

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

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Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, as Second-Class Matter.

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 16, 1902.

The resignation of Master Carbuilder Campbell, of the Lackawanna railroad, will be regretted by a host of friends in Scranton, whose consolation is that it leads to a comfortable promotion in fortune and opportunity. During his residence in this city Mr. Campbell has won a high place for untiring efficiency and courtesy and the friendships formed will outlast separation.

Reaping What Has Been Sown.

MAJOR BROWN, superintendent of the state, has a report to the legislature on the reorganization of the state. In his farewell annual report makes some startling statements of both fact and opinion concerning the year's capitalization of electric car lines in Pennsylvania.

There are 2,175 miles of these roads and the capital and funded debt of the operating companies and the capital, stock and funded and floating debt of the subsidiary companies amount to \$280,047,676, or \$28,825 per mile, which Major Brown says is more than a double the average cost of road and equipment of American street railroads. He has no idea that any such sum of money has been invested in these lines.

Looked at from another point of view, we see the outcropping of manipulative reorganizations in these figures: Of the ninety-seven operating corporations but eighteen paid dividends, which aggregated \$1,363,414, while the ninety-six subsidiary corporations paid dividends amounting to \$4,898,929, and had an income principally from rentals amounting to \$7,555,102. Illustration of the effect of successive reorganizations upon a property depending for its support upon public patronage, yet able to return to the public in increased facilities or improvements only what is left of current revenues after current expenses and inordinate fixed charges are paid is not distant from Scranton. We get it impressed upon us every time we enter an overcrowded jerky street car with dancing trolleys and flat wheels.

That Major Brown should fearlessly call attention to these facts is one surprise, because usually politics suggests that they be left in the background; and that he should proceed to recommend the adoption in this state of the stringent corporation laws of Massachusetts, whereby no stock or bond can be issued without state examination and approval or without proof of actual payments, is another. It is rather late now to look the stable door after the horse has been stolen; but contemplation of the foregoing facts is instructive if not consoling.

Drawing the Lines.

TWO MEASURES now pending in congress are the subjects of desperate though as yet not widely published strife. Around them are forming in secret ranks the organized forces of capital and labor, and before congress gets through with them many a member will wish neither had ever entered upon the calendar. We refer to the anti-injunction and eight-hour bills.

We recently printed what President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, had to say in his report to the New Orleans convention in advocacy of these measures. Let us now hear a voice from the other side. D. M. Parry, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, has issued a statement which is full of interest. Here are some passages from it:

"The American Association of Manufacturers is opposed to any law which means the undermining of the commercial stability or the industrial vitality of the United States. It is opposed to the terrible anti-injunction bill now pending in congress, which proposed law has been imported to this country from labor-cursed England. This law has almost destroyed the English manufacturer, as it is a realization of the picket and the boycott. The attempt to foist such anarchistic legislation upon the employers of this country will be resisted to the last.

"The National Association of Manufacturers is also unalterably opposed to the so-called eight-hour bill fathered by Samuel Gompers. This bill, if it could be put into effect, would be a radical and destructive result upon the prosperity of this country. While in the nature of things it would be impossible to put such an absurd law into practical operation, yet it would have the effect of dislocating business conditions, causing an industrial paralysis in this country the like of which we have never experienced. Such a bill would open the way to the blackmail of the heavy iron, steel and ship-build-

ing interests which are engaged in the manufacture of government supplies. They cannot run on an eight-hour basis from the physical nature of their work. By the terms of this proposed eight-hour bill an employer is penalized \$5 a day for each and every man who is permitted to work over eight hours. "The average worker does not want the law. The bill is an agitator's bill. These fellows are always willing to engage in any brawling or denunciatory assault upon employers. The average labor agitator is an Ishmaelite. His hand is raised against every man. The agitators have secured the passage of resolutions in which organized labor has set itself against the laws of the land, declaring that the laws which must be obeyed by others shall not be applied to them or they will rebel. Recently organized labor has made a concerted attack upon the national guard, driving non-union workmen from the militia. What for? Simply because under their present leadership the unions desire the overthrow of the law and the courts. They know that they cannot bring this about with the militia at hand to uphold the law. The agitators desire to build up a despotism inside the liberties of the United States. The employers of this country, however, do not propose that such an anarchistic element shall ever have charge of the destinies of the United States. "It is a safe guess that the 'agitators' will win unless the employers get down from their high horse and fight the enemy with his own weapons. In the recent coal strike the country had an illustration of the inadequacy of a policy of masterly inactivity and judgment. The silence which reigned by an active and inventive organization responsive to one man's strategy and power of command. If labor wins by federation, employers must match it by corresponding federation, not consisting of an army of co-ordinate generals, but one obedient to a central authority acting as commander-in-chief. When this kind of organization takes place on the new weaker side, there will be a sudden stoppage of excesses on both sides and a long stride toward intelligent peace.

The Adams consular reform bill, which is now before the house, contemplates a consular service on a merit basis that will offer to equipped young men a permanent career, which has long been advocated by friends of good government. It has one flaw, however. After doing away with fees it puts the initial salary at \$1,800 a year, surely too small in amount to compensate a competent representative. The United States should pay no man who represents it abroad less than \$2,500 a year and employ no representative not worth it.

A California chemist claims to have devised a process whereby potassium cyanide, a drug much used in mining and now costing twenty-five cents a pound to produce, may be produced at a cost of five cents a pound by drawing it chiefly from the air. This sounds like Lord Kelvin's scheme of drawing fertilization for the world's grain fields from the nitrogen in the air. At this rate of chemical progress it may not be long until there will indeed be a trust with a corner on the atmosphere.

Various bills to rebuke and restrain unfair trusts are under consideration at Washington, all based on the idea of federal supervision similar to that supposed to be exercised by the interstate commerce commission. Since the subject is a big one and not likely to be solved all at once, how would it do as a beginning to clothe the interstate commerce commission with power sufficient to enforce uniform freight rates and thus threaten one of the fundamental strongholds of the trusts?

The Philadelphia North American's attempt to prosecute a yellow "news" faker in Kansas has been baffled by the refusal of the district attorney to execute a warrant. The district attorney argues that the place to bring such an action is not in Kansas but in Philadelphia, and he is right. But the chances are that in Philadelphia the grotesqueness of the North American's objection to news faking would laugh his case out of court.

With less than a day's supply of coal on hand it is announced that the house may be forced by chilling weather to adjourn before the week is out. This may be taken as an indication that the usual supply of oratorical "hot air" will not be forthcoming during the present session.

An old letter of Lord Beaconsfield has been published in which he asserts that to marry for love is a guarantee of infidelity. It is astonishing how many men—and women, too, for that matter—appear to be willing to take the hazard.

From Admiral Casey's reports, it appears that in consequence of his intervention in Panama Colombia is soon to experience a forecast of the millennium. We shall believe it when we see it.

John D. Rockefeller's Christmas present from the Standard Oil company consists of a \$4,000,000 check, his dividend for three months. This is better than owning a yellow journal.

Surprising as it may seem, numerous soldiers of fortune have already signified their willingness to play fifty-to-one shots by lighting in the cause of Venezuela.

When Carrie Nation learns that the specimen of high art that has been transferred from the Corcoran gallery to the White House, the troubles of the chief executive will begin in earnest. And now certain foreign jurists are attracting attention by making assertions that the Monroe doctrine is loaded.

Mother Can't Read. Why not buy her a pair of spectacles for Christmas? No other present will be appreciated so highly and eye help should come first of all. DR. B. A. BAER, EYE SPECIALIST, MANUFACTURING OPTICIAN, 331 Washington Ave., SCRANTON, PA.

made is gratifying to say the least. The negro has not only taken a place in the various industries of this rapidly advancing nation, which he cannot fill with credit, to himself and honor to the profession, but he has taken an equal share in the race of life. If the progress of the negro since the emancipation has not reached the expectation of his best friends and the hopes of the nation, it is accounted for largely upon the ground of prejudice on account of his color and previous condition. The best thinkers of our times are beginning to recognize negro manhood upon the principle of fitness and character for which our editorial staff has long contended. There is one other thing that should be mentioned in this connection, namely: the humiliation to which even the better class of our people are subject in renting houses. The effort to live in a respectable neighborhood, where children might be brought up under influences leading to better life, is almost a failure, owing to restrictions of which you no doubt have some knowledge. Such a condition is a hindrance to the development of the sensibilities of any people aspiring to a nobler degree of American citizenship. In the interest of over 8,000,000 freedmen I again thank you for your editorial support. D. S. Bentley.

Something About Vexed Venezuela

THE REPUBLIC of Venezuela, which has now become involved in serious trouble with Germany and Great Britain, is, with the exception of Colombia, the most northern country of South America. It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean sea, on the east by the Atlantic ocean, British Guiana and Brazil, on the south by Brazil and Colombia, and on the west by the last named country. It has an estimated area of 353,941 square miles, or about equal to that of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and half of Arkansas combined. The population according to the census of 1891 was 2,323,527. In 1890 it was estimated at 2,418,016, or 900 less than that of Texas. There were 326,000 Indians, of whom 210,000 were civilized. Much the largest portion of the population are of mixed blood, and are of mixed breeds from the union of Europeans (chiefly the early Spanish colonists) and Indians, and the intermingling of these and negroes. The coast line is nearly 2,000 miles in length, about one-tenth of it being washed by the Atlantic. About 107,000 square miles of the republic are occupied by mountains, among which 1,000 rivers drain the territory of Venezuela, all but twelve of which have their entire course within the republic. Only a small fractional part of the cultivable area, however, is utilized. The chief industries are agriculture and cattle raising. The Venezuelans in general are intelligent and courteous. Though all enjoy equal civil rights without respect of caste or color, the whites retain the power of the state in their own hands, while the mixed race, though more indolent and apathetic, are often to be found and are commonly the instigators of those surreptitious and revolutions. The continued political troubles have greatly retarded the development of the country and proven a great curse to its people. There are eight states, one territory and a federal district in the republic. The legislative power is vested in a Congress consisting of a senate of twenty members, one from each state, and a house of representatives, elected for two years and is ineligible for re-election. Every Venezuelan citizen is eligible for office. The President is elected for two years and is ineligible for a second term. His administration has not been strictly adhered to. Gen. Cipriano Castro, who was appointed Provisional President on October 23, 1898, is still in office.

Caracas, the capital and principal city, had a population of 188,000 in 1890, situated near the northern coast. Lagayra, on the Caribbean, a short distance from the capital, is its port, and has a population of about 15,000. Other important places are Valencia, Barquisimeto, Maracaibo and Maturin. The regular army in 1890 numbered 4,200 men, garrisoning 29 towns and manning three government vessels of which there were three steamers, two sailing vessels and some smaller craft. Every Venezuelan citizen was as many as 60,000 men have been under arms. Education was made compulsory in 1870, and in 1890 there were 1,400 federal elementary schools and 120 state schools. But at the last census only 27,588 persons could read, and the total number of pupils in the schools was but 51,553. The dominant religion is Roman Catholic, but all other faiths are tolerated. The clergy are strictly subordinate to the civil power, and the papal sanction when required is transmitted through it.

The island of Margarita and the eastern part of the coast of Venezuela were discovered by Columbus in 1498, and the whole coast by Ojeda and Vesputci in 1499. On entering Lake Maracaibo they found an Indian village constructed on piles over the water at common occurrence in those portions of the country subject to inundation, and thence called it Venezuela (Little Venice). The first settlement was made about 1520, at Curacao, which is consequently one of the oldest cities in the new world. Venezuela remained a Spanish colony until April 19, 1810, when a revolutionary rising took place at Caracas, and on July 5, 1811, the independence of the country was proclaimed. In 1812 by the treaty of Victoria, it returned to the sway of Spain; but in 1812 it again revolted under Gen. Bolivar, and after a protracted conflict with varying success, the republic of Colombia, embracing New Granada, Venezuela and Ecuador, was declared independent in 1819. In 1824 a congress was called and constitution adopted, and two years later the struggle with Spain ceased. In 1829-30 three states separated amicably and a new constitution was adopted by Venezuela.

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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.

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.

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