

The Scranton Tribune

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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 publication, by the writer's real name.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State. Justice of the Supreme Court—J. HAY BROWN, of Lancaster. Judge of the Superior Court—JOSIAH R. ADAMS, of Philadelphia. State Treasurer—L. T. TENANT, COL. GIBBY, JAMES E. BARNETT, of Washington. Election day, Nov. 7.

If the government cannot prevent lynching in the south it seems determined to make hanging unpopular at West Point. For Secretary Root's action in this matter let due credit be given.

The Steel Famine.

IN commenting upon the significance of the steel famine which has affected the various industries of the country to such a marked degree, the Washington Star says:

The steel famine reveals a significant condition among the people of this country. It is primarily caused by an unprecedented demand for all kinds of structural steel, for bridges, buildings, railroads and ships. This demand in turn indicates that a vast amount of capital is being expended in all these enterprises. Investors are erecting great buildings because they seek a means of profitably laying out their idle money. They are putting ships on the ways because the carrying trade is booming and there is a great need of vessels. The railroads are penetrating into new territory and therefore need bridges to permit them to reach freight centers hitherto unattainable. This means that the farmers are finding a market for their products and that manufacturers are locating in new places. In the cities street railroads are being built because there is a greater demand than ever for rapid transit. People are going out into the suburban areas to build and buy homes and must have means of ready access. This means prosperity among the people, who are enjoying the fruits of the tremendous commercial and industrial activity and have ventured to spend their savings in property because they are getting good wages and expect that condition to continue. And so while the steel makers are straining every nerve to find sufficient skilled labor to permit them to meet their orders and thus directly benefiting certain classes of workmen, their profitable predicament reflects a generally prevalent condition. Virtually all the trades are affected. Wages paid abundantly in one particular line find their way into other lines in proportion as the wage-earners feel the influence of the prosperity and grow confident and begin to spend. The circulation of capital, which is always checked by apprehension, is stimulated and every artery and vein in the whole social and industrial system feels the beneficent effect. The secret of the spectacle is that the people have confidence. This is no wild plunge. Investigators are spending their millions at random, with the chance of a sudden reversal of conditions and consequent loss. They feel that their railroads, their trolley lines, their ships and their office buildings and hotels will continue profitable as long as the industries are active and the people are well paid and have faith. Sometimes American prosperity depends in a measure upon foreign calamities, such as failures of crops, which send a rush of orders from abroad for our wheat and other food products. In the present case, however, the greater part of the commercial activity is due to the increasing foreign demand for American manufactures, particularly in the very fine line of steel and iron which now discloses the domestic conditions so accurately. This is no calamitous cause, likely to disappear, but it is the result of substantial conditions. The government's credit is good and is at present unmenaced by destructive changes. The people are in the main thoroughly satisfied with existing circumstances. There is no threat in the air, and hence the wonderful and yet natural prosperity continues unchecked. The faith of the people is indeed a vital factor in their own welfare.

This state of affairs is also true of the Lackawanna valley, and the silk industry has already become one of the most important of Scranton and vicinity and almost daily in these days of returned prosperity one may hear of new enterprises in this line that are in contemplation or fully under way.

The most difficult task before the Democratic orators this fall will be that of convincing their hearers that the country is still in the grip of hard times.

Colonial Lawmaking.

OUR first experiment in colonial lawmaking, says the Commercial Advertiser, will be watched with interest. The report of the insular commission appointed by the president to draft a code of laws for Porto Rico has been completed, and enough of it is known to indicate its general features. It does not, of course, contemplate a constitution for Porto Rico, but is simply a grafting of fundamental American legal ideas upon local customs and such of the old Spanish laws as may be allowed to remain. Broadly speaking, it attempts to be an interesting fusion of the Anglo-Saxon common law, supplemented by statutes, and the Spanish system founded chiefly upon a mixture of the civil and the canon or ecclesiastical law. That part

of the report which says that the proposed code will supplant or embody all former laws and orders indicates the real difficulty of the task.

How much will be supplanted and how much embodied? The old common law principles for protecting life and property, together with the statutory remedies evolved from them, will doubtless be applied; but the test will be to prevent too strong an impact on the racial habits and such legal customs as may now obtain among a population bred to a very different order of things. It really seems as if they might receive something too good for them, because it will take a long time to accommodate their battered and crumpled notions of justice to a code in which respect for the individual will find large place. For centuries the Porto Ricans have been jailed, whipped, hanged and shot under Spanish rule, and now they are to be under a government which bases its control chiefly on the hope that a self-respecting and self-governing people can be made out of its political wards. It would seem, however, that even with this end in view the code will be slow and tentative according to the necessities of the case. This is indicated by the omission to consider immediate preparations for territorial or state government.

The upward price of meat does not cause any great concern on part of the American workman who now has the wherewithal in his pocket. Not many months ago numerous artisans found it difficult to earn enough to purchase meat at any price.

A Trust for Farmers.

THE proposed farmers' trust of the Mississippi valley appears to be more substantial than a mere newspaper creation. There has really been organized in Kansas, we are told, a Farmers' Federation, with \$20,000,000 capital stock divided into 2,000,000 shares of \$10 each, the purpose of which, as set forth in the articles of incorporation, is to "regulate and control the sale and shipment of farm products of all the states and territories of the Mississippi valley, and to establish and maintain offices, yards, grain elevators and to appoint and maintain agents and agencies for handling, gathering, keeping, selling and distributing products, and to loan and borrow money and to do a banking business." The places where its business is to be transacted are Topeka, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and New Orleans.

A letter from Topeka, Kan., to the New York Sun says that in addition to the bank department provided for in the charter, the by-laws create a bureau of statistical and separate departments for grain, live stock, cotton and tobacco. The by-laws also provide that there shall be no rebates to shippers or dividends paid to stockholders, but the surplus earnings of the company shall be held as a reserve fund to finance the bank department, to pay interest on the bonds of the company, and for the purchase of the business and good-will of commission houses. Later on, when this institution shall be brought to a successful issue, the surplus earnings from a commission and from the loans of money by the bank department shall be equally divided between the stockholders and the farmers, who may be the holders of non-transferable bonds of the company. In order that the business of concentration may be facilitated and the work of emancipation may be speedily accomplished, it is further provided by the by-laws that there may be issued \$10,000,000 of 5 per cent. twenty-year debenture bonds of the company, or so much thereof as may be necessary to purchase the business and good will of the commission houses of Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis and New Orleans. The headquarters of the federation will be at Chicago after January next.

The prize mover in this novel enterprise, a gentleman named Allen, meets the first objection which naturally suggests itself by saying: "It is not necessary that all the farmers should stand together in the execution of this plan for mutual protection. If one-twentieth of the farmers of the West and South who produce corn, wheat and cotton equal to the export demand should unite with the Farmers' Federation, with pledges to abide by its rules and regulations, protection could then be afforded to every producer of corn, wheat and cotton in the United States. The power that can check or restrain shipments of farm products; the power to hold out of the public markets of the country 5 per cent. of any percentage however small, is the master who can regulate the price of corn, wheat and cotton in the home market, and in all the markets of the world." Mr. Allen admits that the federation is a gigantic trust, but he says: "There is nothing in the charter nor in the by-laws that conflicts with the Interstate Commerce law, nor with anti-trust laws of any of the states of the Union. Its purpose is not to restrain production, nor to arbitrarily fix prices. It assumes only the power to control the shipment of farm products and thus regulate the supply to the demand in the general markets. If there should appear to be an overproduction, we would simply sell enough to meet the legitimate demands for consumption and hold back our surplus in our granaries and on our farms to meet contingencies of short crop seasons."

We shall know more about this matter after the Farmers' Federation shall have had some months of actual life; but on general principles there appears to be plausibility in Mr. Allen's argument. If concentration of effort is a good thing for manufacturing industries, leading to economy in distribution and to the smothering out of harmful business kinks, there would seem to be no reason why the same rule should not apply in part at least to the agricultural industry, which is mainly concerned in distribution. As it is now, the average farmer gives no thought whatever to the question of holding back his crop until the best time has come for fitting it to the market demand; and the result is that most of the profits in the handling of agricultural produce are pocketed by the shrewd middle men,

who possess, what many farmers lack, the commercial instinct!

Mrs. Langtry is now appearing in a play written upon incidents connected with her own life. There may be diversity of opinion regarding Lilly's talents as an actress, but she is certainly entitled to distinction as possessing the great nerve of any woman of the nineteenth century.

The good news of the settlement of the difficulties between the engineers and officials of the Lackawanna railroad which at one time pointed to the possibility of a strike, has been received with pleasure everywhere except in the offices of certain Wilkes-Barre newspapers.

A dose of the Chicago medicine for the Cleveland dynamite fiends will probably bring them to their senses. The hangman's knot is not a pleasant resource, but history illustrates that it has been one of the best of cures for the dynamite habit.

The uneasy agitators who are comparing the case of Captain Carter, of America, to that of Captain Dreyfus, of France, possess about as much common sense as the lachrymose lunatic who would make a George Washington out of little Aguinaldo.

Don Juan Isidro Jimenez can with greater degree of safety than is usual in such cases accept the presidency of Santo Domingo that has been so freely tendered. The Jimenez crowd appear to have possession of all the razors.

If Hon. D. B. Hill is determined to continue his policy of silence, it is probable that his old running mate, Mr. Jones who paid the freight, might be induced to say something.

In case of the worst, it is probable that the official heads of the French army could obtain positions in this country as newspaper circulation affidavit editors.

The resignation of President Figueroa was of no particular consequence in the Santo Domingo affair. He did not cut much of a figure in any respect.

As the *strefus* trial proceeds the average Anglo-Saxon becomes more and more puzzled as to the French definition of the word "honor."

It is a trifle warm for the oyster yet, but the R joke needs no ice to iguise its air of freshness.

Some are beginning to suggest that the man who was ordered to "find Garcia" be instructed to "get Aguinaldo."

Even Coxy is now worth a million. And yet some persons would have us believe that times are hard.

The services of a professional scapegoat are very much in demand at Rennes.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaechus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast: 4:05 a. m. for Saturday, Sept. 2, 1899.

A child born on this day in Scranton will wear an autumnal smile and a post-man's badge.

The Transvaal war cloud still presents a surface of soft cloudiness, but the Arthur avenue street car situation is more encouraging to those who find joy in the flapping of white wings of peace.

The meek shall inherit the earth, but the greedy will in most cases hold first mortgage on the property.

If we all know what other people thought of us the general desire to run for office would be less prevalent.

Reports from suburbs indicate that the family reunion season is liable to encroach upon the new elder policy.

Controller Eakin's speech shows an inclination to interfere with the police "ghost walk."

A good many men would have been heroes if they had died in time.

Ajaechus' Advice.

If you do not believe that Scranton is the Electric City take a look at Court house square this evening.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

From the New York Press.

The only people who know that love dies only with the soul are those who can't marry each other.

When a mosquito bites a woman low down between the shoulder blades she feels most as if struck as if a man had scratched her there.

When a woman fails to make a fool of a man she doesn't feel any more respect for him; she thinks he's just a dumb, unappreciative idiot.

At thirty a man ought to know better than to marry a woman he would have married at twenty; at forty he ought to know better than to marry at all.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS.

For the Tribune.

It isn't all genius as is winnin' in their case. An 'er-standin' in their front ranks, an 'er-holdin' their fust place.

For their genius is 'er starter, it ain't good fer half 'er hour.

Till it gits reinforcements from Ambition's sturdy tower.

So their feller that 'er bankin' on ter rule their comin' day.

In their feller what is wurkin' while their other fellers play.

Ther kid that skims his lessons an' puts up 'er steady bluff.

An' makes his teacher think that he is made of sterner stuff.

Will find that bluff won't help him when he enters in their world.

Whar ther banner of true merit is ther only one unfurled.

He'll fine that he ain't in it fer much more'n half 'er day.

With ther feller that is wurkin' while their other fellers play.

Would Dewey be our admiral ef he'd only known their way.

Ter sink ther Spanish squadron that was floatin' in their bay!

No! he had ter keep things bumptin' an' 'er rainin' shot an' shell.

Upon ther coast Spanish islands till they knowed that war is hell.

Der yer reckon that McKinley would be proud ter day.

Ef he didn't keep on wurkin' while their other fellers play.

It is only wurkin', wurkin', an' 'er lot 'er boss sense.

Ther'll show yer greener pasters, an' ther weak spot in their fence.

Ther'll induce yer ter remain whar yer are at.

An' not be wanderin' huntin' fer ther hills 'erbove ther flat!

Ef yer want ter reach ther summit yer had better try ther way.

Er wurkin', wurkin', wurkin', while their other fellers play.

—Eliot Kays Stone.

Scranton, Aug. 2.

1899 GRAND SOUVENIR OPENING 1900 This Afternoon and Evening. FALL EXHIBIT OF Manhattan Shirts, Monarch Shirts E. and W. Collars, Fownes' Gloves, Dent's Gloves, etc. The Handsomest Line of 50-cent Neckwear Ever Exhibited in Scranton. Successor to Bronson & Tallman, 412 Spruce Street. A Handsome Souvenir Given to Each Purchaser on Opening Day. Concert by Lawrence's Orchestra, 3 to 5.30 p. m.; 7 to 10.30 p. m. Decorations by Marvin & Muir.

PERSONALITIES.

Min Yong Whou, the new Minister to Washington from Korea, speaks English fluently.

Senator Beveridge is expected to reach his home in Indianapolis from his Philippine trip next Thursday.

Lord Brassey, owner of the yacht Sunbeam, has figured out that he has spent eleven years of his life on the water.

Dr. M. Brown, of Buffalo, has been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor for saving the life of a French seaman.

General Leonard Wood is partial to cigarettes, rarely smoking cigars, a fact which commends him to the Cubans in his province.

The Queen of Roumania, whose nom de plume is Carmen Sylva, has just completed her first play, which is called, "A Pair of Shoes."

John K. Bowen, the new president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company, was graduated from Princeton at the head of his class in 1866.

Am C. Hopkins, who during the Messiah craze in 1896 appeared among the excited Sioux and proclaimed himself General Messiah, has just been pronounced innocent.

Joseph Chamberlain, the well-known English statesman, was a Sunday school teacher some thirty years ago in connection with the Church of Messiah, in Birmingham.

The Rev. Dr. Elias Riggs, of Contantopole, who has labored in the cause of missions for sixty-seven years, is the oldest alumnus of Amherst college. He was graduated in 1829.

Queen Margaret has promised to climb Rocco Aletto, one of the highest peaks of the Italian Alps, to take part in the dedication of a statue of the Virgin, of which she was a sculptor.

John Ruskin has not had his photograph taken for thirty years, and John Hare has allowed himself to be caught by the camera once only. This was at the express desire of Queen Victoria.

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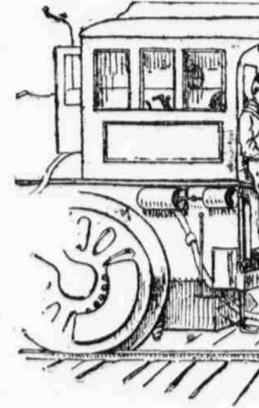
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Star Automatic Paper Fastener. Fastens papers in a jiffy, feeds itself and improved in every respect. Prices lower than ever. We are still selling the Planetary Pencil Sharpener. The only sharpening device which never breaks the lead. On trial in your office for 10 days free of charge. We have numerous other novelties in office supplies, together with a large line of Blank Books and Typewriter's Supplies.

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GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 225-227 PENN AVENUE. Because Ripans Tabules are not to be found in every drug store, a man who needs them sometimes has to send for them to the manufacturers, although the druggist will generally get them if the customer insists. "I would not be without Ripans Tabules for any money," writes an engineer of the Houston & Texas Central R. R.; "for every disturbance of the stomach they are the best remedy I ever heard of in this world."



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FINLEY'S New Fall Dress Goods. We open today our first importation this season of choice novelties in Crepons, Serges, Cheviots, Tweeds etc. Also a magnificent line of Plaids for Suitings and Skirts, All Exclusive Designs. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE FOR \$10 A Twenty-Year Gold-Filled Gasc With a 15-Jeweled Waltham Movement. Both Guaranteed. The Best Watch in the Whole World for the Money. MERCEREAU & CONNELL 130 Wyoming Avenue.