

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 they must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, MAY 15, 1900.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS. State. Congressmen-at-Large—GALUSHA A. CROW, ROBERT H. FORBES, Auditor General—E. B. HARDENBERG.

Legislative. First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS, Second District—JOHN SHUPERT, JR., Third District—EDWARD GAMES, JR., Fourth District—P. A. PHILLIPS.

Objectors to the army canteen would probably be less persistent in criticism if they could be made to understand that they are unwittingly laboring in the interest of the army speak-easy.

Inevitable Curiosity. MR. WANAMAKER'S success in throwing bouquets at himself in the columns of the papers in sympathy with his advertising department does not entirely satisfy one phase of the public's interest in his recent conversation with the director of public safety of Philadelphia.

Mr. Wanamaker injected this disquieting thought into the public mind himself. Now that the idea has been put into circulation, there is bound to be a widespread desire to know the truth.

On week days, amid business cares, Mr. Wanamaker works for the purification of Pennsylvania politics and on Sundays, we believe, engages with zeal in the inculcation of right morals in the young. Are we to believe from Mr. Wanamaker's version of his talk with English that English was correct in pronouncing his personal record vulnerable or is it only the opponents of this distinguished reformer who have records appropriate as raw material for the Thomas B. Wanamaker type of journalism?

Published portraits suggest that Mr. Bryan's populist running mate, Charles A. Towne, is a man of scholarly appearance. Despite this, however, before the campaign is over, Mr. Towne will probably realize that he has had much to learn.

Post Check Money. A BILL TO substitute for the present paper currency in small denomination what are known as post check notes is now before congress and these favorable to its adoption are advised to make their wishes known to their representatives and senators.

It is worth while to repeat a previous explanation of post check notes. In the bill now pending it is proposed to print all \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00 bills now in existence, and to have the new issue made out with blank spaces in which any person, upon attaching to the bill a two cent stamp, may write the name of a particular firm or person. Thus indorsed, the bill becomes a check, payable only to that firm or person upon proper identification. Once paid, the check is canceled and a new note is issued in its place. When the blank spaces are not filled in, the note circulates just as our present paper currency does. The bill also provides for fractional post check notes in sums of 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 cents, for convenience when sums are not to be transmitted by mail.

Under the new system, when one wishes to send money in small amount, \$2.00, for instance, by mail, he may subscribe for a magazine or newspaper, pay a bill, or transact any of the multitudinous pieces of business necessary to life, he will take a \$2.00 bill from his pocketbook, write on its face the name of the person or firm to be sent to, the city and state, and affixing a two-cent postage stamp in the square indicated (one cent stamp for the fractional bills), sign his initials in ink, with date; the initials and date to cross and cancel the stamp. Thus the piece of currency which, up to this time, has passed from hand to hand as negotiable money, has been instantly transformed into a personal check on the United States government for \$2.00, as safe for transmission as any piece of exchange. This is enclosed in a letter to the person or firm desired, and when received is deposited, with other checks, in the bank, or can be collected by the receiver upon identification at bank or postoffice. The tedious and inconvenient trip to the postoffice to secure a money-order is done away with, and a convenient, safe, and instantly available form of transmissible money is supplied, with which the American public can transact business by mail, which now aggregates, in the small sums represented by enclosed postage stamps, silver pieces, money orders, express orders

and other inconvenient and sometimes unsafe medium, upwards of a billion dollars per year.

At present the average fee for domestic money orders, according to the last annual report of the postoffice department, is \$0.052 and the cost to the government in handling the orders is 3 cents in third and fourth class postoffices, plus the cost of printing. The money order system would still be used for sending sums in excess of \$5, but on sums less than \$5 the postoffice department would be protected against loss by the revenue it would derive from the sale of the stamps which are to go on the proposed post checks. Now many persons send money through the mails in fractional currency or in one-dollar and two-dollar bills, on which the government derives no revenue. Under the post check plan, those sums would require stamps and thus a new source of postal revenue would be revealed. The post check bill has the indorsement of the postoffice department and its enactment would undoubtedly institute a very welcome public convenience.

Nearly double the value of last year's exports of American made locomotives has been exported this year, and the end is not yet. Expansion can't be stopped.

Probe Deep and Often. THE RESOLUTION of Senator Bacon calling upon the senate committee on relations with Cuba to make a thorough investigation of all receipts and expenditures of money in that island since its occupancy by the United States, is, of course, a campaign dodge. Intended to lead to the belief that the postal frauds are not the only frauds which have characterized American regulation of Cuban affairs. It is so timed as to dovetail nicely with the Democratic campaign yarn that the administration is trying to hush up the postal frauds. The only foundation for this latter story is the fact that now that thorough investigation is being made by trustworthy experts along enough different lines to bring out the truth the authorities at Washington and in Havana have declined to proclaim the details of the plans of detection in advance. They are going to reserve their talking until they can talk with all the facts in their possession.

Still, if Senator Bacon and the senate committee on relations with Cuba want to do any investigating on their own account, every facility should be accorded to them. The Republican party is not afraid of investigations. Once in a while it puts out in a rogue and he betrays it, which is a misfortune common to all mankind. But as parties go the Republican party is gratified to have its administrative work compared with that of any other party in the business of government. Let the probes proceed. The more the merrier; for every defect which this kind of campaign detective work can ferret out there will be disclosed a dozen virtues.

Lieutenant Drum, one of the youngest officers in the United States army, has already been promoted twice for gallantry in battle. In some respects Lieutenant Drum is hard to beat.

Concerning Doctored Butter. ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the state dairy and food commissioner will prosecute the operator of a creamery at Eagle Point, in Berks county, for using what are known as coal tar colors in coloring butter. The young child of Wilson Smith, a farmer living near this creamery, drank some of this coloring matter from a bottle which was kept in the creamery and died sixty hours afterward with symptoms of poisoning. This is the third death reported in Pennsylvania in three years due to swallowing coal tar colors used in coloring butter and while the amount of coloring matter in the quantity of colored butter which an individual is likely to eat at one time is not sufficient to cause death, it is declared by reputable chemists to be injurious to health and if this is true its use should certainly be interdicted. There is one kind of coloring matter for butter which is pronounced harmless by experts. This is annatto, derived from the pulp of the seeds of a certain shrub which grows in South America and the West Indies. Annatto, however, is more expensive than coal tar and its dye is not so lasting; hence many butter-makers who wish in winter time to imitate the natural yellow of the summer-time product use the coal tar dyes, regardless of consequences, and it is high time that the rough hand of the law should descend upon this vicious practice. There is really no sense in coloring butter at all. Butter in its natural state is best. But if the market is foolish enough to demand doctored products, the dye used should be harmless and the use of any other kind should be made a special misdemeanor, severely punishable.

More concessions have been granted Americans at Constantinople by the Sultan. In fact Abdul is willing to grant the Americans almost anything but cold cash.

Fops on the Warpath. IN THEIR desire to avert the subversion of free institutions by corporate and imperialistic power, the Bryan wing of the Populists have adopted a platform which is certainly a study in vagaries. All the old ones and a number of the new ones are there. The platform demands a graduated income and inheritance tax, postal savings banks, free homesteads for every settler on government land, government ownership and operation of railroads and trusts, the initiative and referendum, American surrender to Aguinaldo, municipal ownership of public utilities and direct election of United States senators; contends that the tariff should be taken off all articles controlled by trusts, that the Philippine war is a war of conquest, and that a standing army is a standing menace; and denounces government by injunction, the use of federal troops to suppress riot and

"the wholesale system of distilleries" by "correcting and intimidation" adopted in certain southern states; and reaches its grand climax in the following portion, which defies abridgment:

Resolved, That we denounce the act of March 11, 1900 (known as the currency reform act), as the culmination of a long series of conspiracies to deprive the people of the monetary rights over the money of the nation and delegate to the gigantic trust the control of the purse, and hence of the people. We denounce the act as follows:

First, For making all money obligations, domestic and foreign, payable in gold coin or its equivalent, thus enormously increasing the burden of the debtors by making the creditors richer.

Second, For refunding "gold bonds" not to mature for years into long-time gold bonds, so as to make their payment improbable and our debt perpetual.

Third, For taking from the treasury over fifty millions of dollars in a time of war and preparing it at a premium to be loaned to us to accomplish the refunding of bonds not due.

Fourth, For doubling the capital of bankers by returning to them the face value of their bonds in current money, thereby making the interest on the government and another from the people.

Fifth, For allowing banks to expand and control their circulation at pleasure, thus controlling prices of all products.

Sixth, For authorizing the secretary of the treasury to issue new gold bonds to an unlimited amount, thus making it necessary to replenish the gold hoard, thus enabling owners to secure more bonds and more bank currency by drawing gold from the treasury, thereby creating an "endless chain" of perpetual debt.

Seventh, For striking down the greenback in order to force the people to borrow money from the banks, at an annual cost of over twenty millions of dollars.

While tarring out the money of the constitution this law opens the printing mints of the treasury to the free coinage of bank paper money, to enrich the few and impoverish the many. We pledge ourselves to resist every effort to issue the fiat money until this eighth financial conspiracy is blotted from the statute books, the Lincoln greenback restored, the bonds all paid and all corporation money forever retired.

Upon this crazy platform William Jennings Bryan beckons to intelligent Democrats of the old school and asks them to vote for him for president! How are the mighty fallen!

It is asserted upon good authority that the profits of Mrs. Fiske during the theatrical season just closing have exceeded \$90,000 while those of Richard Mansfield have been larger. Inasmuch as both of these players represent artistic conscience and intelligence, their success financially is a public advantage. Both cherish the idea of a play-house in New York city to be permanently devoted to the development of the higher forms of the drama; and it is to be hoped that the ideals of each will speedily be realized. Something of this kind is urgently needed as an antidote to the superabundant trash which defiles a large part of American theatricals.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS. From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

There have been two notable fights over the election of temporary chairman in recent years. Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, now ambassador to Mexico, Blaine's candidate for temporary chairman of the Chicago convention of 1894, was defeated by a coalition of anti-Blaine men and Blaine men who did not like Clayton, who combined, at the suggestion of Senator Hoar, on John R. Lynch, of Mississippi, the well-known colored leader. Senator Hoar was defeated by Senator Daniel as the representative of the triumphant free-coinage Democracy at the Chicago convention of 1896. Lynch was the colored man who has served as presiding officer of a convention, and there has been but one clergyman, the famous Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, who was chairman of the convention of 1892, the only one who became president of the United States. Following is the list of presiding officers of the National conventions to date:

REPUBLICAN. Philadelphia, June 17-19, 1856—Temporary chairman, Robert Emmett, New York; permanent chairman, Henry S. Lane, Indiana.

Chicago, May 16-18, 1860—Temporary chairman, David W. Wells, New York; permanent chairman, George Ashmun, Massachusetts.

Baltimore, June 7-9, 1864—Temporary chairman, Rev. Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, Kentucky; permanent chairman, George A. Shaw, Massachusetts.

Chicago, May 20-21, 1868—Temporary chairman, Carl Schurz, Missouri; permanent chairman, General Joseph R. Hawley, Massachusetts.

Philadelphia, June 5-6, 1872—Temporary chairman, Morion McMichael, Pennsylvania; permanent chairman, Thomas Settle, North Carolina.

Cincinnati, June 15-17, 1876—Temporary chairman, Theodore M. Pomeroy, New York; permanent chairman, Edward McPherson, Pennsylvania.

Chicago, June 2-8, 1880—Temporary chairman, Senator George F. Hoar, Massachusetts; temporary organization made permanent.

Chicago, June 2-6, 1884—Temporary chairman, John R. Lynch, Mississippi; permanent chairman, John R. Henderson, Kentucky.

Chicago, June 19-25, 1888—Temporary chairman, John M. Thurston, Nebraska; permanent chairman, Morris M. Lese, California.

Cincinnati, June 2-10, 1892—Temporary chairman, J. Stot Fassett, New York; permanent chairman, William McKinley, Jr., Ohio.

St. Louis, June 12-15, 1896—Temporary chairman, Charles W. Fairbanks, Indiana; permanent chairman, John M. Thurston, Nebraska.

DEMOCRATIC. Baltimore, May 22-26, 1848—Temporary chairman, Colonel James G. Bly, Louisiana; permanent chairman, Andrew Stevenson, Virginia.

Baltimore, June 1-3, 1852—Temporary chairman, J. D. Bright, Indiana; permanent chairman, John W. Davis, Indiana.

Cincinnati, June 2-6, 1856—Temporary chairman, Samuel Mayhew, Ohio; permanent chairman, John E. Ward, Georgia.

Charleston, April 23-May 3, 1860—Temporary chairman, Francis P. Pickens, Arkansas; permanent chairman, Caleb Cushing, Massachusetts.

Chicago, August 29-31, 1864—Temporary chairman, William H. Miller, Pennsylvania; permanent chairman, Governor Horatio Seymour, New York.

Baltimore, July 2-10, 1868—Temporary chairman, J. L. Palmer, Wisconsin; permanent chairman, Horatio Seymour, New York.

Baltimore, July 2-10, 1872—Temporary chairman, Jefferson Randolph, Virginia; permanent chairman, James R. Doolittle, Wisconsin.

St. Louis, June 27-29, 1876—Temporary chairman, Henry Watterson, Kentucky; permanent chairman, General John A. McClelland, Illinois.

Cincinnati, June 22-24, 1880—Temporary chairman, George Hoody, Ohio; permanent chairman, Governor Stevenson, Illinois.

Chicago, June 5-11, 1884—Temporary chairman, Richard B. Hubbard, Texas; permanent chairman, William F. Vilas, Wisconsin.

St. Louis, June 6-10, 1888—Temporary chairman, Stephen M. White, California; permanent chairman, Patrick A. Culligan, Massachusetts.

Chicago, June 21-23, 1892—Temporary chairman, William C. Cress, Kentucky; permanent chairman, William L. Wilson, West Virginia.

Chicago, June 7-9, 1896—Temporary chairman, Senator John W. Daniel, Virginia; permanent chairman, Senator Stephen M. White, California.

IT STANDS ALL TESTS. From Chambersburg Public Opinion.

The Scranton Tribune has not in the least abated its interest in the advocacy of Charles Emory Smith's name in connection with the vice-presidential nomination. The omission of the late state convention to endorse Mr. Smith, it says with force, has not been accepted by the balance of the country. The Tribune argues, what is conceded, that the national convention will want an available name, who will be absolutely acceptable to the president, who will in every way be his peer, and "Mr. Smith meets the emergency." It says, "There may be others." There are others, but with the single exception of Governor Roosevelt, no name in this connection has stood the test of public criticism so successfully as Charles Emory Smith.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Accounted for His Absence.

LIEUTENANT COL. H. H. BARRETT, U. S. A., before the late conflict with Spain won literary laurels by two scholarly volumes on the campaigns of Napoleon Bonaparte, relates the Saturday Evening Post. During that war he had little opportunity to take part in battle, his duties being to organize and drill the volunteers at the mobilization camps and, after August, to look after engineering and sanitary matters at Santiago de Cuba. Early last year he was sent to the Philippines, where he has had his full share of the hardest campaigning. He was under the immediate command of Lawton Childs in the battle of San Mateo and was being praised by General Lawton for his gallantry when that officer fell, pierced by a hostile bullet.

Colonel Barrett tells many enjoyable war stories. Once when instructing some men, he asked: "When you are on the skirmish line, and suddenly encounter the enemy, what would you do?" "Fall flat," "And what next?" "Stay there."

On another occasion he was questioning a man repeating his absence from the regiment, he said: "I was chasing a Philippine an hour, sir." "How about the other five hours?" "The Philippine and his friends were chasing me, sir."

THE MOTHER. A little ring of gold—a battered shoe—A faded, curling wisp of yellow hair—Some penciled pictures—playthings one or two—A corner and a chest to hold them there.

Many a woman's fondest heart is this. Among her dearest treasures none so dear. Though bearded lips are often hers to kiss That once made lips are often hers to kiss.

THE STUDY. The study arm, the seasoned form, the brow That arches over eyes of many hues. Mean all joy to her living memory now, And yet—yet—she—she hushes the other, too!

With that rare hair, mysterious and deep, Down in a mother's hair there'll all the years. That placid ease can never fail to sleep And is not grief, yet oft brings foolish tears.

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