### SCRANTON TRIBUNE F. E. WOOD,

FUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY IN SCRAN-TON, PA., BY THE THIBUNG PUBLISHING "COMPANY.

NEW YORK OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, FRANK S. GRAY, MANAGER.

Eutered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1894.

Attention is called to the magnificent twelve-page paper which forms this issue of THE TRIBUNE. It a better compendings of crisp news, timely comment and well diversified household reading oirculates in our field, we should like to know it and surpass it.

### WHAT FREE COAL DID.

It is instructive to consider the meaning of last Tuesday's vote in the four counties which comprise ninetenths of the available authracite coal and organs that whatever might be ing and of the transportion of the products of mining was in no wise jeoparded in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylcoal clause of the Domocratic tariff, insamuch as Canadian bituminous was not a competitive factor in markets reached by our anthracite. Opposed to this sophistry was the repeated declaration of leading anthracite producers, accompaned by figures in proof, that with the duty off, Canadian coal, under the developing touch of the great Whitney syndicate, could be laid down at our seaboard ports not only below the competition of our western Pennsylvania and southern bituminous shippers, but also below that of dealers in the industrial sizes of authracite, which sizes comprise thirty per cent. of the entire anthracite output. These arguments were presented

with considerable distinctness on both sides. Upon this local issue rested to nial of the former to our principal home industry would necessarily invalidate any scheme of tariffs that claimed protection as a feature. Let question most prominently before brief period elapsing since last November a Democratic plurality of 98 in Carbon county was converted into a Republican plurality of 218; in our own county of Lackawanna, a Repubbill, free coal clause and all, a Democratic plurality of 177 three months ago has been transformed into a Republican one of 1,409. In other words, the three months' threat of free coal safely into the Republican column two coal-producing counties heretofore regarded as certainly Democratic, that is to say, Carbon and Schuvikill. And it has made Luzerne and Lackawanna barren soil for Democratic missionary work for a whole generation to come.

last fall, when Pennsylvania gave what was then the largest Republican plurallty ever recorded in the commonwealth. If we take as our basis of comparison, the vote two years ago, by which Representatives Hines. Railly and Mutchler were elected to the coninterests of their constituents in voting and wires should come down. for free coal on final passage, we shall discover a popular reversal nearly twice as atriking. The two former would find themselves, on the strength of last Tuesday's vote, defeated entirely, not to say ignominiously, while the latter would emerge successful but much the worse for wear. Indeed, of their singular perversity in championing free cosl. A few more such blunders as this, and the northern states would join bands with industrial West Virginia, Virginia and Alabama in cordial repudiation of a policy so ruinous in its effects.

COME, COME, esteemed Democratic paranips.

THE PROPOSITION to pension firemen after twenty years of faithful service has been revived in the New York legislature. While it is the democratic dogma that every well-paid employe should look after his own future, in the matter of providing for old age, we transgress this in so many other directions that it would seem to be no more than fair to give the hard-working firemen also a show. The community will lose nothing by such generosity.

ERASTUS WIMAN was not the first and will not be the last man to preach better than he practiced.

SMYTHE SET RIGHT. It is far from complimentary to the standard of diplomacy set by the Cleve land administration that the report of Powell. Minister Smythe's interference in the domestic administration of the government to which he was accredited should have reached the American pub-

probable. Minister Smythe has since supplied Tombe.

planations. If he has deliberately the result, it nowhere appears that he standered the official representative of was the calculating and methodical THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE. circulation of false reports through the its an accurate insight into the condiretract or else be held up to deserved obviously uncharitable and unjust. scorn. The diplomacy of our Damo-

THE GROW presidential boom is largely complimentary; yet we could go further and fare worse.

IGNORANCE OF the law was ineffectually pleaded in behalf of the Mansin the United States. It was industri- field rioters, and the court has acted ously contended by Democratic orators | prudently in imposing upon these men good, round sentences. It does not retrue with reference to other industries quire a high grade of intelligence in in other sections, the industry of min- any class of citizens to lead to a recognition of the commonest rights of property; and when the interligence of any resident of this republic falls bekill and Carbon counties by the free low that level, he will be none the worse for a liberal term in jail.

> Bess McKang fin to that 'though the decalogue may have no place in politica, the juil has.

> > BURY THE WIRES.

The passage by common council of the Browning ordinance affixing a tax of one dollar on each puls belonging to electrical companies to this city was in response to a popular demand which grew in proportion as there seemed an increasing probability of soon getting well rid of the poles and of their unsightly overhead wires altogether. So long as the question was merely one involving a new form of public taxation by the indirect method of increased a large degree the whole question of charges imposed on the public. The protection vs free trade; since the de- TRIBUNE could not see the expediency of the move, and was frank enough to say so. At the same time it is equally frank in the assertion that if this dolus then see how the voters of those four lar tax shall prove to be a forward step coal-producing counties, with this in the direction of placing all electrical wires safely underground, the inthem, rendered their decision. In the creased cost which such a step will in- upon the resonant sides of his calf skin evitably impose on the public will be a

It is as plain as any fact in nature or logic that this dollar tax will in the lican plurality of 359 has expanded into | end be paid by the public itself. There one of 3,028; in Luzirne the plurality | s nothing in the theory of competition of 19 received by Mr Jackson has calculated to make the electrical comgrown to one of 3,175; and finally, in panies pay this tax out of their own that he is unjust in his estimate of the Schuylkill, the home of Representa- dividends for the simple reason that relative value of the other 69,999,999 tive Reilly, who supported the Wilson saving competition does not exist. If inhabitants of this republic. we could import electricity more cheap ly than we can get it from the comthere might be a possibility of getting most readable thing going. by the Democratic revenue reformers | this tax both directly and entirely from has resulted in a net gain to the Republican party, in these four counties alone, of 0.753 vates. It has anchored alone, of 9,753 votes. it has anchored Democratic friends are so fond of declaring, a tax added to the price paid by the consumer. But the supposition is practically impossible of realization, and we have to face the cold, inevita- thing, by too many cuckoo cooks. ble fact that the dollar "duty" will come, by processes as certain as the This computation of Republican gains sunrise or the tides, from the public is made upon the basis of the vote cast which contributes to the revenues of our telephone, telegraph, illuminating and transit companies. In other words, the public will, until such time as it shall tire of the anomaly, pay for the pleasure of keeping up poles and overhead wires, when it is the public's gress in which they excu betrayed the fundamental desire that these poles

situation will eventually work out its own solution. The point which we have desired to make emphatic from will the senate do the very beginning of this discussion is that it is the public's right to have the whole abomination of poles and from any purely partisan point of view, wires wiped out entirely, and that any Republicans have much for which to dabbling with the nuisince; any tembe thankful to the Democrats because porary compromise with it, would be in the nature of a surrender, rather than, as some have contended, a victory by the people. In our growing city we cannot well afford to let the electrical companies off so easily as needless in its championship and so this present ordinance will let them off It is not enough to say that by the payment of one dollar per pole they may have the right to deface our contemporaries; ugly words butter no streets and jeopard our property, comfort and safety. While in the mood to assert our authority, we should go deserves. This country should keep its to the full extent of the evil and insist bands off monarchies and oligarchies. to the full extent of the evil and insist

upon a complete cure. Down with the overhead wires!

IT OUGHT to be easy to reach a sensible medium in this matter of collegiate athletics. How would a "sound mind in a sound body" do as a compromise?

It is ankind in the Harrisburg P triot to expose the fact that in every county where Mr. Harrity has distributed federal appointments, there have been heavy Democratic losses. The Patriot should have more mercy on the hungry expectants in Luckawanna.

CHAIRMAN GILKSSON may address that prize banner to Chairman Davil the house.

ONLY ONE RULE.

Is is to the credit of the American people, and especially to a newspaper lie at a a time when it was prepared" press somewhat too fond of sensationto accept any rumor of ministerial in- aliam, that the report of Erastus Wi discretion as possible if not openly man's misfortunes has elicited only expressions of sympathy. So far as the The fact that the American execu- facts in the case have been made pubtive had himself specifically instructed lie, it appears that, while technically his representative at Honolulu to enter guilty of a grave crime, for which the upon a campaign of despicable inter- law provides stringent punishment, ference made it a plausible tale that his real offense, weighed in the true this executive's representative at Port scale of sympathetic and charitable an Prince might also have assumed an judgment, is less glaring than appears attitude of dictatorship over President in the naked accusation upon which he Hippolyte, of the Haytian republic. was committed, without bail, to the

tire falsity, and is therefore entitled to discover, has been unwise in many of the benefit of a fair, frank and explicit his investments, and has lacked that viadication. But he is unfortunate in strict adherence to common sense comserving a diplomatic superior whose mercial principles which he has a lvo-General Manager. erratic comprehension of international cated with good effect in essays inlaw and international equity has given structing young men in the conditions the color of possibility to any tale, of business success; and while it seems however far it may be from real facts. probable that the aggregation of losses The public will now listen to E1- thus incurred, accentuated by great mund Fortane, who first gave publicity anxieties inseparable from a wideto this romance about Minister Smythe. spread business panic, has weighed He has the floor so to speak, for ex- upon his mind until rash deeds were this government he should make im- villain whom the law has in min! mediate amenda in a public manner when it imposes stringent penalties If he has been innocently led into the upon convicted forgers. Until there misinformation of others, he should tious of temptation which surrounded give the name of his untrustworthy in- Mr. Wiman, any severe characterizaformants, and these informants should tion of his apparent crims would be At the same time it cannot be over

cratic friends has enough actual looked that Mr.W.man's downfall supblunders under which to stagger along, plies a wholesome moral lesson, It is without the addition of alleged mis- enquent in its teaching that two takes which have no existance in fact. wrongs can never, in the economy of business, combine so as to make one right. The error of judgment which lea is to commercial inflation, over spec ulation, in short, to unsuccessful gum bling, cannot be rectified by another error which, in its moral principle, diffors little from theft. It is unsettling o sound morality to witness the failure of one who has long been respected as an embodiment of commercial honesty. The greater the fall, the greater is the strain imposed on popular confidence in fundamental principles of probity and honor. Yet this tension of distrust, in the very nature of things, is bound to be temporary. The very fact that a great and respected man cannot with impunity violate laws which are noc-pted as universal proves that these laws are universal, and that obsdience to them is an unalterable requisite to lasting success.

> ANOTHER OF Tuesday's queer tragedies is recalled by the Wilkes Birre Record, in the fact that one of the men entombed in the Gaylord colliery was a candidate for a ward office and was elected at a time when heroic men were searching for his mangled body. This is one of the most gennine bits of pathos ever encountered in politics.

In the opinion of Commoders Singerly, "if the handwriting on the wall shall bring Democrats together and nduce congress to stop making its damnable mouths and pass the Wilson tariff bill, it will be a very opportune blazency." But opportune for whom? For England For Canada?

THESE ARE the days when Bre'r Dana takes out his snickersnes and whets its horrid blade with ghoulish glee boot leg.

IF SCRANTON may tax the poles one dollar each, Seranton may insist on their coming down entirely. And that's just what Scranton should do.

THE TROUBLE with Roger Q. Mills is

Entron Stropper's flares attack of political indigestion has had one pleaspanies now in existence among us, ingeffect. It has made his paper the

> TRIBUNE began to boom. It is QUITE possible that Mr. Hancock's goose was cooked, among other

Mr. HINES would relieve some anxiety if he would kindly inform us where he stands now.

Editor Dana Lifts a Scalp.

Promises repudiated and insolently ig-nored. Democracy trampled under foot, responsibility shirked, lying and cowardly evasions substituted for the unqualified declarations of a few months ago. American sentiment outraged and defied, per-fundamental desire that these poles sould whims or personal spite made the party's law; here we have in forty words the history of the first year of a Demo-cratic administration that began with golden prospects: Defeat with dishonor, that is the bitterness of it; and the dishonor is worse than the defeat. What

> No More Secret Platting. Epringsiehl (Mass.) Uni Minister Willis reply to President Dole's letter of "specifications" indicates that our representative has got down from his high horse and is trying to keep the peace. The era of secrecy and chicanery at Houoold has evidently come to an end, for which we may all be truly thankful.

Consideration Incarnata Indianapolis Journal. I cannot sing the old songs, Though they're the only true ones; And I've too much love for my fellow

To sing the latest new ones. The Unanimous Cankoo Yearn, Let the Hawaiian matter drop. It has

Not an Admirer of Hoke Small. Williamriart Times, Dem. Secretary Gresham still draws his penslon, but thousands of poor and deserving veterans still draw blanks from the pen-

One Bubit Thus Abides. Philaderphia Press The Honorable Daniel W. Voorhees still exhibits his old-time ability to make a spectacular ass of himself before the upifted eyes of a great people.

Not Tumultuously Applauded. Washington Post. The proposition to dock the wages of con-voting congressmen is experiencing much difficulty in gatting a foothold in

We Can Only Hope It Will Philade aria Bulictia.
Will the Democratic state convention this year again have the nerve to swallow the Wilson bill, body, soul and breeches?

Lacking to Excitement p innfield, Mass., Un Senator rill will be likely to find Washagton life rather dall without a supreme court fight on his hands.

Not Worth Mentioning. Judge. she is not jealous, yet she wished to know If any valentines I had received This year save hers; and when I answered

Although I blushed, I knew that she believed, I lied, of course; but why should I regale abundant proof of this accusation's en- While Mr. Wiman, so far as we can About the little ones sent by my tailor?

Brother Dana's War Dance.

New York Sun-Political disasters and new humiliations are closing in upon the Democracy from every quarter. The popular condemnation of the dishonest, anti-Democratic Wilson bill, the insane income tax project and the infamous monarchical plot which the present administration has made its distinctive feature, takes an impressive form tinctive feature, takes an impressive form whenever and wherever the ballot boxes are opened

Here's a Real Tongue Tr. Spare Moments, A precorious, impuisive young Md.
Was in love with a girl and he Kr.
Said sae: "Sr, go slow,
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I'm to you nothing more than a Sr."

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