

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JULY 7, 1899.

The Barber asphalt snake's method of coiling about the repaired portions of Lackawanna and Washington avenues seems to please even the recently delicious octopus editor of the Times. Experience is a great instructor.

Two Changes Suggested.

The recent executive order giving General Wood command over the province of Puerto Principe as well as over the province of Santiago puts him in charge of the largest sub-division of the island, considered as to area, and likewise the hardest to handle. General Wilson, who has Santa Clara and Matanzas provinces to govern, is meeting with splendid success and in point of natural gifts and varied experience is probably the ablest of our officers in Cuba, or for that matter, elsewhere; but his difficulties in that pastoral region are few in comparison with the turbulence and intrigues characteristic of the Cubans inhabiting Santiago province. His fine abilities are not wasted, but they are not put to the highest use. General Lee, in command of Havana province (exclusive of Havana city) and Pinar del Rio, has relatively little to do, but does that little well.

There are two changes yet to be made, however, in order to bring the adjustment of our colonial relations up to the highest efficiency consistent with the unavoidable limitations of military rule. General Wilson should be made secretary of war and General Wood governor general with practically absolute power in Cuba. The propriety of the latter suggestion is generally admitted; that of the former is none the less capable of demonstration. General Wilson was a corps commander in the Civil war and was one of the best of generals developed toward the close of that great struggle. As a senator of the United States he took rank with the ablest and in his other civic relations he has shown an uncommon mixture of scholarship and high principles with tact, executive ability and common sense. In the office now satisfactorily filled by General Alger, General Wilson would be an advisor upon whom the president could lean with implicit confidence; a man equally at home in civil or military matters; a man of fine character and excellent discretion; in short, a great improvement in every respect and a secretary who would possess the full confidence of the army. Let us hope that these changes will soon occur.

If Wilkes-Barre people do not stop wrangling over the location of that Spanish cannon, Governor Stone may be obliged to take the gun away, lest the combatants attempt to shoot each other with it.

Profiting by Experience.

Such announcement as it has made of plans for augmenting the army in the Philippines shows that the administration is profiting by experience. Of the ten volunteer regiments which are to be recruited in this country not one is to be officered by volunteers. Colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors are to be appointed from among the captains and lieutenants of the regular army and only the company officers from a captain down will be filled by volunteer commissions. While nominally the entire ten regiments will be volunteer regiments they will in all practical purposes be as regular as the regulars. Their organization will be identical with that of the permanent regular regiments; their arms and equipment will be similar and in standards of discipline the rules of the regular service will be enforced resolutely. There is to be no play soldiering this time; no dictation by politicians with its trifling waste of human life; and no undue concession to the spirit which, among some of the volunteers of a year ago, tried to decide the conditions of enlistment and organization and threatened to make trouble if favorite officers were not handed with kid gloves.

The volunteer army of a year ago, which had to be assembled in extraordinary haste and rushed to the front somewhat regardless of preparedness for difficult campaigning on dangerous foreign service, included many mistakes and none worse than the prejudice which was shown in many quarters against the appointment of regular officers to volunteer commands. This prejudice was not unnatural. Citizens going to be soldiers naturally preferred to take their own officers along with them. But hard experience in camp and on the battle-field in a great many instances taught the fallacy of this preference. There were competent volunteer officers and incompetent regulars, but on the whole it was soon discovered that the regulars excelled in accurate knowledge of their business. The regulars knew how to get supplies. They knew how to locate camps. They instinctively watched over the sanitary conditions of their commands and, finally, when it came to fighting, the seasoned regulars were the officers who accomplished results with the greatest economy of human life and with the most precision and directness.

Last year's need of haste no longer existing, and the lessons of last year's experience standing out with unmistakable vividness, the administration simply does its duty in putting the new call for a volunteer supplementary army upon a basis calculated to insure the maximum efficiency. Further proof exists of its capability to accept the teachings of experience is given in the fact that the physical qualifications of applicants for enlistment in the ten volunteer regiments will be greater than those of applicants for enlistment in the regular service. No man will be accepted who does not possess a vigorous constitu-

tion, and soldiers who were discharged from the regular or volunteer service on account of disability contracted in the war with Spain will not be taken. The coming campaign will be one of exceptional severity. It will require physiques of iron with nerves of steel. The enemy is to be not simply beaten, but overwhelmed. Within three months after the subsidence of the rainy season the island of Luzon is to be cleared of organized resistance to American sovereignty and the foundations are to be under course of erection for a reconstructed government on principles of justice and humanity. This is a duty which requires in its performance the best manhood that the nation can command.

Mr. Bryan declares that whether he shall be nominated or not in 1900 is immaterial to him. He would rather he says, help some one else win than be the cause of his party's defeat. If this be his condition of mind he might just as well get to work in a letter of withdrawal; for defeat is written all over the Democratic party's future.

Mr. Bryan's Vain Hope.

"The question of imperialism," says Mr. Bryan, "will bring more votes out of the Republican party in the coming campaign than in any of the campaigns since the last canvass of Abraham Lincoln." The statement is ambiguous. The reason that the "question of imperialism" has not figured in any campaign either before or since 1864. But if it be the Nebraska orator's meaning that an "anti" platform will draw to the Democracy more Republican votes than have been defeated in any presidential campaign since Lincoln's second canvass, Mr. Bryan must have read political history incomprehensibly. As the esteemed Washington Star points out:

"The Democracy has made and lost three national campaigns on the lines of understanding the popular intelligence. The campaign of 1864 was made on that line. The country was asked to believe the war for the Union a failure, and set Mr. Lincoln down as a man whose policies meant the total destruction of the Constitution. But the people were sane. Mr. Lincoln was elected to a second term, and received only twenty-one electoral votes out of two hundred and thirty-three. In 1872 the country was asked to believe that a second term of General Grant would imperil civil institutions. He was pictured as a man on horseback, surrounded by personal favorites, and riding rough-shod over the law. It was thought that the nomination of Mr. Greeley would bring more votes out of the Republican party than any other that could be made. The nomination was made, but the Republican votes expected did not materialize. Mr. Greeley was so overwhelmingly beaten that he went to his grave in a few weeks broken-hearted.

"The nomination of General Hancock in 1856 was made on a foolish calculation of bringing 'votes out of the Republican party.' He was a Democrat, but the fact that he was also one of the most brilliant of the surviving Union generals was relied upon to make heavy inroads on the old soldier vote, then largely Republican. The calculation was wholly erroneous. The candidate in his personality was most attractive, but, as the representative of a party leaning then, as now, to unsound money, he went down to defeat. The old soldiers who were Republicans did not divide at the polls."

"The 'question of imperialism' can be raised next year only in one way. It must take this form and this form alone: 'Shall the United States scuttle out of the Philippines and haul down its flag in the fact of hostile firing?' This is the only form in which 'imperialism,' so-called, can figure in the pending discussion. Some few hysterical Republicans may scare over the spectre which Mr. Bryan threatens to utilize, but how about the opposite tendency among virile Democrats? Already for every Republican of prominence whose voice has gone forth in aid of the Filipino insurgents at least two loyal Democrats of equal prominence have announced their intention to stand by their government. In a matter of this kind patriotism does not divide along party lines; and Republicans may well view with complacency the threatened exodus of Aguinidians in view of the certain gain from Democratic sources.

Russell Sage.

It is reported that the life of Russell Sage has again been threatened, and simultaneously, by an interesting coincidence, announcement is made by the attorneys for William R. Laidlaw, the clerk in Sage's office whom Sage used as a shield against Norcross' bomb and afterward refused to recompense for the damages thus incurred, that Laidlaw's case against Sage will be retried. This case has already had four trials, in two of which Laidlaw was awarded heavy damages, but in each case Sage has won out on appeal.

In effect, Russell Sage is probably the most dangerous citizen of the United States. We say in effect, because it is evident that he does not intend to be dangerous; he simply cannot help it. He was born mean and he has taken no steps since to overcome the inherited characteristic. He is dangerous because his small ways and contemptible exhibitions of selfishness and stinginess contribute immensely to the formation of a class prejudice among the poor against the rich. The anarchist Norcross did not aim his bomb at one of the Vanderbilts, although if his enmity had been inspired by wealth alone there were Vanderbilts far richer than Sage was at the time of Norcross' attack. Norcross assailed Sage, perhaps, in a not wholly insane belief that of all rich men Sage was the meanest and least useful to the community at large; and had as the crime was, we don't know which of the two men, anarchist or plutocrat, was in morals the guiltier. Men possessing the wealth of Russell Sage owe large debts to the community,

This does not say that individual anarchists are to take pistol or bludgeon and try to collect on these obligations forcibly. One wrong cannot be remedied by another. Yet the type of character which, in Russell Sage's circumstances in life, can be capable of the abominable meanness of which Sage's treatment of Laidlaw is a fair illustration, is a standing reproach on the boasted virtues of American civilization and it should be the duty of rich and poor alike, by all honorable means, to prevent its multiplication.

A school for backward children has just been established in Philadelphia. This is a long step in the right direction. There are so many schools about the country for awfully smart boys and girls whose brains bulge while the muscles of their growing bodies shrink, that it is well that special courses of study should be provided for those in actual need of their stimulating influence.

United States Consul Pratt has promptly sued for libel a Hong Kong firm that published a book containing the statement that he had promised the Philippine leaders independence if they would assist the United States in driving the Spanish from the islands. And thus another "anti" battle cry has been undermined and blown up.

People at large are inclined to doubt the story regarding the Binghamton man who is living with several stitches in his heart, though it is probable that that organ is tougher in the breast of the Binghamton man than is generally supposed.

Senator Tillman in his Fourth of July oration denounced the American voters as slaves and fools. The fact that Tillman can get an audience lends color to the latter part of the statement so far as his locality is concerned.

The peaceful state of affairs between Dewey and Von Diederichs, as indicated by recent despatches, will hardly be liable to prompt any intelligent band to play "Comrades."

In trying to let Admiral Dewey pander down easily, Admiral Dewey puts the blame on the newspapers. It is now clear that Dewey is, indeed, a great diplomatist.

The window-breaking inhabitants of Belgium undoubtedly take their politics too seriously. They should throw political stones in the metaphorical fashion only.

If a high tariff shall ever become no longer a necessity for the United States, the Democratic party, of course, will be its most enthusiastic advocate.

A Chicago judge declares the automobile less dangerous than a horse and buggy. It is believed, however, that this depends largely upon who is driving.

The bouquets which are being thrown at Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy are fully deserved; it is Andrew's politics that invites brick bats.

Yankee diplomacy at The Hague consists chiefly in making the other delegations to the peace congress fish or cut bait.

In the matter of weather, what the American people petition for is a better equalization.

President Kruger is rapidly drawing near a close acquaintance with the inevitable.

The Outlook for Spelling Reform

Dr. E. B. Andrews in New York Herald. THOSE who discuss the reform, while differing somewhat in the points they emphasize, substantially agree. Three convictions appear to be nearly universal: That some amendment to our present spelling system is desirable. That the modification ought to be gradual—an evolution, not a revolution. That it should be voluntary and spontaneous; in no way being made to enforce it in any way by authority. These positions are wholly sound. There are many English words whose usual spelling cannot possibly be defended. It wastes time and labor and obscures etymology, all without the slightest compensation. The argument for reform in that letter is perfectly conclusive. Not to rehearse it at large, the saving of time which might be secured by it in the education of the young is in itself a convincing plea, the more so in view of the great number of students crowding for place in the curriculum.

But the irrationally complained of can never be done away at a single stroke. Sensible spelling, phonetic or other, will be of slow growth. The immediate emancipation program urged by certain advocates of pure phonism is no less unreasonable than other people's slavish adherence to the old spelling. We must be content to see the crudities of current orthography laid aside a few at a time, perhaps one at a time. Improvement here will keep the snail's pace it has kept in the past, only perhaps quickened a trifle by wider discussion. Spelling reform is no new thing, no fad fussed into notice by philological and educational associations. Compare the spelling in an old text of Shakespeare with that of a book fresh from Macmillan's press. Only yesterday "music" and "almshouse" were spelled each with its "k."

This instance gives a clew to the law which genuine spelling reform always follows. Whenever a totally useless letter can be omitted without the slightest obscuration of the word's meaning, and the omission does not impede, and is at least wholly omitted. On the other hand, new spellings over which we have to pause and reflect to make sure that they mean are doctrinaire. The use or advocacy of such may be set down as the sign of a fastidious reformer. In the light of the law just stated a speller who simply writes "tho" and leaves "ue" off prolog" and its cognates is seen to be inconsistent in declining to go the length of phonism. Purely phonetic spelling is not the goal, at least while our alphabet has so few characters. At present

ent a silent letter is often indispensable to indicate the proper sound of its neighbor.

Not only do follies in spelling take their own time in passing away, but you cannot hurry them with the lash. No step in the progress of orthography has been made possible or easier by any sort of coercion or dictation. The movement has been spontaneous, and will so continue. You cannot hasten it by edict, any more than you can stay it by just. If a man wishes to write "though" for "tho," using just 100 per cent more time, work, paper and ink than necessary, do not fine him, but humor his whim. Wisdom is justified of such spelling, and little by little change their practice. Others follow, the example of the example of the first. All is voluntary. Innovators and laggards alike are derided. The first spelling reformer who wrote "music" for "musick" was pronounced a crank. After a little any who added "u" were considered cranks. And so the reform has spread, never swiftly enough to pacify fastidious, ridiculed by the thoughtless and the ultra-conservative, but not really retarded by any.

OUR CITIES MORE HEALTHFUL. W. E. Curtis in Chicago Record. London is the most healthful of the large cities of the world, the death rate being 16.7 for every 1,000 in 1897, and, in the United States for 1897, which is the last year for which comparative statistics can be obtained, Minneapolis for 15.2, New Orleans for 15.1, and so on. The most healthful of our cities, and their death rate was almost the same—9.1 per 1,000 of population in Minneapolis and 9.2 per 1,000 population in St. Paul, Denver and Portland. They came very close, with 10.4 and 10.6 per 1,000. This side of the Mississippi river Buffalo is the most healthful city, but Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago gave it a close race.

It is impossible to get the mortality statistics for all of the European cities, but the following table will show the death rate for 1897 in twenty-one of them in various parts of the continent, compared with twenty-one cities of similar size in the United States. The calculation shows that the average death rate in the twenty-one European cities in 1897, with a population of 15,251,000, was 24.2. In California and Bombay are accepted, and they properly should be, the average is reduced to 22.9 per 1,000. The twenty-one American cities named have a population of 11,200,000 and their average death rate is 18.4, exactly the same as that of London. The reasons for the difference in death rate is very apparent. In St. Paul, Denver and Portland, better houses, better clothing, better food, better air and better sanitary protection. Following is the table:

Table with 2 columns: City Name and Death Rate per 1,000. Includes London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Brussels, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Breslau, Prague, Budapest, Frankfurt, Dresden, Marselis, Constantinople, San Francisco, Bombay, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, San Francisco, New Orleans, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo, Washington, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Louisville, Portland, Ore., Denver.

HOW THEY RAISE MEN IN GEORGIA.

From the Philadelphia Post. During a recent visit to the army camp in Savannah General Joseph Wheeler was entertained by a party of northern men at the De Soto hotel. In the room of after-dinner cigars, one of the gentlemen said laughingly: "How is it, general, that the sleepy farmers produce such whirlwind fighters in such small packages?" "Well, general," said the little general, puffing at a large man's cigar, "I believe I have to give you the answer. I have a 'cracker' woman once gave me when I asked her a similar question. Not many years ago I had occasion to make a journey through the pine barrens of Georgia, where most everybody is a 'cracker' and mighty shiftless. One day, however, I rode into a little community that I had never seen before. The place was quite out of keeping with the general character of the barrens, I do assure you, gentlemen. I rode up to a cabin where a gaunt old woman stood in the doorway. She asked me what I wanted. I asked her who owned these little farms that were so well kept. 'That farm on the left belongs to my son John, and the next to my boy Lad Jason, and the next is my boy Phillip's place, and—' "Hold on, sister," said I. 'How did you manage to raise such a fine lot of boys way off here in the woods?' "Wal, stranger," she answered, "I am a widow woman, and all I had to raise 'em on was prayer and hickory, but I raised 'em powerful frequent."

A NAVAL SOLOMON.

From Spare Moments. Captain McEl, a canny Scot, was once in command of a troop ship returning from India. On board he had as passengers three ladies, all wives of officers in her majesty's service. Now it fell out that the cabin allotted to them was fitted up to accommodate four, and consequently it contained four wash basins, one of which was far larger than the other three. The first lady put forth her claim, citing her husband's position in the army. But the husband, unfortunately, all proved to be of equal rank, so to clinch the matter the trio bearded the captain in his cabin. "We will leave it entirely to you, captain," they said, "and abide by your decision."

A PLEA FOR ECONOMY.

Hon. Thos. Strong in Pittston Gazette. Somehow, there seems to be an unaccountable ambition with public officials, when once warm in their seats, to make taxes higher. The wisest policy would be to make them lower just as rapidly as could be done without detriment. A stranger coming into the county, wishing to locate a business, that entails large expenditures should cease and that constant effort should be made towards reduced taxation.

THE RIGHT PORTLAND.

From the Wichita, Kan., Eagle. The other day Colonel Bleckley, the Missouri Pacific agent here, received a letter from a man at Portland, Ore., thanking him for a favor performed by Colonel Bleckley over ten years ago. The man's name is withheld. He had played a trick on him. He had won. He had fascinated him and he knew he must

get away with his money or he would not get away at all. So, under inspiration, he rushed into Colonel Bleckley's office one morning and said sharply: "Give me a ticket to Portland." Colonel Bleckley looked at him coolly and asked: "Maine or Oregon?" "I don't give a darn which," Colonel Bleckley reflected. His commission on a ticket to Portland, Ore., was \$2.50 more than his commission on a ticket to Portland, Me. He said to the man: "I get more for a ticket to Portland, Ore., and I'll send you to Oregon." So that man got away from the boom and went to Portland, Ore. But there he went into business and now owns one of the big establishments of that city. He ascribes his lucky strike to Colonel Bleckley, and his recent letter was one of gratitude that he had not sent him to Portland, Me.

DEADHEADS AS KICKERS.

From the Columbian. Fate, with wonted levity, had thrown the sour and taciturn man into the company of the talkative citizen in the railway car. "It's a quite an interesting game," said the latter, "I've had a theatrical manager, and I'm interested in anything in the show line. Now, I notice that you ain't in any hurry to get out of this world, are you?" "No, I can't truly say that I am." "That's all right. You didn't pay anything to get into this fleeting show, did you?" "Certainly not."

"There you are. There's the old, old story right in a nutshell. I never in my life saw a deadhead who wasn't a kicker."

HIS DOUBLE DEMISE.

From Harper's Bazar. "Wull, wull!" ejaculated McLeuberty, in the midst of his perusal of a newspaper which he had carelessly picked up. "Bedad, poor Duffy is dead again! An' it sames to have happened in the same way as it did praysiously—he has been shud down by a premature blast. Oh blud hov tought that wance wud hov been enough to satisfy him, but thin he always was one av them fellers that niver know their own minds." "Phwat are yez talkin' in about?" asked Mrs. McLeuberty, in some surprise. "Duffy dead again? Is it crazy ye are?" "No; O! de he 'radid' it right here in de paper, an'—"

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

The colonels and the majors found they had some time to spare. So they hired them off to Holland and the public paid the fare: They tilted back their chairs and in a vastly solemn way, They talked of war and numerous kindred topics of the day. They took up various subjects with both gravity and wit. The world stood by and listened, then it yawned a little bit. The chat proved rather lengthy, though results were nothing great. But every one admitted that the speeches were first rate.

REXFORD'S.

SCRANTON, July 7, 1899. A little solid gold watch got slightly dented. We'll take a most ridiculous price for it. Hand engraved and a very pretty watch. We won't tell you its original price or you would wonder why we would take Five Dollars for it. THE REXFORD CO., 132 Wyoming Ave.

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He was a retired shipbuilder—and hails from Staten Island, New York. He was in pretty good health, but every day when he took what he called his constitutional, that is, his afternoon walk, he was sure to have a sort of cramp which seized him in the calf of his leg with almost the severity of an assault by a ferocious dog. He read about the case of a man whose rheumatism was cured by Ripans Tablets and laughed at the idea. He thought the man's fool, but realizing that his own difficulty was a sort of rheumatic twinge, he finally bought and used some Tablets and of late his friends have noticed that he is more chipper than he had been for years. A lady who knew him well asked him about the dog that used to bite his leg in the afternoons and the old man said: "He is dead and Ripans Tablets killed him."

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