

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
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 General Manager.

Published Daily and Weekly in Scranton, Pa., by the Tribune Publishing Company.

New York Office: Tribune Building, Frank S. Gray, Manager.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.
 SCRANTON, MARCH 1, 1894.

Member failed because he waited for things to "turn up." The successful man nowadays turns things up. His lever is the press; his fulcrum, printer's ink and his reward, wealth and fame. There's no proof like trying.

OF DOUBTFUL UTILITY.
 In his latest annual report Secretary of Internal Affairs Stewart renews the argument in favor, either of a Pennsylvania railway commission, or of a railway bureau to take such supervision of the management and maintenance of the 277 steam and 220 street railways that are either in operation or in process of construction in this state, as would insure greater safety to passengers and employees. But, lest the project of a separate commission might conflict with the constitution, the secretary thinks that authority should be expressly conferred upon him to require the thorough inspection of roadbeds, bridges and equipment; and, when necessary, to employ experienced engineers or other experts to pass upon the safety of roads and equipments.

But at whose expense? Must the people be taxed, in addition to their freight and passenger fares, to secure the safety of railroads which drive their chariot from the coast of the people? This would in all probability be the net result of any probable legislative action in the indicated direction. The people are to be taxed at both ends of the line; first in the matter of often excessive charges for services rendered; and then in the matter of taxation to pay for the proper inspection of the railroads that they themselves create. Any dissent from this proposition will in all likelihood meet with the response, theoretically wrong, of course, yet practically true, that the railroads are already in a possession which is "in loco parentis" and that the best policy is generally therein, when needed, by virtue of diplomacy, influence or pull.

It is a scheme of state inspection could be devised which, in addition to giving better promise of thoroughness than the inspection system already maintained by the railroad companies themselves, would place the burden of its cost, not upon the people, but upon those railway shareholders who view in railway securities simply one easy means of rapid gambling, it would be hailed with popular fervor. But there are no faint streaks in the gray dawn of such a coming millennium. The heavens are yet somber with the fact that corporations, owned mostly by men having no personal interest beyond the speculative possibilities open to them, control the majority of our railroads in such a manner as to render a state system of inspection simply a new mechanism of imposition on the general public.

DEMOCRATIC QUERIES. Number is scarce in Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the Democrats who are taking to the woods.

Under the decision of Judge Grosscup, of Chicago, railway agents need not in prosecutions brought under the interstate commerce law, hereafter testify if their evidence would tend to exonerate themselves. This is tantamount to saying that so long as all are in one pool, there is virtually no law which can probe the pool's significance. The interstate commerce law is left by this decision, where it ought either to be speedily galvanized by saving amendments or else buried beyond hope of resurrection. Its present form is a travesty on legislation.

The South, made solid by prejudice, will next November be confronted by a North made solid by anxiety and loss.

NEW LABEL LAW.
 Although there is frequently desultory discussion of the need of an amended law in this state with reference to labels, the subject is pretty much where it was years ago. Meanwhile the enterprising law makers of a number of more progressive states have already done justice to publishers without sacrificing any of the real rights of the reading public. In Michigan, Minnesota and Georgia the editor who makes a mistake without bearing malice is no longer regarded as guilty beyond possibility of vindication or extortion. Like other accused persons he is at least given a chance to establish his innocence; and his public expression of sorrow, in case of guilt, is not, as in this state, refused admission to the jury room.

In three other states, namely, New York, Illinois and Wisconsin, the concerted effort of publishers is at work on legislative sentiment, in the hope of inspiring similar reforms. The proposed law which has been drafted by the Illinois State Editorial association reflects the best thought on this subject, and is similar in import to the bills contemplated in the other two states. It is worded as follows:

SECTION 1. That for any action brought for the publication of a label in any newspaper in this state, the plaintiff shall recover only actual damages if it shall appear at the trial of such action that such publication was made in good faith and that its falsity was due to mistake or misapprehension of the facts, and that in the next regular issue of said newspaper, after such mistake or misapprehension was brought to the knowledge of the publisher or publishers of such newspapers, whether before or after a suit be brought, a correction or retraction be published in as conspicuous a manner and place in said newspaper as was the label.

SECTION 2. No exemplary or punitive damages shall be recovered in any action brought for the publication of a label in any newspaper in this state unless the plaintiff shall, before bringing suit, give notice in writing to the defendant to publish a retraction or correction of the label, and, before bringing suit, allow the defendant a reasonable time in which to publish such retraction or correction.

Proof of the publication of such retraction or correction shall be admissible in evidence under the general issue in mitigation of damages and in evidence of the good faith of the defendant, provided that the retraction or correction shall be published in as conspicuous a manner and place in said newspaper as was the label.

This law, it is needless to say, breathes the very essence of fairness. The only real obstacle to its enactment is the presence in nearly every reading community of irresponsible sensationalists, against whom a judgment would mean nothing, and whose columns are, therefore, subject to no real discipline whatever. Because of these journalistic quick shots, reputable, honorable and conscientious publishers are left exposed to annoyance, petty intrigue and malicious persecution. It is an anomalous condition, and it cannot long last, not even in Pennsylvania.

SOUTHERN STATESMEN can stand any quantity of taunt, but a few cold facts plainly stated, as in the case of Mr. Hewitt, bring out all the characteristics of their slave-driving ancestors.

LOD ROSEBERRY, upon whom it seems probable that Mr. Gladstone's mantle will fall, is a peer whose deeds and principles correspond with his nominal elevation. He has wealth, but he is nevertheless indefatigable; he has position and influence, but he uses both in the advancement of his fellow men. Perhaps no other Englishman of the younger class has equaled him in the promotion of wise and timely reforms, particularly in the social improvement of the industrial classes and in the reclamation and modernization of municipal London. No one can truly say that his political success has not been honestly and fairly deserved.

PENNSYLVANIA'S REPUBLICAN editors could do worse than to "get together." Why not meet and exchange views?

GETTING TOGETHER.
 It is significant of the prevailing fashion in American municipalities that a bill has just been passed in the New York state senate, with only two dissenting votes, submitting to popular vote the proposed annexation of Brooklyn and adjacent territory to New York. Upon an earlier occasion this proposition to amplify Gotham met with strenuous resistance, both from the dominant element in New York's municipal government and also from the majority of the citizens whom it was intended to annex. Now, by a curious coincidence, Tammany ringsters vie with Brooklyn snappers in favoring the "greater metropolis," which, if it shall materialize, would have a population second, in the list of the world's great cities, to London alone.

Much the same tendency toward greater municipal co-operation is visible in numerous smaller communities, to which rule's own is no exception. Thus in Troy there is a very persistent effort to annex West Troy, separated only by the Hudson, and Lansingburg, cut off only by a fanciful legal boundary. Altogether, this would make a city with approximately 115,000 inhabitants, and the only reason for the division is the political one that it now renders possible a greater number of offices and a larger assortment of "pulls." If in Wilkes-Barre the movement to take in Plymouth, Kingston, Elmerstonville, Plainsville, Miner's Mills and a dozen or more additional places has not yet attained vitality it is not through lack of newspaper agitation, aimed at the glorification of a municipality that "would rival Scranton."

We have had some illustration of how this sentiment works in our own community, although it must be confessed that the sentiment is as yet in its infancy hereabouts. A time will come—it is inevitable—when, as many of our forwarding citizens, at banquets of trade celebrations and other inspiring occasions, have already splendidly predicted, there will be no further adherence to the provincial divisions of Scranton into South Side, West Side, Central City and North End, but when the entire community, united sentimentally as well as politically, will be proud to have it go forth to the world that it is just plain Scranton; a city, let us hope, of 200,000 inhabitants, whose collective energies shall have made it the best governed and best appointed municipality in Pennsylvania. This is the spirit that is behind all real growth; and it must sooner or later dominate our people.

REV. DR. TALMAGE attributes poverty to the nation and to labor-saving inventions. But what about individual improvidence?

WHENEVER MR. VANDINE, in his official relation as postmaster, acts contrary to the best interests of the city and the Tribune finds it out, it will not hesitate to say so. But the conception of inaccurate stories about him by a journal of his own political faith is something which not even his opponents should regard as fair or just. That kind of malice is growing tiresome to the public.

It is UNFAIR in the label law to presuppose that the accused is maliciously guilty, and that he makes it a daily practice to gloss over his guilt.

A HOPELESS TASK.
 Editor Singery has at last got his conscience twisted round to the point where he can join in the policy of infamy to the limited extent of denouncing Minister Stevens for an action which he did not take. Apparently forgetful of his journal's past expressions, the new leader of the Pennsylvania Democracy now declares that "there was no abdication (in Hawaii) until it was forced by Minister Stevens in his precipitate haste to acknowledge the provisional government." Mr. Singery ought to remember that the provisional government had been set up and recognized by other foreign representatives a good day before Minister Stevens took any action in the matter, and that when he did act, it was simply to land the United States troops for the protection, if necessary, of life and property.

The fact that Mr. Stevens may have been indiscreet in his later declaration of an American protectorate, for which he was duly reprimanded by the Republican secretary of state, Mr. Foster, does not cast discredit upon his preceding course. Neither does it give any ground for the repeated Democratic

misrepresentation that he forced the unsavory Queen Lili to "abdicate," or that he did anything else inconsistent with the proprieties of an American minister in sympathy with the aspirations of a young republic. The vindication of Grover by the defamation of Stevens is a task entirely beyond even Commodore Singery's admittedly great abilities.

GROVER AS TO Mr. Gladstone's retirement will no doubt be fulfilled if they are kept up long enough.

ANOTHER WEEK of feeling and reflection has convinced Harper's Weekly that it went too far when it circuitously hinted that Mr. Cleveland had become a failure. It is now disposed to retract something of its recent solemn deprecation, and is ready to admit, with all its old-time seriousness, that "Mr. Cleveland is still better than his party." But his party? Words fail.

GOVERNOR FLOWER has restored Alderman Jaschke to full citizenship, and needs only to pardon Boss McKane to get the unanimous stuyser vote.

MR. BLAND'S BILL.
 An esteemed subscriber courteously asks THE TRIBUNE to explain "how the silver that Bland's bill proposes to deal with accumulated, and what Bland proposes to do with the assignor; or in other words, what is the assignor and what are they trying to do with it?"

In reply, this extract from a letter printed in yesterday's New York Sun presents an approximate estimate: "Bill H. R. 4,956, reported Feb. 8, Congressional Record, p. 2416, proposes to direct the secretary of the treasury to issue ordinary silver certificates of the United States to an amount equal to the coinage value of the silver bullion on hand in excess of the sum of the treasury notes issued therefor and outstanding. The secretary's estimate of this excess is fifty-five million, one hundred and fifty-six thousand, one hundred and eighty-one dollars. Against the said estimate of treasury notes there are already coined and held absolutely in the treasury thirty-six million, eighty-seven thousand, two hundred and eighty-five dollars (two hundred and eighty-five thousand, two hundred and eighty-five dollars) minted for 1893, p. 6. Inasmuch as the present secretary restricts himself in the redemptions of these treasury notes to gold alone, it follows that these thirty-six million dollars of standard silver dollars become immediately available for redemption of these proposed new silver certificates, if the Bland bill is enacted. Section 2 of the bill directs the coinage of all the remainder of the silver bullion on hand as rapidly as convenient; the additional silver dollars to be deemed available for silver certificates as rapidly as treasury notes shall be retired."

The foregoing extract answers the question as to how much the assignor would amount to. As to the meaning of the word assignor, in its present application, it may be added that it has reference to the small per centage which the government sets aside, when issuing treasury silver certificates in payment for deposited bullion, to pay for the coinage of that bullion into standard dollars. This percentage, which is a small one, is set aside, in bullion form, until such time as it may become necessary to convert the bullion into coin.

THE CURE all inequalities. When anthracite shippers were pinched by railway discriminations, the bituminous shippers laughed. Now that they're in the squeeze themselves, it's our turn to smile, and the laugh will not be less hearty because it comes last.

GROVER Needs a Rest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TRIBUNE:
 DEAR SIR—In his last presidential message, Mr. Cleveland, taking the whole nation to witness, publicly proclaims that the present, or McKinley, tariff duties on raw materials radically prevent our manufacturers from competing in foreign markets. Therefore, says our enlightened and far-sighted president, "A way with protection," that we may have free raw materials in favor of our export trade, when immediately such vast quantities of manufactured goods will be exported abroad that nevermore will our workmen be idle at home. Hence, the absolute and pressing necessity of tariff reform of which he has so devotedly accepted the apostleship on the fat salary of \$90,000 a year. And thus he deduces his famous free trade-Confederate maxim of "less wages and more toil," that the long-desired workingman's paradise may at last be open to American labor. Now, all this might seem intensely statesmanlike—the nose plus ultra in line of American political economy—were it not for section 25 of the aforesaid McKinley bill, which, for the honor of the presidential chair, ought to be brought, even at this late hour, to Mr. Cleveland's notice, because it unfortunately brands on the face of it the whole Cleveland tariff reform theory, as the most outrageous and barefaced falsehood—politically speaking—that ever disgraced an American presidential message.

And the reason is simple enough—because section 25 fully provides that no tariff shall exist on imported raw materials used by our manufacturers in goods to be exported for sale in foreign markets, which, in plain English, means that all duties assessed on raw materials that are refunded to the exporter on goods to be sold abroad. Consequently, under the present protective tariff, as I have often proclaimed, raw materials are as free from all duties as any free trade measure can make them, so far as our export trade is concerned. I hold, therefore, that the whole so-called tariff reform movement, of which free raw materials for our export trade is a fundamental feature, is a gigantic swindle in face of the honest and sane business man now starving by reason of it. And its promoters should be held responsible by a suffering and deluded public. The Wilson bill—not any other bill—contains one iota more for our foreign export trade than protection is now doing. But, on the other hand, is not protection wisely and patriotically saving our industrial home market for ourselves—their negligent market which Cleveland is ruining and betraying, with his free trade Confederate policy, into the hands of the commercial enemies of our country? No judgment, therefore, and no criticism, can be too severe or too personal on a man like Mr. Cleveland who, now that he is seated in the presidential chair, has not only forced his blundering personality on the whole northern and western wing of his own party to better receive it and he-tray it into the hands of the enemy, but has also attempted to deceive the whole nation in a pre-idealistic message in the manner above indicated. Of two conclusions, can be expected, namely, that the McKinley bill, when, truly, as it is the most unprincipled kind of a political damage; or, on the other hand, that he has not read

it, in which case, indeed, he is the worst kind of a presidential impostor.

It is and has been the custom with great men and warriors to have their favorite weapon or characteristic trait emblazoned on their coat of arms. Thus, Attila, the great and terrible Hun, loved to be styled "The Fear of the World"; and the Scourge of God, and had himself represented as a great comet about to strike the earth and destroy it. Thus was the mighty sword of the immortal English knight, Richard the Lion-Hearted, like the flaming sword of an archangel, Charles Martel's battle as was "God's hammer" to break in pieces the Mohammedan power on the field of Poitiers. And Halway Lytton represents on his coat of arms that the pen is mightier than the sword. But if ever Grover Cleveland has a coat of arms, his historical insignia ought certainly to be a gigantic blunderbuss.

Yours very truly
 DARRIL H. STROM.
 Scranton, Pa., Feb. 25.

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All of us are desperately wicked, and some of us more so. Not necessary to mention names—you know who you are, if we don't. If it wasn't for the few pleasures capable of being grasped occasionally, this world would indeed be "a vale of tears." But when our friends can avail themselves of a chance like this occasionally, prospects become slightly more pleasing.

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