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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 pub-lication, 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 24, 1902.

The Times urges the nomination by the Democrats of John J. Fahey for recorder because in the recent congressional campaign he "did and dared" for his party. He certainly did both. Of the details, more anon. We simply note now the Times' testimony on the subject, for it may hereafter prove signifi-

The Water Cure for Fraud.

HE COMMENTS of the state press unpon the few developments which have yet come to light in the conspiracy by which William Connell was last month cheated out of an election to congress

developments increase. Here, for in- says that foreign powers which have stance, is what the Philadelphia Press grievances against Latin-American re-"The commissioners appointed by the court in Congressman Connell's contested election case to secure and preserve go ahead so far as Venezuela is conthe ballots have found that the ballot boxes in six districts of the borough of Duumore had been submerged in water and the ballots reduced to a pulp. They are useless in determining how the votes in those districts were cast. It happens that these districts are Democratic strongholds, and it was in some of them that Congressman Connell expected to find the evidence of fraud that would justify his contest and make It plain that he had secured a majority of the legal votes of the district. It is not stated in the dispatches how the ballot boxes got into the water, but even the pretense of an accident in the case can hardly be accepted. The laws of the state are very direct on the subject of caring for ballot boxes. They are to be kept in a safe place under responsible authority, so that they may not be tampered with. It should be promptly ascertained who is responsible for the condition in which the Dunmore

boxes were found and proper punishment inflicted. This should be don: whether this destruction of ballots is sufficient to defeat the purpose of Congressman Connell's contest or not. It was a misdemeanor to place the ballot boxes anywhere but in a safe place, and it was not safe where they could soak in water. The law provides a proper punishment for such misdemeanor. The discussion of additional legislation to and urges the centralization of collecsecure honest elections is profitless if tions in one office. That is a need the laws we now have are permitted to which is felt in every community in be either violated or ignored without certainty of punishment. The Dunmore matter needs to be turned inside out." Next, read this from the Wilkes-Barre Record: "It is evident that somebody in Lackawanna county who has an interest in the Connell-Howell congression al election contest is determined to prevent an examination of the ballots cast at the last election for the office of representative in congress.' On Saturday, when the commissioners appointed by the United States court to secure and preserve the ballots for use in the contest, opened the ballot boxes used at the said election in the borough of Dunmore, they discovered that the boxes used in six districts where frauds were alleged had been soaked in water, and

and consequently the ballots were reduced to the condition of pulp, so that the writing or printing on them was obliterated, rendering them useless for the purpose of ascertaining for what candidates the ballots were marked. Clearly these ballots have been destroyed for the purpose of preventing the detection of fraud and the possible prosecution of the election boards. In what way and to what extent this detigation begins. The districts whose investigation to ascertain the actual result of the election for congressman, with a view to punishing them as they deserve. The federal authorities will individual, the present arrangement is doubtless take the matter in hand." In this connection it may be well to

repeat some remarks made yesterday: explain how six boxes from districts giving Howell remarkably big majorities were water soaked, while two boxes from other districts in which the vote was about normal, and which were stored with the six water-soaked boxes, were perfectly dry. Two things are morally

Pirst, the six boxes from districts susposted of having made fraudulent re-turns were filled with water, the water was allowed to remain in them until the ballots and other papers were reduced to pulp, and was poured off only a short time before the hoxes were brought out of the cellar to be opened by the commissioners appointed by the court to collect and preserve the contents.

Second, the only reasonable motive for tampering with the ballots is to hide a

The Scranfon Tribune on the elements of strength possessed by Conry or Spencer in the territory in question. With these facts in mind the following tabulations are significant:

> Connett Howell. First ward, First district, .. 95 First ward, Second district. Second ward, Second district... 39 Second ward, Second district... 39 Third ward, Third district... 74 Sixth ward, First district... 85

First ward, First district 125 First ward, Second district., 27 Second ward, Second district 32 Third ward, Second district...127 Third ward, Third district....99 Sixth ward, First district....109

In 1900, although the Independent Republican candidate had 133 votes, pre-sumably for the most part Republican votes, Mr. Connell led the naturally strong Democratic candidate in the vote of these six districts, by 33. In 1992, against a can didate of less strength in these districts he is defeated in the districts in question by 141. Verily, there is need of an investiga-

ion. Let the probing go to the bottom. Judge McPherson's decision regard

or the Iowa c. o. d. llouor cases would seem to render a whisky license a deidedly short range affair.

The Arbitration Problem. HE CONSIDERATION which

deters most of the American opponents of presidential arbitration of the Venezuelan muss is the possibility that if President Roosevelt should accept the invitation of Germany and Great Britain he would involve this country in responsibility. There is evidently a widespread belief among conservative statesmen in Washington that the United States has about all the responsibility on its hands just now that It can conveniently handle.

But is there any escape from responsibility in this matter unless we frankly abandon the Monroe doctrine? That already make interesting reading and doctrine itself, and not President will doubtless grow in interest as the Roosevelt, imposes responsibility. It publics must accept limits of our making in the measures of redress which they may adopt. Although we tell them to erned, and take a fall out of Castro, provided only that they make no pernament seizure of territory, yet the minute they do this, American sentiment becomes excited and presses on Washington to cry a halt. Satisfaction for South American injustice to forsigners must lie somewhere, and if it cannot be worked out on the spot where the injustice has been commited, it must be worked out by those who would prevent.

Of course arbitration by Roosevelt could incur responsibility. But it would come anyhow and might better be faced in this peaceful method than through the harsher processes of war. We predict that the president will take he powers at their word and do as they suggest. In no other way can South American rotten boroughs be aught so effectually that the Monroe loctrine is not a license to steal.

It might be a good plan hereafter to oiled silk.

A Misfit Tax Collecting System

HE Carbondale Leader expresses dissatisfaction with the present method of collecting taxes in that city Pennsylvania. It is especially pressing in Scranton.

Hardly a year goes by here without a number of homes being sold from under the feet of their owners on acnot with the individual but with the slip-shod system of assessment and collection. In many cases the accumulations of a lifetime of thrift and frugality are sacrificed through the accidental missing of some petty tax which, as likely as not, may have been overlooked because the assessment was wrongfully made out. We know of an instance in which a prominent property owner of Scranton paid \$8,000 for a lot upon which he intended to build a fine residence and after a thorough search of title and the expenditure of large sums in improvement came near to losing it because one of the former owners of the lot had overlooked the payment of a few dollars' county tax. of which fact there was no available record. The matter had gone through the hands of a ward collector who had been succeeded by other collectors unstruction of the ballots will affect the til it would have taken a Philadelphia contest for the seat in congress will lawyer to figure out the location of the probably not be known until the inves- proper depository of the information. Yet because of this one irregularity of ballot boxes were soaked and the bal- a few dollars dating back a number of lots reduced to pulp are heavily Dem. years an innocent man might easily ocratic. No doubt a determined effort have been despoiled of a valuable home will be made to ferret out the persons and would have been had not his attorguilty of this attempt to prevent an ney been more than ordinarily vigilant.

But apart from this element of danger to property owners, which is as much the fault of the system as of the grossly uneconomic. To collect the two hundred odd thousand dollars of state and county tax assessed in the As yet no attempt has been made to city of Scranton the custom has beeen to appoint from eighteen to twenty-one ward collectors, who devote to the collection such time as happens to be convenient and rely largely upon exonerations to relieve them of responsibility for the uncollected balance. Usually the small personal tax is not collected at all except when payment is voluntarily proffered. The commission on collecting 30 to 45 cents at the 5 per cent, rate which the law allows is not a temptation to push this feature of the collections vigorously and as a result every year the county loses hundreds of

dollars that it could secure with a better systemization of collections. That there was ground for suspecting fraud in some, at least, of these districts, is shown by a comparison of their returns in the last and preceding elections. In 1800, Mr. Conneil had as his opponents, and county taxes within city limits in the last election, Mr. Conneil was a consolidating the collections, enabling and Frank M. Spencer, Independent Republican, whose mine was in Dunmore. In the last election, Mr. Conneil's oppon-

central place where assessments can at all times be examined and, when necessary, corrected. As matters now stand this would require an act of assembly But failing such an act, it is already within the power of the commissioners to designate one officer to collect the entire state and county duplicate in the city, instead of diffusing the collection among nearly two-score ward collectors. This would enable the thorough systemization of the work and permit of decided economies. It would also enable the citizen to locate the collector without having to hunt all over the ward or employ a corps of assistants to

collectors. The announcement that Florence Burns, the young woman recently New York hotel, has been given an opportunity to elevate the stage, calls to mind the fact that in few instances has this sort of enterprise served to elevate

keep track of the continual changes in

President Roosevelt should put on a catcher's mask if he concludes to act as umpire in the Venezuela affair.

even the box office receipts.

INFORMATION.

Statistics issued by the census office in dicate, says Bradstreet's, that the United States ought to be a fruitful field for accident insurance companies. For example, in the last census year-the twelve months ending May 31, 1990-57,513 accidental deaths were reported. Of this number 43,414, were males and 14,009 females. In the period mentioned the pro-portion of deaths from accidents and in juries was 57.6 in 1,000 deaths from al known causes, as against 53.7 in 1899. Practically 6 per cent. of all deaths from causes known and unknown are due to accidental injuries, at least that is the ratio one obtains by contrasting the 57,513 deaths from accidental injuries with the 1,639,694 deaths from all causes that occurred in the census year 1900. These data are not complete for the country as a whole, reliable figures being furnished by only the so-called registration states. Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. In these states the death rate from accidents and injuries was 96 per 100,000 of population, or 27,649 persons, an increase of 4.1 per 100,000 of popula tion. Fatal accidents are more liable to occur in cities than in rural parts. Deaths due to accidents and injuries were highest among those whose mothers were from Italy, and lowest among those whose mothers were born in the United States, 119.5 and 62.7 per 100,000 of white population respectively.

A statement of Canada's trade, prepared by the customs department at Ot-tawa, shows an increase of traffic with all the principal countries, the most striking feature of the statement being the steady growth of business with Great Britain. The total imports for consumption in the fiscal year ended June 30 amounted to \$202,791,595, as against \$181,237,988 in 1901. 2 Some of the sources from which these imports were drawn are shown in the fol-

1902.	1901.
120,809,956	\$110,485,008
49,215,693	43,618,164
6,670,778	5,398,021
10,814,029	7,021,405
724,682	327,361
1.700,697	3,828,450
1,125,426	625,568
Canadian	produce
,763 In 1902	, against
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in, distribut	ed as fol-
	120,809,956 49,215,693 6,670,778 10,814,629 724,682 1,700,697 1,125,426 Canadian ,763 In 1902 This brane

n	trade was, in the main lows:	, distribu	ted as fol-
	Country	1902.	1901.
٠	United States\$	71,196,595	\$67,995,726
	Great Britain 1 France	09,348,245	92,857,525
-	France	1,388,848	1,436,628
1	Germany	2,692,535	1,374,716
	Belgium		1,728,484
	Newfoundland Australia	2,381,367	2,142,871
٠	Australia	2,574,759	2,297,521
-	West Indies	1.967,039	1,898,262
3	TEMPORES CONTRACTOR AND SECURIOR SECURI		

Of the collar and cuff industry 85 per cent. is credited to Troy, N. Y.; Baltimore absorbs more than 65 per cent. of the oyster canning trade, and Gloversville and Johnstown, N. Y., produce 74 per cent, of all the gloves manufactured in the United States. More than 45 per cent, of all the jewelry manufactured is the count of non-payment of taxes, the product of Providence, R. I., and the adfault for which non-payment is often joining towns of Attleboro and North Attleboro, Mass., and Providence controls more than 36 per cent. of the silverware manufacture. Chicago produces more than 24 per cent, of the agricultural implements made, and of productions in silk Paterson, N. J., absorbs more than 25 per cent. Nearly half the carpets made in America are the work of Philadelphia weavers, and Connellsville, Pa., produces 48 per cent. of the coke sold in the coun-

> Two hundred and twenty thousand francs in gold have been stolen from the ellars of the Bank of France. The stoen specie was wrapped up in little cloth bags and was lying on shelves, which were shut off by a railing which was kept locked. The gate had been opened with key and the gold abstracted through a little hole cut in the bottom of the bags. Little hope is entertained of the detection of the robbers. There is reason to believe that the money was abstracted as long ago as February, though the theft has only now been discovered. Since that only now been discovered. Since that time 200 employes have entered the vaults, and there is little chance of discovering suspicious expenditure or investments by one or more of these

> Wherever Alfred Beit, the African Croesus, acquires new interests there he sends not men of his own race, not Germans nor yet Englishmen, but Yankees, as he calls them, to look after and carry on his work. Wherever you visit Beit enter-prises in Portugal, or South America, or South Africa, or Australia, or Korea, or Siberia, the man you will find in charge, the man who is making it succeed, is an American engineer.

There are 30,000 more divorced women than there are divorced men in the United States, the official figures being \$1.000 divorced men and 114,000 divorced women The disparity is accounted for by the fact that men procuring divorces more often remarry than the women under like con-

IMMIGRATION.

Comparison for July, August, September and October, 1900, 1901 and 1902: Total 144,138 152,247 Increase 1902 over 1901, 65,326, or 218,173

BEGAN WHERE HE LEFT OFF.

From the Benton (III.) Republican

years before. This reminds us of the Democrat who is again talking free trade. In 1894, after the country had been wreck-ed by free trade legislation, the lightning of public sentiment struck th Democratic party. Word was sent all along the line that free trade must not be mentioned, For eight years not a free trade squeak was heard. At last the effect of the stroke of lightning has worn off suf-ficiently for old man Democracy to resume his free trade conversation at the precise point where he left off eight years

THE MODERN FETICH.

Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: I am a subscriber to your paper, and read carefully your editorials. I find in them helpful reading, and a source of serious reflection and study. In your issue this morning in the editorial on "The Carnegie Idea," you say: "Almost our whole social as well as commercial fabric Burns, the young woman recently is builded on the hypothesis that money prominent in connection with the murist the chief aim, and its possession the der of a young man found dead in a chief distinction in life," etc. These thoughts and those of other writers, are reflections of the mature thinkers of our time. Not only the mature minds are thinking thus but the child mind bends hat way. To ilustrate: In our Methodist Episcopal Sabbath school one year ago we had a lesson on the "Walk to Emmaus." The superintendent, in reviewing the lesson, spoke of the sudden appearconversation with His followers. "If such a walk should occur these days, what do you think would be this conversation?"
"Money," replied a ten year old in the ront row of seats.

Is it to be wondered at that such answers come from ones of so young an age?
It shows that the teachings you speak of, "Our boys are taught to acquire it (money) as a result of eleverness and scheming," are taking deep root in the immature minds of our youth. Yours, etc., J. M. Alexander,

Carbondale, Dec. 22.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Vhat shall I say to you whom I love Sweetheart, what secret is there yet un told After these dozen years-the happiest

Secret there may not be; but this one thought Comes to my heart upon the Christma: What joy unto the lonely world He brough When He was born!

Joy like that within my soul I knew When, like a white star in the sky above, Suddenly into my lonely life came you

white star still, you cheer me on the Lighting with love and laughter all my Let this my greeting be on Christmas

Day. Sweetheart and wife. Frank Dempster Sherman, in Woman's Home Companion

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Price, \$500. 5½-Kt. Diamond Stud, worth \$600; My Price, \$450. 4½-Kt. Diamond Stud, worth \$600; My Price, \$450. 4½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$450; My Price, \$350. 4½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$425; My Price, \$250. 3-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$360; My Price, \$240.

All of the above are Amsterdam cut, flawless, and gems of dazzling brilliancy. Horseshoe Scarf Pin, 31 Diamonds, worth \$80; My Price, \$50. Hungarian Opai Ring, 42 Diamonds surrounding, set in platinum, worth \$180; My Price, \$120.

Ruby Ring (pigeon blood) surrounded with fine diamonds, \$175; Ruby alone worth over \$200. Sapphire Ring, 1½-Kt. (cornflower blue color), surrounded with Jajer Diamonds set in platinum, \$165; worth \$200. 1-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$100; Mp Price, \$75. 1-Kt. Diamond Rings, worth \$100; My Price, \$0. 3-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$35; My Price, \$80. ½-Kt. Diamond Ring, worth \$35; My Price, \$28. ½-Kt. Diamond Rings, \$10, \$12 and \$15. and 116.
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