North American Review entitled "What Shall We Do with the Tariff?"

His notion of what we should do with the tariff was that we should let it alone. Said he with timely terseness: "We are doing more than well and need not hunt for disaster. That will come in due time." And again: "What would you say was the ideal industrial condition of a nation? Everybody at work. Just now we have everybody at work. And yet we think we want something else. If we keep on fussing we shall get it." But it was less to the tariff part of Mr. Reed's article than to what he says on the subject of trusts—he calls them corporations—that we had in mind to call attention, for it illustrates with peculiar vividness the dominant traits in Tom Reed's mentality.

After showing how the big corporations of the present day have evolved inevitably from the conditions of modern life, less because those who went into them wanted them than because they were forced into them in order to prevent competition from cutting each other's throats; and after pointing out that the moment one big concern exhibits evidences of unusual profits immediately millions of other capital becomes crazy to get into the same business, thus effectually insuring the public again extortion, he proceeded cuttingly, and with unmistakable thrusts at the white house, which in his opinion was never the place that it would have been had Thomas B. Reed been its occupant.

The fact is that every business man now knows that the only monopoly any body can get, except the temporary one of patents, to which no one objects, is by producing some article cheaper and selling it cheaper than any other maker. Whether such a monopoly is obnoxious and to be stamped out I leave to the wise declaration of the friends of the people, but it is certainly not to be considered world at down and draw his statute and put into force his constitutional amendment, and see where he would arrive. "Error," says the wise Latin, "lurks in concealment." To talk of doing something by means of something, if you do not specify the something to be done or the way to do it, is a waste of time.

It is the language which has been used about the great corporations, one is a little surprised at the lack of specification. Almost everybody announces that what is needed is "publicity." Even this is vague. Do you expect the public to be intrusted with the cost sheet? If you do not, then why will you publicly amount to? If you mean by "publicity" such a statement as will enable the outsider to buy wisely, or the stockholder to sell at his true value, I fear we may be going beyond the province of free government, which certainly thus far has left the task of keeping his fingers out of the fire to the citizen whose fingers they were.

But cannot we stop this stock-watering? Must we not do it? Well, the value of stock is very much a matter of opinion. It will be noticed that the stock of one of our greatest companies can be bought for less than 40. The par value is 100. In the judgment of the world there is 60 per cent. water, and in the market the water is squeezed out. Could a legislature do it? It is not clear that it has been proposed in the new constitutional amendment to specify how often the test for water is to be applied? Are the stockholders to be assessed daily for the variation of each day, or are the directors to be indicted daily? Shall officers of the government determine the value, or the public in open market? There is a piece of wisdom as old as the world, which is worthy of all consideration. Let us not be in haste about great matters. When you don't know what to do, don't do it. If the proposition is to press an oak back into an acorn, it had better be carefully considered.

There you have Tom Reed in his most representative attitude—the attitude of pungent, half-humorous, half-satirical criticism, with the dogmatism of the giant addressing children. That in his

long congressional life this criticism of his—irrepressible, irresistible, at times almost inhuman—did much in extinguishing freak legislation and in balancing congress within limits is undeniable and constitutes, indeed, his one permanent claim to fame. But it is a pity that a mind so able and brilliant might not also have been endowed with the capacity for construction as well as for sarcasm and demolition.

The troubles of the Mascagni opera company should excite sympathy instead of flippant allusion. It was at first supposed that they were largely artificial and possibly the creation of an ingenious press agent; but now it is clear that this gifted composer and conductor has been having really rough sledding while endeavoring to instruct and entertain the American public. For this the said public should be sorry, because it may have the effect of shortening the period of its enjoyment and discourage other distinguished artists from bringing the sheaves of their genius across the water for its benefit. Americans have a right to feel flattered that their country is becoming of enough importance from an artistic standpoint to attract foreigners like Mascagni and their welcome should be encouraging in proportion to the merit of these newcomers into our entertainment field. Art is universal and so is genius. Let us applaud both as they deserve and show to notable visitors especially that we are not indifferent to their good will.

Putnam Bradlee Strong and May Yohs have decided to abandon their residence at Buenos Ayres and return home. They evidently find life irksome out of range of the sensational newspaper reporters.

Owing to the fact that the Sultan of Turkey has survived numerous ultimata, President Castro doubtless does not feel particularly alarmed at the present crisis.

There is no reason why the army canteen should not have as good an effect upon morals as the Capitol hill canteen.

A good many people are still of the opinion that it is impossible to talk labor troubles to death.

Mr. Bryan is evidently not standing near enough to the phone these days for the best effects.

Trade Value of the Philippines

REALIZING our need of markets it is encouraging to make the good progress that has been made commercially in the trade of our new establishment in the Orient, the Philippine Islands.

According to figures taken from bulletin No. 14, United States Department of Agriculture, section of foreign markets, Frank H. Hitchcock, chief, the British consul at Manila collected data on the trade made value of imports into the Philippines during the three years (1897-7), immediately prior to our occupation. The figures are as follows: 1896, \$7,915,669; 1897, \$2,292,799; 1898, \$2,129,099. Of which amount an average annual value of \$25,482 came from the United States.

We occupied the island in the fall of 1898. From then till June 25, 1902, less than four years, and in spite of the disturbed condition of the territory, the total importations were \$26,829,281, nearly four times as much as in the three years prior to our occupation. In fact the one year, 1902, the imports were \$2,118,842 (exceeding any year in the history of the archipelago), which is about \$7,000,000 more than the three years 1897-7. On the \$26,829,281 imports, the duties collected were \$22,909,099. Our share of these imports was: 1898, \$1,857,591; 1897, \$555,555; 1896, \$465,223. The increase for 1902 over 1896, being 115 per cent.

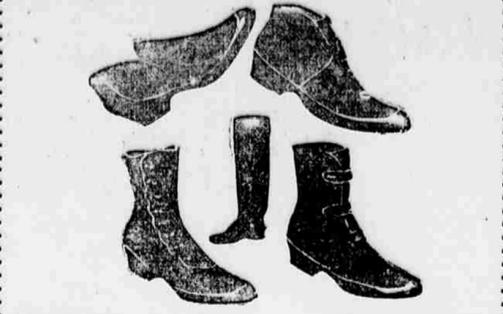
These import figures during our occupation do not include purchases entered free of duty at the Philippine custom house of proper apparel and clothing, sundries and regularly to Manila, and when the harbor improvements under construction and protected, make Manila the shipping center of American business in the Orient, and a properly equipped rival to the British trade and shipping center of Hong Kong and Singapore.

Turning to the export trade of the Philippines, we find that our purchases have, troubled during the last two years, besides many large shipments of hemp to Europe and Hong Kong, destined for use in the United States and eventually reaching here, but classed here as British or European exports.

This is proven by the fact that the Manila records show \$7,000,000 worth of hemp sent to the United Kingdom, as final point of destination during 1902, while United States records for the same year show \$12,200,000 worth as imported from the United Kingdom. In the fourteen years, 1888-1898, the imports aggregated only \$7,000,000, and the exports only \$20,000,000, consequently our import figures of \$20,000,000 for less than four years, has more than five and one-half times the Spanish figures of \$7,000,000 for fourteen years. During those fourteen years our share of the sales to the Philippines averaged only the paltry sum of \$2,000,000 yearly.

In 1902 our sales increased \$1,500,000 over 1901, giving us a rating of 13 per cent., while the Spanish trade declined to a rating of 2 per cent. The share of the United Kingdom rates at 17 per cent., but her loss in 1902 was one-fifth, of which \$1,200,000 were for cotton goods, which we supplied.

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Direct from the factory to your feet. You save one-fourth—1-4.

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Men's Sandals.....50c and 75c



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WE ARE READY to show our holiday stock, not only of Pianos but everything musical. A Piano gives an entirely different tone to a home. Better come and see us and talk it over. We will be pleased to show you our beautiful stock of Holiday Pianos and explain our easy payment plan. We make it possible for every home to have a Piano.

Store Open Evenings This Month. We offer you a new piano from \$175 up to \$1050, and guarantee every Piano we sell. Pianos selected now will be held for Christmas delivery if desired. Don't put off; come now and look through our store.

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Who wants \$20.00 For a Christmas Present?

Twenty Christmas Presents \$50.00. To Be Given by The Scranton Tribune to the Children of Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania. 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.

Junior Educational Contest THE HOME PAPER.

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 1893) 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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