

New York Tribune.

MONDAY, JULY 14, 1913.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.

Table with columns for FOREIGN RATES, CANADIAN RATES, and DAILY AND SUNDAY rates for various durations.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

A Man Who Pays Blackmail Has No Business on the Bench.

Even though Justice Coblan should be cleared by the Legislature he has no proper place on the bench.

Suspicion will always attach to him, and a man to whom suspicion attaches has no business to be a judge.

Justice Coblan's friends say that he is a sensitive and high-minded man, and in some way, not easily apprehended by an outsider.

With him upon the bench cannot be unassailable. He did business with a rascal. He did business of such a character that payments were always made in cash.

The judge says he made the "greatest mistake" of his life. There is one decent and honorable way to atone for it.

The Progressive Enrolment.

Politicians who put a great deal of dependence on the outward and visible signs of party prosperity will be likely to attach too much significance to the fact that the Progressive party's enrolment is only 12,378 in this city and only 30,377 in the entire state.

On its face this showing seems to indicate an extraordinary unwillingness on the part of those who voted the Progressive ticket last fall to cast their lot with the new party organization.

The Progressive vote of 1912 was largely in the nature of a protest against faults in Republican management—especially against the crude and antiquated system of representation in national conventions.

If the Republican leaders can read the signs of the times they will set to work earnestly to clear the way for another old home celebration.

Public Works and Private Works.

Why cannot public buildings be erected as promptly, as economically and with as much accuracy in the estimates of their cost as private buildings of comparable magnitude?

Comment has often been made upon the length of time which it takes to build a schoolhouse in this city. It takes from two to four years, whereas a private building, say, an apartment house, of comparable size is finished within a year.

It must be believed that public buildings could be provided on as favorable terms as private buildings if only the officials responsible for them were as vigilant, as keen and as resolute in securing the public welfare as business men are in looking out for their own interests.

The Navy on Lake Erie.

The procession of the reconstructed Niagara and the attendant vessels from Erie to Fairport is a fitting step in the commemoration of a great event, which is to last for weeks and is to include all the home shores of the Great Lakes.

By July 10, 1813, Perry's ships were ready to emerge from their refuge at Erie, but their crews were not. There were enough officers and men for only one ship. So they had to wait.

Erie, and it was on August 12 that he finally left that part of the lake for the Western waters, in line of battle.

The great practical value of this naval procession around the lakes from Erie to Duluth will be its reminder of the past glories and present and future needs of the navy to dwellers on inland waters, where our actual navy is never seen, but where interest in it should be as vital as at any of our ocean ports.

Progress.

Let those of us who hope for progress under the Wilson administration ponder these words of a wise old French Immortal, not too reactionary to have defended truth in the case of Dreyfus or to have adopted socialism as his creed and programme.

All progress, the worst like the best, is slow and regular. There will not be great changes, and never were; by which I mean changes prompt or sudden. All the economic transformations operate with the clement slowness of natural forces.

This is not to deny or to wish to check progress—specifically, that progress which takes its point of departure from new statutes on the statute book; it is to understand the philosophy of change.

Mr. McAneny's Candidacy.

The Tribune likes Mr. McAneny. It regards him as a useful official and it has often said so. He has talent, industry and honesty.

The truth is that Mr. McAneny's virtues leave the public somewhat cold. And for a very simple reason. The public has never conceded the force of the argument that is urged in behalf of his candidacy.

Mr. McAneny's record would count in his favor, but not tremendously in his favor. On the other hand, Mr. Whitman's record would count tremendously in his favor.

By all means let the city retain the services of Mr. McAneny, by putting him on the ticket with a candidate for Mayor who can carry him into office.

A Strike Unlikely.

The vote of the railroad trainmen and conductors to strike has been approved by the proper union authorities. The power to order a strike is now in the hands of the trainmen's and conductors' leaders.

A conference is to be held in Washington to avert a strike. A promise will probably be made at it to amend the Erdman act, and this will afford excuse for delay.

The Banana Issue.

The Washington Irving High School girl of sixteen who wrote a letter to President Wilson on the iniquity of an import tax on bananas ought to send a duplicate to the Hon. John Sharp Williams, a leading member of the Senate Finance Committee, which devised this impost on the East Side's favorite fruit.

No protectionist in his senses ever held such a view, but the Hon. John Sharp loves to set up that sort of straw man and then beat him to pieces.

Mr. Williams's heart probably still beats true to the East Side's protest. The banana is the poor man's solace, and the narrow-minded legislator who wants to tax it for no sound economical reason is willfully making harder the lot of the poor.

Extending the Usefulness of the Motor 'Bus.

The lively competition in bidding for permits to establish new motor bus lines fully justifies the Legislature's repeal of the law which greatly restricted the use here of this convenient means of surface transportation.

The Tribune has repeatedly advocated the experiment of cheap bus lines, with routes easily adjusted to the demands of travel. There are many parts of the city which are nearly cut off from other very distant parts by irregularities in the plotting of surface car lines.

There is room for a cheap service connecting the long stretches of the city east and west of Central Park and there is almost as much room in other sections, where travel is congested at many hours

of the day by being forced into fixed and narrow channels.

More variety in transportation facilities is needed as well as larger facilities. When New York becomes well paved in its entirety the smooth running and comparatively noiseless busses will be for short distance trips a source of comfort and convenience which a generation habituated to trolley cars and elevated railroads has hardly dreamed of.

Developments at Albany suggest that there ought to be money in a company formed to insure nervous members of the bar against blackmail.

A politician hereabouts never knows what's "on him" until he excites the activities of the Tammany "getting it on" system.

Isn't it about time for Colonel Watterston to put the Star-Eyed Goddess at the disposition of the stage managers of the New Freedom?

AS I WAS SAYING

That flaming optimist, Mr. Gerald Stanley Lee, insists that "bishops can be converted, professors educated." But do not despair. There will be plenty of jokes left. Even Lee sees no chance of reforming the reformers, and a funny lot they are.

Now, the comical thing about a reformer is the way he keeps right on after the stern, stern eye of logic has seen through him. Knows perfectly well what people are saying. For instance: "He only does this to satisfy the cranks who give him his salary."

"He is unpaid, you know. A detestable, self-appointed meddler." "What did we tell you? The hypocrite walked straight past the Sunday ball game and went and broke up a 'white slave' trust."

"No actor," says Mr. S. R. Littlewood, "has ever yet been 'discovered' after his death." Too bad! In so many instances that is just the time.

An unholly correspondent reports with glee that Mr. Jack Johnson encountered difficulties in getting himself quartered in Paris. Followed by his sisters, his cousins, his aunts and his twenty-two faithful trunkmen, our pugilist tried the Hotel des Grands Hommes, the Ritz, the Cocher Mort, the Hotel de l'Univers et de l'Amérique, the Taverne Sarah, the Bon Ami, the Gaby, the Cent Mille Mouches and the Grand Hotel de Zaza et du Pasteur Wasner, and was about to fall back on "chambers garnished," when a suave sergent-de-ville kindly advised "monseigneur le prince" to go to the Diabolo.

But do not imagine that Paris intended a snub. No, by blue! Paris adores Brother Jack. "C'est un gentleman. Vive le sport!" Parisians never look down on a man for his black skin; they laugh, thinking it one on him. And as for slugging, was it not in "Femina," the French "Ladies' Home Journal," that Mysterlinck sang the glories of "ja boxe"?

Incidentally, Parisians feel grateful to Brother Jack for importing into the France the chief pleasure of the America. "Machez-vous le chewing gum?"

Why are we reminded of the charming rustic who growled: "God damn it! Here I be, standin' right beside Dead Man's Curve, an' I ain't seen a soul killed yet." Ah, we have it! Several days, now, President Mellen has been giving his undivided attention to the New Haven road. Disappointing, very! We had great expectations.

Weep no more for Poor Lo. His tribe increases. He simply outnumbered himself. Guess the Montanians were quite right when they said to us: "Now, don't you worry; as long as there are free government rations there will be Indians."

We entirely agree with Borough President McAneny. An elevated railway entrance is no place for billboards. Along with telegraph wires, Single Taxers, gas pipes, Dr. Friedmann and elevated railroads, they belong under ground.

In his latest dazzling essay Professor von Pferd-lache remarks that "ordinary ideas are elusive." Yes, yes, but just consider extraordinary ideas! Rarely ten minutes ago we had an extraordinary idea and wrote it down. That was the page! Fantastic! Lost! Forever lost!

Some comfort, though. We shall use this incident next time one of those chaps whose name is legion lunt-holes us with: "Say, old man, I've got a corking idea for your column! A regular screamer. Wife nearly died laughing. Why—er—hang it! What was that idea?"

These are nervous days for Teacher. Wherever she goes, on land or sea, she is pursued by Robert and Richard and Reggie and Roy, yet knows that she cannot add to the three R's of her profession without losing her job. It is a dire problem, with a great deal to be said on both sides, but we see where the trouble lies. Teaching must catch up with the age. It should be done by machinery.

Much wicked merriment greeted Mayor Gaynor's tribute to "people who ought to be ministers," whereas there are some—notably Mr. Leader Turney, who preaches thus in "Life":

"These things forbear: Debts, which eat up earnings; hatreds, which embitter existence; idleness, which shortens life; habits which come to be masters, and pretence, which involves one beyond his ability to perform."

"These things cast away: Antipathies, for which a reason cannot be given; anger, which breeds hard words, and desires, which destroy peace."

"These things husband: Pennies, which make dollars; minutes, which make opportunity; acquaintances, who are potential friends, and sympathies, which make life worth while."

When we encountered this sermon of Archbishop Leader's (let him be so addressed hereafter) our entire spiritual nature hopped up within us and cried, "Wow!" Fearlessly we present Archbishop Leader as a model to preachers. How sane he is, how persuasive, how shrewd, how eloquent, and—may we not add?—how brief!

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

Governor Sulzer does not desire to be Mayor of New York. The choice between the frying pan and the fire is easily made—Washington Star.

In announcing that of men convicted in the last nine years more than two-thirds were unmarried, does New York mean to encourage matrimony or console spinsterhood?—Boston Herald.

One goat figures in the more than 3,000,000 animals killed in New York within a year. Must have been Mayor Gaynor's. The whole town has been after it.—Philadelphia North American.

The fauna of New York is as varied as the Bronx gardens. Wall street has its bulls, bears, lambs and wolves, 14th street its tiger and the "Outlook" office its bull moose.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

The Mayor of Chicago is puzzled to decide what sort of new uniforms to select for his policemen. From all that we have heard of the Chicago force it might be well to equip some of them with the kind now being worn by a number of New York's ex-fines.—Philadelphia Inquirer.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate

DEFENDS ANTHRACITE TAX

Scranton Man Says Coal Regions are Being Impoverished.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read the editorial in The Tribune of Saturday, the 5th inst., entitled "A Barbarous Tax," and the writer's evident lack of information on this subject suggests to my mind the propriety of letting you know how this measure, taxing anthracite coal by the ton as mined, is viewed here in the coal regions.

The coal industry, in its economic relation to the communities producing the coal, is a peculiar one, in that it is leaving the regions poorer each year; i. e., the value of the anthracite coal taken from under the surface is greater than the increase in wealth of surface property. The only advantage to the region is the incidental employment given to a certain portion of the people living there.

The profits made out of the business do not go, as formerly, into the pockets of citizens of the region, but rather to increase the dividends of the great coal-carrying railroads which are in the mining business solely to create freight. Up to fifteen years ago, or even less, a very considerable part of the anthracite mining industry was in the hands of people who lived in the coal fields, and the profits made by them out of the business were to a large extent reinvested in manufactures, with the result that the increase in the manufacturing interests of this region to a certain extent kept pace with the diminution of the natural wealth.

The only tax heretofore levied upon anthracite coal in Pennsylvania has been one placed upon coal in the ground as real estate, and it has never been commensurate with the value of the coal, either mined or in place, nor has it borne the same relative burden that other property has been subject to. For many years there has been an agitation in the coal regions for an ad valorem tonnage tax to be levied upon the coal as prepared for market in order that the communities producing it might receive a more adequate return for the loss of their great natural resource.

The comparison with a tax upon water power, cited in your editorial, is in no sense just or comparable, as the water power represents a force of nature continuous, inexhaustible and presumably not subject to diminution, while the anthracite coal supply is a rapidly shrinking quantity, certain of absolute exhaustion within an appreciable range of time. In this sense it differs even from our timber resources (about which there has been for years an agitation in favor of a board measure tax levied as cut), as this form of natural wealth can, by the application of scientific reforestation processes, be recreated for the use of future generations. Each week, day and hour, however, witnesses a loss in the anthracite coal reserves which can never be replaced.

The tax provided by the act of June 27 is 2 1/2 per cent ad valorem per ton on coal when mined and prepared for market, and on the average price of anthracite at the mines last year (1912) of \$2.36 amounts to 5 cents and 5 mills a ton. The tax is collected as a state tax and divided equally between the state and the counties where the coal is mined, based upon the tonnage of the respective counties. The counties' share of the tax is further divided among the municipal subdivisions of the county, such as cities, boroughs and townships, equally according to their population by the last United States census.

The tax is a modest one, and if the companies which mine and carry the coal are content to add the tax only to the price, the additional burden will be very slight, but if, on the other hand, they use this tax as a pretext to greatly advance the cost, then the consumers have their quarrel with the companies rather than with the State of Pennsylvania, which is only attempting by a reasonable tax, for

ODD LOT BROKER'S SHARE

It Is Little Enough for the Service Rendered, He Thinks.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The writer of the letter printed in the People's Column to-day under the caption, "New Era in Wall Street" is mistaken in stating that brokers specializing in odd lots "are making their pile by exacting 1/2 over or under, as the case may be, on every purchase or sale below 100 shares." Mr. Hamilton falls into the familiar error of supposing that the odd lot broker receives more than his 1/2 commission and implies that the odd lot broker takes a double commission, which is untrue.

The broker, under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, can take but one commission, the conventional 1/2. As agent for the customer, he buys from or sells to the odd lot dealer. The odd lot dealer may or may not make a profit on the transaction. He is trading for his own account and makes or loses according as he is able to buy or sell at a profit in odd lots or hundred share lots what he has sold or bought in odd lots. He may have certain advantages which make profits more usual than sales, but it may be said that if the dealer did not make money he would not remain in business, and that if he did not remain in business he would deprive the odd lot customer of the instant market now provided for any number of shares—1, 10, 25, 49, 50 or 99.

The broker, as said above, receives only the 1/2 commission. He is interested in buying for his customer as low as possible and selling as high as possible, because he makes nothing from price changes, but benefits from continued patronage when he is able to have his customer satisfied.

Mr. Hamilton is right when he states that the little man must be catered to by Wall Street, but the members of the New York Stock Exchange are alive to the situation and extend him every facility. As for the proposal to reduce the broker's commission, it is probable that if you correspondent could get a first hand insight into the processes of advancing an odd lot client, executing and entering his order and transferring the stock—all frequently for \$1.25—he would not think the amount excessive.

The commission the broker receives is little enough, considering the service rendered. As a matter of fact, a smaller commission would not allow him to give this good service. All commissions impose a handicap on non-members over the member floor traders, but this handicap is felt only in trading operations which might properly be left to the professional. The public can get the best results not by attempting to "scalp" fractional profits, but by investing or speculating on the swings for 10, 20 and 50 point profits. The small investor and speculator, rather than the small "trader," is the hope of Wall Street. JOHN MUR, New York, July 11, 1913.

PLEA FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Law Against Sunday Baseball a Union of Church and State.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A notable deficiency in the fervent argument of your correspondent W. W. T. Duncan for suppression of the wholesome and innocent pleasures of the multitude is his entire omission to state who is injured and in what way by the playing of Sunday baseball. It is legitimate, of course, to argue that the law of the state should be observed, however antiquated and out of harmony with the present views and needs of the people, but no adequate reason is assigned why the law itself should not be summarily repealed.

Can your correspondent find a single objection to Sunday baseball which does not rest on advocacy of a union of Church and State, in direct violation of the fundamental principles of American democracy? Since our nation is founded on an absolute guarantee of religious liberty and is made up of citizens of every shade of religious belief and disbelief, whose civic rights are precisely and even mathematically equal, it must follow that no majority has any moral right to force observance of its private religious creeds or ceremonies on the minority.

Does he think that a Catholic majority would be justified in prohibiting the sale of meat on Friday? Would it be perfectly fair and legitimate for a Free Thought majority to require all churches to be closed? Would he return to the old Puritan rule of compelling every citizen to attend church, under penalty of fine or imprisonment? Not one of these things differs in principle or in any way except in degree from the prohibition of private amusements on Sunday or of any public recreation which does not directly invade the quiet of the churchgoers in the actual exercise of their devotions.

If the state cannot honorably require attendance at church, it cannot attempt to increase church attendance by the dishonest subterfuge of prohibiting harmless recreation, so that there will be no place except church to go. The only duty of the state is to be neutral and impartial in personal matters, such as religion, and to protect all in their equal rights in such matters. Nobody wishes to hinder the Christian from keeping Sunday as sacredly as he pleases, and it is absolutely none of his business what others choose to do with their Sundays, so long as they leave him in peace. Your correspondent does not truly represent even the entire Christian population, as there are still many loyal to the spirit of religious freedom as first voiced by Roger Williams. If only a Bible argument will move Mr. Duncan, let him read and digest Matthew, xxii, 21; Romans, xiv, 4-6, and Colossians, ii, 16, and I trust he will convince himself that even a Christian may be a sufficiently good citizen to recognize and respect the splendid American principle (too imperfectly applied as yet) of absolute separation of Church and State. JAMES F. MORTON, JR., New York, July 11, 1913.

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.

From The Denver Republican. A new law in Texas makes it a felony for a man to get drunk anywhere but in his own home. If Colonel Mulberry Sellers were alive he would sight a fortune in the business of selling brass foot rails for Texas homes.

AN OVERPLUS OF GOATS.

From The Philadelphia Press. With its bulls and bears and lambs and goats it needed only the addition of a wolf to make the Wall Street zoological collection pretty complete.

OVER HIS HEAD.

From The Philadelphia Ledger. The President has asked for a shower bath in the cellar of the White House. The top is the one Mr. Taft had; the President can't swim.