

FREELAND TRIBUNE.

Established 1889.
 PUBLISHED EVERY
 MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY.
 BY THE
 TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited.
 OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.
 LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
 FREELAND.—The TRIBUNE is delivered by
 carriers to subscribers in Freeland at the rate
 of 12½ cents a month, payable every two
 months, or \$1.50 a year, payable in advance.
 The TRIBUNE may be ordered direct from the
 carriers or from the office. Complaints of
 irregular or tardy delivery service will receive
 prompt attention.
 BY MAIL.—The TRIBUNE is sent to out-of-
 town subscribers for \$1.50 a year, payable in
 advance; pro rata terms for shorter periods.
 The date when the subscription expires is on
 the address label of each paper. Prompt re-
 newals must be made at the expiration, other-
 wise the subscription will be discontinued.

Entered at the Postoffice at Freeland, Pa.,
 as Second-Class Matter.

FREELAND, PA., NOVEMBER 6, 1901.



Taxing Municipal Franchises.

From the Philadelphia Press.
 Illinois has been added, by the decision
 of its supreme court, to the states
 which have begun the taxation of municipal
 franchises.

If this is thoroughly carried out it is
 a more excellent way of securing a public
 return from the use of the streets than
 the municipal ownership of those
 franchises. The supreme court, in its
 mandamus to the state board of equaliza-
 tion, names every street car line, gas,
 electric light or telephone company in
 Chicago.

These companies all hold street fran-
 chises. Their elevated lines, roadbed,
 trolley poles, gas mains, telephone con-
 ducts or wires are in the streets. They
 have enjoyed, without payment, as
 similar companies do here, the use of
 public property and they have escaped
 adequate taxation on the value thus
 created. They were not taxed as realty
 and a personal tax on the shares was
 easily evaded.

The supreme court now steps in and
 orders "the market value, or if no market
 value than the fair cash value," of their
 shares and indebtedness, "except the
 indebtedness for current expenses," to
 be ascertained and assessment to be
 made accordingly.

This sweeps into the net of taxation
 an estimated valuation of \$235,000,000
 more rather than less. Illinois, like
 this state, taxes corporations; but the
 supreme court has wisely held that
 such a tax no more frees these special
 realty privileges than it frees the real
 estate of a corporation from a realty
 tax. Now York has reached the same
 conclusion in its franchise tax law,
 though it has gone about it in a differ-
 ent way. Other states must do the same.

Every rail in the streets, ever pole,
 every wire, every conduit represents a
 street franchise. It ought to be taxed.
 Every such tax reduces the burden on
 the home and the houses on the street,
 which under present conditions pay an
 undue share of the tax on realty. These
 untaxed franchises in this city amount
 to at least \$200,000,000. The inordinate
 profits of telephone, electric light and
 street car lines are in no small share
 due to their freedom from taxation now
 on their franchises, in their essence realty.

Too Smart.



Uncle—What is this supposed to represent?
 Freddie—Engine.
 Uncle—Why don't you draw the carriages?
 Freddie—The engine does that.

Items From Billyville.

A town that pays the preacher and
 supports the editor is so close to heaven
 that it's almost in competition with it.
 We've been having queer weather of
 late, but as we are not responsible for
 it we just thank God for an umbrella
 and march on.

A man has applied for a pension for
 his mule on the grounds that he hol-
 dered three times at Lee's surrender.—
 Atlanta Constitution.

Her Calculations.

"He told me that I was one woman in
 a thousand," said the lady who had
 caused her husband's arrest for bigamy.
 "And," she continued, while a bitter
 smile wandered across her face, "from
 the way the returns are coming in I
 am inclined to think that he was liter-
 ally and mathematically correct."

THE PEOPLE'S HOPE.

DEMOCRACY TO BE PRESERVED
 THROUGH DIRECT LEGISLATION.

**Demos Cannot Be United on a Con-
 gregation of Issues—The Bis-
 marckian Method, Triumphant Now,
 Must Not Be Allowed to Endure.**

[Special Correspondence.]
 Some day without a trumpet's call
 This news shall o'er the world be blown:
 "The heritage comes back to all;
 The myriad monarchs take their own."
 —T. W. Higginson.

Brutus and Cassius became irritable
 toward one another when ready to
 stake all on a decisive battle with the
 strong young Caesar. Divisions occur
 in the ranks of the hard pressed and
 the defeated for physiological and
 psychological causes. In no country can
 Demos, the people, present a united
 front to Aristos. Conditions favor the
 thought of revolutionists, and their
 temperaments and the temperaments
 of moderate reformers are so different
 that they injure one another perhaps
 as much as they help one another.

To the dilettante students of social
 science the conflict of opinions is enter-
 taining. "It would be a dull world,"
 they say, "if we all thought alike." But
 it is not so entertaining to those who
 dread tyranny and who know that the
 neglect of public affairs by a single
 generation, the determination of a
 single leader with men's loyalty to him,
 have often reversed the movements to-
 ward democracy.

Our great military revival which has
 long been agitated for by the enemies
 of labor is like the beginnings of the
 present system in Europe by Bismarck
 and compels all Europe to dwell in
 armed camps. When the German cham-
 bers rejected the bill for reorganizing
 the army, Bismarck advised William to
 prorogue the chambers, silence the
 press and reorganize the army as he
 pleased. A close study of our own re-
 organization will reveal as little of the
 democratic spirit and as much of the
 imperialistic.

Do the American people really desire
 that their constitution be used for play-
 ing thimble rig games and that the
 blood stained foundation stones of the
 republic should be used for foot-
 ball played by plutocrats? Do the
 American farmers and laborers wish to
 pay for the conquest of cheap laborers
 to be used against their own labor in
 a competition which will profit the
 monopolists who play the games?

Is it possible that the returns of one
 election could mean that besides gold
 monetarism and high tariff the people
 want bank paper substituted for their
 own, freight discriminations by the
 "common carriers" to build up
 trusts, ship subsidies to favor a ship-
 ping trust, reaction from civil service
 reform, vast army and navy prepara-
 tions, conquests, broken pledges to
 weaker peoples and heartless, head-
 strong, mendacious, strenuous lives
 elevated to high places where their
 rudimentary savagery can be dis-
 played?

Some of these things the people wish
 to vote for, but it is preposterous to
 suppose that they would not register
 an effective protest against some of
 them if there were any opportunity to
 do it. Our enemies are not sensitive.
 They feel plenty of assurance, and they
 work fast to "bind heavy burdens on
 the backs of men." "Let us work fast,
 gentlemen," said Bismarck. "Let us
 place Germany in the saddle. She will
 know how to ride."

Despite the very extensive control of
 the press by plutocracy and despite
 the dismissals for social and political
 heresy from places of influence we find
 thinking men and women everywhere
 aware that democratic institutions are
 in great danger.

The reply to the question whether
 such democracy as we have will be
 wiped out or will become strong and
 pure is found in this fact:

The initiative and referendum idea,
 imported from Switzerland about ten
 years ago, is already in San Francisco's
 new charter, where the people have
 awakened to new hope with regard to
 controlling their municipal administration.
 Constitutional amendments have
 given the initiative and referendum to
 Utah and South Dakota, and Oregon
 has passed it through two legislatures
 ready for a vote by the people in the
 autumn election.

Just as the secret ballot, imported
 from Australia, first adopted in the
 corrupt city of St. Louis, spread with-
 out much regard to party lines, the in-
 itiative and referendum spreads and
 fills a long felt want.

The bare possibility that the people
 may veto an obnoxious measure or may
 initiate a measure without the advice
 and consent of politicians of any party
 is an impulse to every phase of democ-
 racy such as has not been known even
 in America. It comes without much
 noise, but we shall soon feel the im-
 pulse.
 ELLA ORMSBY.
 New Salem, Mass.

Bryan to the Laborer.

In his Labor day oration at Kansas
 City William J. Bryan said:

"Each decade of our history shows
 greater production of wealth, and the
 men who produce it have less to show
 for it. Is this a good condition, a
 right condition? The solution of the
 problems that confront us is in legisla-
 tion, not in legislation for or against
 classes, but for equal justice before
 law. The strike today is the only
 weapon the laborer has, but it is weak
 and inefficient.

"If the laboring men were half as
 active on election day as they are in en-
 forcement of their strikes, they would
 wield a force that would right the evils
 which beset them.

"The greatest danger of today is private
 monopoly—not that any one mono-
 poly is worse than others, but the
 principle is bad which tolerates any
 private monopoly."

NEW SHORT STORIES

Major McKinley In Defeat.

One day when the late president,
 then Major McKinley, had just been
 defeated for congress, Major Pearce
 met him at the counter of a downtown
 cigar store. Mr. McKinley was de-
 cidedly downcast over his defeat and
 did not conceal the fact. He approach-
 ed Major Pearce and said, "Major,
 you have been most fortunate."

The St. Louisan looked at the future
 president inquiringly, and Mr. McKin-
 ley continued: "Yes, you see, when the
 war was over, instead of taking up a
 profession, as you have done, I took
 the plunge into politics, and you can
 see where I am now after my defeat,
 with little prospect before me. You
 took the sensible course by going out
 to St. Louis and beginning the prac-
 tice of law."

Major Pearce's reply was prophetic:
 "Never mind, major, just take another
 good start, and ten years from now
 you won't change places with me if I
 offer you a bonus. It's in you."

It was about this same period that an
 incident happened which Congressman
 Joe Cannon used to tell on Mr. McKin-
 ley. The two met at a Chicago hotel,
 both having been defeated for re-elec-
 tion. They were surrounded by a
 dozen or more friends who were com-
 miserating them on their defeat. Mr.
 McKinley was smiling blandly and as-
 suring his friends that everything
 would come out all right, and he was
 not in the least disheartened. One by
 one their friends left them. Cannon
 was the first to speak.

"Bill?" with a rising inflection.

"What is it, Joe?"

"Now that we are alone there is no
 use lying to each other. I am all out
 up about my defeat. How about you?"

"Me, too," said Mr. McKinley.—St.
 Louis Globe-Democrat.

Simple Uncle Paul.

The latest about the naiveive of Oom
 Paul: A few years ago the French col-
 ony in the Transvaal, on the occasion
 of the French national fete on July 14,
 gave a grand ball at Johannesburg,
 which, after much persuasion on the
 part of M. Aubert, the French consul,
 President Kruger, who hated social
 functions of all kinds, was induced to
 attend. Elaborate costumes had been
 donned by the ladies, all of whom were
 en grande decollee.

At the hour fixed President Kruger
 arrived, accompanied by M. Aubert and
 a number of prominent Transvaalians.
 He preceded the party through the



"GRACIOUS! WHAT HAVE I DONE?"

passage that led to the ballroom and
 himself, without ceremony, opened the
 door. As he did so he turned very red,
 and, stammering, "Please excuse me,"
 hastily closed the door again. Then,
 turning to his astonished escort, he ex-
 claimed, with great embarrassment:
 "Gracious! What have I done? The
 ladies are not yet dressed!"

There was a great scurrying in all
 directions to secure fichus and high
 necked attire for the ladies, and Oom
 Paul passed the evening apologizing
 for his supposed inopportune advent.

Edward Did Not Count.

In England unattached good stories
 are generally, by a kind of prescriptive
 right, the property of the London cab-
 by. From him directly comes a recent
 anecdote of the king's salad days. The
 cabbie tells that two distinguished
 strangers hailed him at Westminster
 palace and bade him drive at top speed
 to Marlborough House. After a moment
 of recollection he recognized the Prince
 of Wales and his friend, the king of
 Belgium. An awkward attempt at an
 obeisance from the box was promptly
 rebuffed, and the cabbie settled down
 to his business of driving his royal
 guests as fast as a handsome may go
 in London streets. They stopped at Mar-
 lborough House, and it was time to pay.
 "Well driven, cabby," said the prince.
 "What do I owe you?" The cabbie:
 "Please, sir, I've already 'ad a sover-
 eign and a 'arf in the 'ansom," bowing
 to the prince and the king of Belgium.
 "Here's for the king of Belgium, then,"
 said the prince, handing the driver a
 sovereign. "I don't count, you know."

Wu at the Wedding.

Wu Ting Fang, who was a guest at
 a recent wedding in Washington, was
 approached after the ceremony by the
 best man and jocularly asked to go
 over to the young couple and pronounce
 a Chinese parental blessing. The oblig-
 ing Wu immediately complied. Plac-
 ing his hands on the blushing bride
 and shaking groom, he said:
 "May every new year bless you with
 a man child offspring until they shall
 number twenty-five in all. May these
 twenty-five man children offspring pre-
 sent you with twenty-five times twenty-
 five grandchildren,—and may these
 grandchildren—"

It is said that the little bride grew
 hysterical about this time, and the
 best man made another request to Wu
 —this time to desist.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

American Ideas In England.

A writer in the London Daily Mail
 thus pictures the domestic life of the
 average Englishman: "He rises in the
 morning from his New England fold-
 ing bed, shaves with American soap
 and a Yankee safety razor, pulls on
 his Boston boots over his socks from
 North Carolina, fastens his Connecti-
 cut braces, slips his Waltham or Water-
 bury watch in his pocket and sits
 down to breakfast. There he congrat-
 ulates his wife on the way her Illinois
 straight front corset sets off her Mas-
 sachusetts blouse, and he tackles his
 breakfast, where he eats bread made
 from prairie flour, thinned oysters from
 the Pacific coast and a slice of Kansas
 City bacon, while his wife plays with
 a slice of Chicago oat tongue. The
 children are given American oats. At
 the same time he reads his morning
 paper printed by American machines
 and possibly on American paper. He
 rushes out, catches the electric train
 (New York) to Shepherd's Bush, where
 he gets in a Yankee elevator to take
 him on to the American fitted electric
 railway to the city. At lunchtime he
 hastily swallows some cold roast beef
 that comes from a cow in Iowa and
 flavors it with the latest New England
 pickles and then soothes his mind with
 a couple of Virginia cigarettes. To
 follow his course all day would be
 wearisome. But when evening comes
 he seeks relaxation at the latest Ameri-
 can musical comedy and finishes up
 with a couple of 'little liver pills' made
 in America."

Pat Shot With the Camera In Battle.

Few photographers in the States real-
 ize to what an extent photography has
 been useful in the work of the
 United States in pacifying the Philip-
 pines. A very complete photographic
 department has been organized, and
 its members have performed some real-
 ly heroic feats. Captain O'Keefe per-
 formed before Malabon one of the
 most brilliant pieces of photography
 ever attempted. He was engaged in
 taking a picture of the enemy's in-
 trenchments some hundred yards with-
 out our lines when a band of Filipinos,
 led by a deserter, attempted to cut him
 off. He calmly focused his camera on
 the proper spot, waited until the band
 broke from cover, not fifty yards from
 him, and then photographed them.
 During his subsequent retreat his
 assistant was twice wounded, he him-
 self once, his spare plates were shattered,
 but the camera was uninjured, and the
 plate he took was subsequently the
 means of convicting the deserter of
 treason, for which he is now serving a
 life sentence.

Great Wealth In Isle of Pines.

Speaking of Cuba's resources, Govern-
 or General Wood says: "Even the
 little Isle of Pines holds millions of
 dollars of undeveloped wealth in the
 way of marble and iron. Its timber
 has been pretty well cut, merely be-
 cause its small size and the fact that
 vessels could easily reach it made
 transportation comparatively easy. Be-
 tween the Isle of Pines and the main-
 land are famous sponge fisheries, and
 on the island in many places are fine
 mineral springs, which, when investi-
 gated, will doubtless prove to be of
 great medicinal value. This makes it
 possible that the island will some day
 become an important health resort, al-
 though that, of course, is still a long
 way off."

Will Not Go to Mexico.

"Standing Yellow, a war chief of the
 Cheyenne Indians, has recently return-
 ed from a trip to old Mexico," says the
 Los Angeles Times, "where he was
 sent as a delegate for a number of
 tribes in Oklahoma, aggregating about
 10,000 Indians. The purpose of the old
 chief's trip was to select a new home
 for the reservation Indians, who had
 always considered Mexico nothing
 short of another happy hunting ground,
 where they could all live a life of pros-
 perity and ease, but the report of the
 old chief has upset the fancy notion
 these Indians held about Mexico and
 will be the means of retaining the 10-
 000 redskins in this country until they
 die."

The Spirit of Micawber.

Can it be possible, as a wild rumor
 from Constantinople hints, that Tur-
 key has ordered 300 pieces of artillery
 in Germany? Who would be rash
 enough in these days to sell the Sick
 Man guns on credit? What possible
 chance would there be of collecting
 the debt? And where can the sublime
 porte get money to pay cash for canon?
 The spirit of Micawber broods over
 the Yildiz kiosk, and the Ottoman
 government seems to be continually
 waiting for something to turn up.—
 New York Tribune.

Bonus to Workmen.

A bonus system has been established
 by the Westinghouse Electric and
 Manufacturing company at its plant in
 East Pittsburgh. The bonus is based
 on the net earnings of the company,
 and its distribution is among the as-
 sistant subforemen. It is paid quar-
 terly in addition to their salaries. If
 the system is a success, it will be ex-
 tended by the company to take in all
 skilled workmen of the plant.

Well-Bred.

Mrs. Hatterson—Are those people
 who have moved next door to you well
 bred?
 Mrs. Callerson—Oh, yes. They an-
 swered all my questions and never
 asked me one about myself.—Life.

A Little Learning.

Ernestine had learned the word "rat"
 at school. The teacher pointed to the
 word "rat" and asked her what it was.
 She said, "It is some part of a rat, but
 I don't know which part it is."—
 Youth's Companion.



DRIVING

commonplace shoes out of
 the market is what the
All America \$3.50
 SHOE
 is doing. How would you
 like to reduce your shoe
 wants to two pairs a year?
 How would you like to wear
 the custom-made \$5.00
 kind for \$3.50 a pair?
 Made in the custom way, of
 choicest selections of leather,
 they are the snappy, thorough-
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 It's a pleasure to show them.

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 Other Styles and Prices.

Our Assortment of Men's and Boys' Underwear

embraces every variety in the market. We have all weights
 and qualities and can suit you at any price from \$1.50 per gar-
 ment down.

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our stock is by far the largest in the town. We carry the
 latest styles in these goods and sell at reasonable figures. All
 people pay the same price at this store, and the child receives
 the same service as the man.

McMenamin's Gents' Furnishing, Hat and Shoe Store, South Centre Street.

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Promptly Done at the Tribune Office.

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 and good reputation in each state (one
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 of solid financial standing. Salary \$35.00
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