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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1907

PENROSE AND THE SENATORSHIP

The political speculators are already sending out funny stories about the approaching contest for the United States Senatorship in this State. A Harrisburg dispatch in a recent issue of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, for example, contains the amusing misinformation that Senator Penrose is trying "to pull Representative Dunsmore, of Tioga county, out of the congressional contest, in the Lycoming, Potter, Tioga and Clinton districts," in order that he may be re-elected to the Legislature and become Speaker of the House of Representatives. Penrose needs such a man for Speaker, it is inferentially added, and he will create the place for Dunsmore by sending Frank B. McClain, of Lancaster, whom he distrusts, to Congress, to succeed Mr. Cassell, who is no longer available.

At this distance from the storm centre of Republican politics it looks as if Penrose has a "cinch" on the senatorial nomination and that there is little, if any, necessity for him entering into combinations or conspiracies to accomplish the result. The election of Mr. Sheatz to the office of State Treasurer last fall settled that question beyond the shadow of a doubt. It is not improbable that he would like well enough to have Representative Dunsmore in the chair during the session of the Legislature in which the senatorial vote will be taken. Dunsmore is faithful to the machine, adroit, capable, and has maintained a reputation for respectability that is rare among machine henchmen. Penrose needs such a man for Speaker now just as he needed such a man as the candidate for State Treasurer, last fall. It is the only way he can fool the public and as the public likes to be fooled, it is a wise policy for Penrose to pursue. But Penrose doesn't need Dunsmore nearly as bad as Dunsmore needs Penrose and if the slippery Tiogan withdraws from the congressional fight in order to become Speaker of the House, it will be on his own account.

The probabilities are that Frank McClain will go to Congress as the successor of Cassell, but he will not be influenced by a desire to make a place for Dunsmore in order to help Penrose. McClain has been casting covetous eyes toward Washington for some years and the indiscretions of Cassell have opened up the way to the realization of his ambition. Even if he returned to Harrisburg, moreover, he wouldn't be in Dunsmore's way for the speakership as about the only accuracy in the long drawn out collection of absurdities is the statement that Penrose distrusts McClain and whether Dunsmore goes back to the Legislature or not or whether McClain goes to Washington or Harrisburg, the Lancaster song-bird will not preside over the deliberations of the House during the next session.

—Watchman.

Former Judge Frank W. Wheaton, of Wilkes-Barre, is being suggested as a compromise candidate for Congress to keep the zealous followers of ex-Congressman Palmer and Dr. Cobleigh from tearing the Republican party of Luzerne to tatters.

Fatalities in Mines.

In this country the mortality in mines is increasing not only absolutely but relatively. It will continue to increase unless mining companies and mining officials shall change their methods. As Dr. Holmes, of the Geological Survey, says, the mines are going deeper, which means more gas, because the coal is under a heavier pressure, and more difficult ventilation. Have we got to face a constantly-growing sacrifice of human life in order to provide our coal?

England, France, Belgium and Prussia have extensive coal mines—England, of course, having the greatest in the world. In all these countries the death rate is much lower than in this country; and what is of still greater importance, it is steadily declining. What can be done there can be done here. Shall we say that means of protecting life which are employed with success in Europe are too much trouble or cost too much for us?

Dr. Holmes visited a Belgian mine and although he went as the accredited representative of the United States, he was obliged to strip to the skin and change his clothes. This made sure that he did not carry matches into the mine. That is the sort of care that is taken to save hundreds of men from the folly or the recklessness of one. Yet in this country men even carry naked lamps into mines. Probably there is a notice prohibiting it and the company feels its responsibility is at an end when it has tacked up such a warning; if the men do not obey it, that is their lookout. But suppose that 499 of them obey and one man does not? It is the business of the mine operators and of the State officials who are employed to supervise mining to see that the regulations are obeyed. It is idle to pretend that the fatalities in our mines are inevitable. If the death-rate in Europe can be kept down to little more than one man in a thousand it is unpardonable that it should be more than three men in a thousand here last year. Four terrible disasters this month will make the ratio for 1907 worse than that for 1906.—Ex.

State Reservation.

A 13,000-acre tract has just been purchased to be added to the state reservations. These lands, for most part, are in Abbott and Stewardson townships, Potter county, though portions of the same break over into Lycoming county, and these too, will probably be acquired. The lands were purchased from James B. Weed & Co., of Binghamton, N. Y. They are contiguous to the old Coudersport pike, and out of them flow such famous trout streams as Silas Run, Lebo Branch, Manor Fork and Red Run. The purchase price was at the rate of \$2 an acre.

Why Refer to Doctors

Because we make medicines for them. We tell them all about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and they prescribe it for coughs, colds, bronchitis, consumption. They trust it. Then you can afford to trust it. Ask your own doctor.

The best kind of a testimonial—Sold for over sixty years. Made by J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Also manufacturers of Sarsaparilla, Pills, Hair Vigor. We have no secrets! We publish the formulas of all our medicines. Ayer's Pills greatly aid the Cherry Pectoral in breaking up a cold.

Local Option Movement Non-Partisan

Thirty Million of Country's Population Today Live Under Anti-Liquor Laws.

The Philadelphia Press in an editorial says: The spirit of prohibition, like the soul of John Brown, goes marching on. State after state has joined the column of "dry" Commonwealths. At the present time more than 30,000,000 of the country's population are living under anti-liquor laws. In some states the new statutes not only forbid the sale of intoxicating liquors but punish the persons who drink them. One of the amazing features about this onward progress of the temperance crusade is the easy victory it has won in many places. Southern states have been especially active in their efforts to suppress retail liquor-selling. But a still more remarkable thing is that while more than a third of the nation's people are now in the prohibition fold the movement lacks partisan political interest. As a political agency the Prohibition party cannot claim a tenth of the votes which were cast against the commerce in strong drink. Democrats of the south and Republicans of the west have lined up under the same temperance banner, but on all other issues they follow their regular party standards. If this were not the case the fact that so many states have given big majorities for prohibition would inject a new element of great uncertainty into the next national campaign. As it is, the two dominant parties have accepted prohibition as a common cause in various states, while they will continue to fight out other issues along the old lines.

Ament the Democratic National Convention.

In selecting a place for the national convention the Democratic national committee was pretty evenly divided between Denver and Louisville until the committeemen who had voted for Chicago gave their ballots to Denver and made that the convention city. The selection is not above criticism by the easterners. The city is so far to the westward of the centre of population that most of the delegates will have to travel a fatiguing distance to reach it. Other things being equal, perhaps Louisville would have been a good selection.

The date selected—July 7—was unexpected also. There had been some talk of holding the convention before the Republicans meet at Chicago. In most American cities the weather is intensely hot about July 7, but Denver, which is elevated almost six thousand feet above the level of the sea, with snow capped mountains nearby, and with a perfect climate, may not be excessively hot about that time. Besides, the large purse raised by Denver, and the city's other efforts to get the convention, doubtless influenced the committee in making the selection. Whether the whole of the purse of \$100,000 will be needed is another matter, and one that needs no discussion. The money will not be wasted for the sake of spending it.

As to whether a date before or after the Republican convention should have been selected, there is nothing to make either time more desirable than the other. If it be argued that in the first case the campaign would be too long, it may be answered that the campaign is on now. If objections be made to publication of Democratic issues after the adoption of a Republican platform, it may be said that the Republican issues have already been published in the president's message and are already new for the Republican convention to declare for.—Lock Haven Democrat.

An Important Decision.

Railroads Not Obligated to Run on Schedule Time.

A case has just been decided by the New York Supreme Court, which holds that a musician, who boards a train two hours late and arrives at his destination two hours and twenty minutes late, and thereby is unable to keep his engagement, cannot recover from the carrier his loss occasioned thereby, though he may have made known to the carrier's agent his engagement, and may have been told that the train would arrive on time. The carrier's obligation to run its train in conformity to schedule is not an absolute and unconditional one, and the mere taking of a ticket does not of itself prove a contract or impose the duty to have a train ready to start as scheduled. Furthermore, a ticket agent cannot make a special contract that a train will arrive on time.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co.

Wages Must Fall, Says Erie's Head.

Gives Warning That General Reduction in Price of Labor is Inevitable.

Frederick D. Underwood, president of the Erie Railroad Company, declares that Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, was reckoning without his host when he said, as quoted, that the wages of organized labor "would not have to come down along with the prices of raw materials in the present general business and financial depression."

"The inexorable law of supply and demand, which is the basis of political economy," said Mr. Underwood, "will make itself felt in the case of organized labor, as well as in all other branches of business, Mr. Gompers, notwithstanding. In case an attempt is made to hold up the present abnormally high price of labor, when the earnings of railroads and industrial corporations do not warrant it, the alternative will be to shut down."

"Labor has been at a premium for the last four years, and it has been less efficient than ever before. All-classes of employes have pointed to the heavy earnings and in consequence have received their share in the shape of higher wages. Now a change has come. Earnings are falling off and employes will receive a lower wage. This they should do without protest, as they had the precedent that when earnings were improved their wages were advanced."

Mr. Underwood added that the drop in the cost of living gives the wage-earner under a reduced scale of wages the same purchasing power he had in the past.

January Woman's Home Companion.

The Woman's Home Companion for January is a notable number from the standpoint of illustrations. In addition to Flagg's striking cover design, there is a full-page reproduction of W. Balfour Ker's painting, "Forgotten." It represents a winter farm scene, the house and barn in the distance, and the old family horse standing drearily by the pasture bars, ankle deep in the falling snow—forgotten.

Dr. Hale's Monthly Talk is on the subject of "New Year's Witches." Jack London contributes the first letter of his important series of first-hand impressions for which the Woman's Home Companion sent him around the world; it is the record of a marvelous adventure among the lepers of Molokai. In the January number begins a series of programs and selections of the music of today of the great music-loving nations. The January program, which is American, is supplemented by the music and words of two songs by Clayton Johns, hints as to the making of a program, by Madame Nordica, and instructions as to the rendering of each piece on the program by the composers themselves.

Among the fiction is an important installment of Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' great novel, "Though Life Us Do Part;" "The Adjusted Honeymoon," by Anne Warner; "A Lesson in Consequence," by Mary Wilhelmina Hastings; "Rose Mary," a Quaker love story by Carrie Hunt Latta, and "The Lamps of Psyche," by Zona Gale, author of the new popular novel, "The Loves of Peleas and Ettarre."

An interesting feature of this issue of the Companion is a new department entitled "Teens and Twenties," conducted by Lucy Norman. The horticultural authority, Samuel Armstrong Hamilton, contributes a valuable article on "Plants for the Winter Window." Anna Steese Richardson's department for The Girl Who Earns Her Own Living is as valuable as ever, as is Mrs. Saugster's Home Page.

A new departure is a study of Three Important Successful Plays, by Annie Peacock.

New Anaesthetic Discovered.

Announcement of the discovery of a new anaesthetic will soon be made by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. It is nothing else than common epsom salts, or, to give its scientific name, sulphate of magnesia.

Its greater value is that it permits any sort of an operation without any danger to the heart.

CHRISTMAS In This Store Will be Big This Season. We have the largest lines in HOLIDAY - GOODS that we have ever shown. All our goods are USEFUL PRESENTS! Nothing in this store that will not be appreciated. YOU WILL FIND our goods as cheap as any reliable goods shown. TOWNSEND'S CORNER.

Special Display of Xmas Rockers The greatest line of Rockers we have ever shown and probably more of them than was ever gathered together at any one time in this section. We picked and pruned from two of the largest manufacturers in the business and to make a long story short, there isn't any better and very few as good. 'Twill do your eyes good to see them. They make such splendid gifts. Children's Rockers—a host of them, 75 cents to \$2.75. MISSION FURNITURE. Mission, Weather and Golden Oak Morris Chairs, broad arms complete with Velour, Corduroy and Leather cushions \$5 to \$15. Mission Rockers with broad arms and panel backs—solid wood seats \$4.75 to \$6.75. Mission Rockers with leather seats and panel and inlaid backs \$7.00 to \$13. Mission Rockers with leather upholstery on back and seat, \$8.00 to \$15. Mission Arm Chairs and Rockers complete with loose leather cushion \$10 to \$15.00. Golden Oak Saddle Seat Rocking Chair, panel back and shaped arms from 1.75 to \$11.50. Wisconsin roll seat Rockers in Golden Oak and Mahogany finish, the very picture of comfort, bolted and riveted—built for service, \$2.50 to \$10.00. Elegant Mahogany Rockers and corner chairs—same with plain veneered seats, others upholstered in leather or green hair cloth \$4.00 to \$14.00. Polished Golden Oak Rockers—luxurious leather seats—high and low panel or upholstered backs, \$3 to \$15.00. Antwerp Oak Rockers—back and seat—shaped arms, splendid, upholstered in plain and embossed Mexican leather, \$14, \$14.50 and \$15.00. Mission Screens filled with plain burlap and heavy tapestry, also wood panels, \$5.00 to \$9.50. Mission Library Tables, drawers and shelf, for magazines—plain and quartered oak stock, \$5.00 to \$10. Mission Writing Desk (for men) complete with pigeon holes and drawers, \$10.00 to \$16.50. Mission magazine and book shelves, \$1.98 to \$6.00. Mission weathered oak hanging hall racks with beveled plate mirror \$3.75. Women's Mission Desk Chairs \$3.00 to \$3.50. Mission Card Tables—leather or green felt tops, close folding, \$3.98. Umbrella Racks, Tabourettes, Dinner Gongs, Smoking Sets, Pipe Racks, Foot Stools, and numerous other items in Mission Furniture that go to make up the perfect Den.

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