

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the editor reserves the right to accept or reject all contributions.

Table with columns: DISPLAY, Run of Paper, and Full Position. Lists advertising rates for various display sizes and positions.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 23, 1902.

In spite of the efforts in certain quarters to keep him quiet, Uncle Mark Tizma continues to make wrinkles in his political shroud.

Unions for Pedagogues.

RECENTLY in Chicago a movement was inaugurated to establish a labor union among public school teachers and it is said to have made considerable headway. The movement is to be repeated in New York. In Chicago higher salaries were the objects aimed at, though there was the incidental promise that no union teacher who kept her dues paid and did not otherwise incur the union's disfavor would need to fear the loss of her job, for a director voting to displace her without the consent of the union might easily be boycotted by the entire organized labor hosts of the city and put politically beneath the daisies.

At first blush a school teacher's labor union seems somewhat incongruous but, upon reflection, why is it not as logical and advantageous as any other union? The right to earn a living by teaching school is just as sacred as the right to earn it by shoeing horses or shoveling coal; and if the job in any case is morally the property of the worker, to be reclaimed by force, if necessary, after it has been voluntarily relinquished, surely the claim of a good and conscientious teacher, after years of putting her personality and health into the training of American citizens, would be entitled to at least as favorable consideration as the boycotter or dynamiter in the factory, mill or mine.

By all means let the teachers' union experiment be tried. If it works, what is to prevent all the rest of us from organizing into unions and moving for a greater competence? There is no reason why the Morgans and the Mitchells should have a monopoly of the combination idea. The more the merrier, if common sense prevail, and if it do not prevail, why maybe its absence will the sooner be seen and regretted.

President Castro's skill in dodging the collector must ere this have caused the orbs of the Sultan of Turkey to assume the emerald shades of envy.

An Inviting Opportunity.

ONE OF the considerations which are said to have impelled President Roosevelt to consider with marked reluctance the proposition that he act as arbitrator in the Venezuelan matter is explained at length in the Washington correspondence of the New York Tribune, and it makes an interesting chapter in international politics. It is a deeper question, going to the very heart of international law. It may be stated thus: When the citizen of one country goes into another country, are his life and property absolutely at the disposal of the government of the country into which he goes? Does he abandon all right to appeal to the government of the country of his nationality, no matter how unjust the treatment to which he may be subjected, and is his government to be debarré from intervention in his behalf? It would seem from an Anglo-Saxon standpoint that there could not be a serious contention over this matter; that an American citizen, traveling, say, to Germany, while subject to German laws, nevertheless remains an American citizen and, as such, is entitled to the same friendly consideration from the German authorities that they would naturally expect of the American authorities if the conditions were reversed and that such a traveler is at all times entitled to the full protection of his government against unlawful treatment and outrage, such protection being one of the primary purposes for which governments are instituted. Yet a citizen of Argentina, Senor Calvo, a learned writer on international law, has been by Latin-American republics an authority, holds just the opposite opinion and his doctrine has been enacted into

the laws of some of our South American neighbors. Says the Tribune correspondent:

"The case of Venezuela before the arbitral tribunal will rest largely on the Calvo doctrine, and the government of the United States is so absolutely committed in opposition to this doctrine and so vitally interested in having it once for all eliminated from controversies as to the status of American citizens in foreign countries, that there is said to be manifest impropriety in asking the president of this country to sit as an arbitrator in any controversy in which it is even remotely involved. The United States, with the many claims of its citizens against the Latin-American countries constantly arising, is, if possible, more strenuously opposed to the Calvo doctrine than is Great Britain, Germany or any other European country. This government has repeatedly admitted the right of other nations to intervene in behalf of their nationals in this country, and has, from its foundation, insisted on exercising that right in behalf of American citizens.

"Recent notable examples of this were afforded in the arguments of Judge Penfield, solicitor for the state department, before The Hague tribunal in the Piousa case, and in the instructions of the secretary of state to Minister Merry in the case of the Salvador Commercial company against Salvador. In these cases the governments of Mexico and Salvador, respectively, had attempted to establish the Calvo doctrine. Even more emphatically was the position of the United States declared in the second international American conference which sat in the City of Mexico last winter. The committee on international law in that conference reported a project of a convention on the rights of aliens which was founded on, and undertook to combat, the American republics to the Calvo doctrine. That there might be no mistake as to the position of the United States, at the beginning of the discussion William L. Buchanan, one of the delegates of the United States, rose in his place and said: 'I think every delegate here is familiar with the position of the government of the United States on the matters treated of in this project, and I rise merely to say on behalf of the delegation, that, inasmuch as it will be impossible for us to assent to a very large portion of this report, this delegation will abstain from taking any part in the debate and from voting on the project in whole or in part.'

"The absolute divergence of the views of the government of the United States and the governments of the Latin-American nations on this doctrine is shown by the fact that this project, in the form of a convention, received the votes and signatures of every American republic except those of the United States, Brazil, Venezuela and Hayti. The absence of the signatures of Brazil and Venezuela is accounted for by the fact that they had ceased to be represented in the congress. Those countries are, however, committed to the Calvo doctrine."

This statement of facts would seem to warrant President Roosevelt in seizing the present occasion to give emphatic publicity to the American opinion on this subject.

A Relapse into Verse.

IT IS NO secret in Northeastern Pennsylvania that Congressman Palmer of Luzerne, in addition to numerous other endowments, is a wit and a poet. Indeed, his poetry is so penetrating that it has been known to bring him to the verge of vengeance. But in Washington a field for the divine afflatus exists which is not narrowed by defective public humor, as is the case of Sock's Pond; and at the Tanolita club the other night—a gathering of members of the incoming congress—General Palmer made the following bow to the muse. While it takes congressmen to appreciate all its witty allusions many will appeal to laymen as well: The Speaker sat preoccupied, in silent gloom, While the wakened echoes answered Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee. Said the Speaker to his henchmen, how happy I would be to see you here, If some friend would kindly murder Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee. And while the work of slaughter goes merrily on, It might be well not to forget Cushman of Washington. That lion and lion disciple is hardly fit to kill, But probably no other way can ever keep him still.

It is very true the Speaker is a man of power and might, But his lot is not a happy one, not by a long and wide. His life is pestered out of him by wants of every kind That sour his temper, make him mad, and destroy his peace of mind.

He needs to have the patience of Job for twenty more To take him through a single day of tribulations sore. He ought to be a pious man; in fact, almost a saint, And several other kind of things which I'm afraid he ain't.

At length the Speaker roused himself and took a look around, And said I've stood this long enough and I'll be double darned, If I don't cut the job and quit as soon as I can find Any plausible subterfuge my constituents to blind.

The subterfuge which he did find was of the thinnest sort: With one accord the boys got up and yelled you hadn't ort. To give the darling G. O. P. a sudden jolt like that, is dangerous to the tariff; it may stop the frying of the fat. Then Overstreet and Babcock, Quay, Penrose, and the rest, Indulged in language no good man could call the very best. They telegraphed the Speaker and telephoned him, too, And begged of him to take it back and stop the howdy do.

On the Speaker's strange ingratitude might have moved the previous question.

But the Speaker set his jaw and swore till his back ached more than any other. If the tariff and the G. O. P. go to everlasting wreck, I have had enough of keeping school, so I step out and break down. The other boys can run this job while I do up the town.

Spite of all we love the Speaker and hope that kindly fate Will strew his path with roses until at heaven's gate Saint Peter bids him welcome and opens wide the door. Saying: "The House will be in order, the Speaker is here."

We are bound to say, out of pride in coal fields literature, that the general, metrically speaking, can do better than this. Some of its feet clearly need osteopathic treatment. But the sentiment, at least, is sound and to the concluding stanza the country will heartily respond, "Amen."

The state of war in Venezuela has apparently divided into a state of talk.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Christmas number of the American Boy gives the place of honor to Jumbo, king of elephants, who during his lifetime had more boy friends than any other animal that ever lived, and to Alfonso XIII, the boy king of Spain. Among the stories is a clever one entitled, "The Hero of the Coal Breakers." The boy of interest are the regular departments, namely: "Boys in the Home, Church and School"; "Boys as Money Makers and Money Savers"; "Boys' Hobbies"; "Boys and Animals"; "The Agnostic Association"; "Boys' Books Reviewed"; "The Boy Journalist and Poet"; "The Boy Photographer"; "The Boy Stamp, Coin and Curio Collector"; "Boys Who Are Doing Things"; and the usual number of "Anecdotes."—Springer Publishing Company, Detroit.

All over Europe and especially in Germany, it is the custom, during holiday week, to exchange greetings by postal cards, usually of the pictorial character. These are sent to friends and relatives at home and abroad, and the exchange adds much to the gaiety of the season. With commendable enterprise, Leslie's Weekly has taken up the foreign fad by including in its handsome Christmas number a sheet of eight Christmas postal cards, each containing a beautiful and appropriate picture and space for a brief message. These cards can be cut apart and readily mailed. As the Christmas edition of Leslie's Weekly is 125,000 copies, it will be seen that it will circulate just a million holiday postal greetings.

"The Lieutenant Governor," by Guy Wetmore Carryl, the novelette with which the January number of the Smart Set opens, is full of power and fascination. The plot is absolutely new, and the strikingly dramatic situations are handled by the author with a mastery of art that holds the reader absorbed from opening to climax. This is the strongest novelette that has appeared in the Smart Set. There are fifty items in the table of contents, and the sum total of merit in these, in stories, verse and humor, both explains and justifies the marvellous success of the Smart Set magazine.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS TREE.

Most of us know that the Christmas tree comes to us direct from Germany. And we know of the tree-worship of the Druids which obtained in England and France, and which probably had some influence on the later use of the tree in the Christian festival. But we do not all know that a similar festival with the tree as a crowning feature is observed among many heathen nations, and that it comes from sun-worship, which is older than history. The revival of the tree after the winter solstice has ever been the subject of rejoicing and of celebration by ceremonies which represent the new light brought back to the world. Our tree, with its small candles, its gilded knickknacks and toys for the children, is a direct descendant of this old festival in honor of the sun.

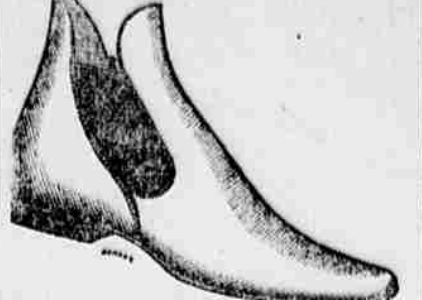
"Traces of it exist in Iceland, where the 'service-tree' is found adorned with burning lights during Christmas night. The English yule-log is a faint survival of this festival. But it is beyond these that I wish to draw your attention, back further even than the Druid mysteries of the Gallic forests, to the Christmas tree, that home of all wonders and of all history. It has been shown that as long ago as 37 B. C. a tree with a hundred lamps and flowers was placed on the steps of the audience-hall. This happened again in the records of Princess Yang, who lived 737 B. C. and who caused a hundred-lamp tree eighty feet high to be erected on a mountain. It was lighted during New Year's night, and the illumination was seen for miles of miles, eclipsing the light of the moon. This candle-tree is no longer lighted in China, being replaced by an unusual number of lanterns, which are hung everywhere. A suggestion of the tree, however, still survives in Japan. At the New Year two evergreen trees are placed without, on either side of the door. Their tops are tied together with the sacred band of straw, and various objects, dried lobsters and oranges are fastened to their branches.—Woman's Home Companion.

OPEN EVENINGS.

Diamond Bargains, an array of inviting prices, from the Cutter to Consumer, with one small profit added. 5½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$500; My Price, \$280. 5½-Kt. Diamond Stud, worth \$200; My Price, \$110. 4½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$150; My Price, \$85. 14-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$125; My Price, \$75. 3-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$200; My Price, \$200. 2½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$200; My Price, \$200. All of the above are Amsterdam cut, flawless, and signs of dazzling brilliancy. Horseshoe Earrings, 14-Kt. Gold, worth \$80; My Price, \$50. Hungarian Opal Ring, 14-Kt. Diamond set in Platinum, worth \$150; My Price, \$120. Ruby Ring (trigonal blood) surrounded with fine diamonds, \$75. Ruby Ring, worth \$50. Sapphire Ring, 14-Kt. Gold, surrounded with fine diamonds, worth \$250. 1-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$100; My Price, \$75. 1-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$100; My Price, \$75. 1-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$100; My Price, \$75. 1-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$100; My Price, \$75. Diamonds, Rubies, Sapphires, Opals galore, and choice selection of mountings for same, waiting for your command. TAKE ELEVATOR AND SAVE MONEY and at the same time see exhibit Jet Black Diamond, Golden Brown Diamond, Canary Diamond, the Priceless (not blue, but Heliotrope-colored Diamond). Uncut Diamonds, Sapphires, Opals, etc., as they come from mother earth. Each lady customer will be presented with a New Safety Garter Purse, the newest and most practical invention of its kind, an absolute safe way to carry money and jewels.

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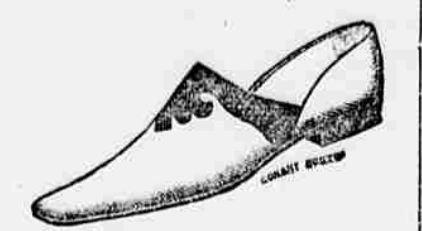
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put it off. Our stock is complete. We will be here. Come now, do not wait. Two days more and Merry Christmas!

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Leather Rockers

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The Moosic Powder Co.

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APPROPRIATE GIFTS

At its best, Holiday shopping is a tiresome task, and when one cannot fully make up the mind as to the gifts most suitable, it becomes doubly so.

If you are undecided as to just what to get Father, Mother, Brother or Sister, or any friend you wish to remember, ask one of our clerks; they're all obliging—any one of them will gladly and courteously assist you in selecting something appropriate.

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