

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.
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"When the iron is hot, strike," says the proverb; which, being translated, means when bridges are unaccountably cheap, don't stand upon the order of closing a good bargain.

NOW SPEED THE BRIDGES.

By a happy compromise, suggested by City Solicitor Torre, differences as to the method of proceeding toward the actual work of bridge construction have been harmonized, and the joint committee of council, at a time when it was feared there might be delay, has been enabled to move expeditiously forward. It has been decided to recommend the procuring of the new approach to the structure that is to span the Roaring Brook, leaving to the mayor, in his discretion, the question either of accepting the \$35,000 offer of the Platt estate, by terms of amicable adjustment, or of instituting condemnation proceedings, with such correlative action as he may deem advisable. With a view to hastening the work, the joint committee has recommended an amendment to the ordinance governing the purchase of the Roaring Brook approach, increasing its appropriation from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Although upon this fact the action appears to involve a transgression of the original limit of expense, it is fair to say that probabilities favor the action of the bridges and approach within the \$137,000 estimate, even though the approach itself should cost \$15,000 more than originally been anticipated. The gain to the city in point of convenience and appearance, under the revised approach, fully justifies the latter's larger cost, as will be explained hereafter.

Equal progress characterized the action of the committee with reference to the Linden street bridge. Here, the obstacles encountered were slight, a brief discussion revealing that a prompt acceptance, by the city, of the offer already on file with the city clerk from affected property owners, and the putting of the same in legal form, would clear the way to the bond ordinance itself, and make certain the quick commencement of the actual work of construction. An agreeable feature of the case in relation to both bridges is the receipt by City Engineer Phillips of estimates from bridge companies as to the iron work that practically assure bids much below his original computation. It is seemingly safe to predict that upon the Roaring Brook bridge alone, there will be a saving in the actual cost of structural materials sufficient to reimburse the city for the increased cost of the modified approach, thus keeping faith with the taxpayers while at the same time giving them a superior bargain for their money.

The advantages of the modified approach to the Roaring Brook bridge, briefly told, are these: Under the original plan, Spruce street was extended clear through the Platt estate, in such a manner as to leave, upon the north, an unoccupied strip of land fifty-five feet in width. The opening of this approach would, it was feared, lead to the sale of lots on this marginal strip, upon which houses might be built with their rear facing the residences on Platt place, thus depreciating the value of these Platt place holdings and, at the same time, making impossible a direct approach to the proposed bridge from Ridge row. Under the modified plan, a strip sixty feet wide is taken from the Platt estate and added to Platt place, thus widening it to 100 feet. This handsome roadway then itself becomes the approach, facilitating travel in all directions, making of what is now a narrow and semi-private street a spacious thoroughfare, and saving its property-owners from otherwise inevitable loss. Another merit of the modified plan consists of the fact that it will set apart, at the very beginning of the approach, a triangular park, seventy feet wide at the base and one hundred feet long, which, in addition to beautifying the approach, will form a happy, even if modest, pleasure ground. If this can be done, as now seems probable, within the \$125,000 originally estimated, it will obviously be a distinct improvement over the earlier plan. But even though it should cost a few thousand dollars in excess of \$125,000, which is not probable, it would still be an advantageous thing to do, and one that progressive Scranton would gladly applaud.

Thus it will be seen that public discussion has already operated to the palpable benefit of the city; and similar discussion of future improvements is recommended as both proper and expedient. While THE TRIBUNE has had a slight difference of opinion as to the plan urged upon councils by Mr. Roche, it cannot deny him conspicuous credit for his able, indefatigable and, indeed, invaluable services in promoting this long-needed enterprise. The spirit of frankness in which diverging opinions as to details of progress have been voiced, and the equal spirit of conciliation and courtesy in which they have been harmonized are happy portents, which should not be permitted to pass without remark. The swift and conclusion of this whole preliminary debate has been to make plainer than ever that Scranton is imbued with an invincible determination to push steadily ahead; and the city of which this can be truly said need fear nothing from good-natured conflicts over ways and means.

Now speed the bridges.

AN APPEAL to the English people, at this time, upon the naked proposition to abolish the house of lords, would bring down a thunderous negative majority and delay, for perhaps the quar-

ter of a century, home rule to Ireland and various parian, electoral and magisterial reforms for England. An appeal, upon the moderate proposition to modify the house of lords would probably carry. Lord Rosebery represents the latter, or common-sense position; Labouchere and his fellow extremists, represent the former, or radical attitude. It is not difficult to perceive which course is the course of true statesmanship.

QUEEN VICTORIA was almost painfully proper and reserved in accepting Mr. Gladstone's resignation; but unless we err in our estimate of Lord Rosebery she will have much smaller joy in welcoming Gladstone's successor. The liberality of the great octogenarian, which made even the queen tremble at times for the safety of her throne, we expect yet to see surpassed in the practical strides which this energetic and well-rounded young premier will make, in the course of time, toward true democracy in the domain of the Gael. He is a great man, not alone by virtue of ancestry, but also of achievements; and such men are dangerous factors in obsolescent kingdoms.

CROKER'S BIG BLUFF.

Richard Croker, boss sachem of Tammany, informs a reporter way down in the wilds of Texas that he is mad all over, in consequence of Representative Dunphy's resignation from Tammany, and that if Dunphy said that he, Croker, ever offered premiums for fraudulent voting, Dunphy is several interesting kinds of a liar, not to speak of other things unmentionable in print. Moreover, Croker wants it understood that Dunphy will have to answer for this accusation in court and that he, Croker, is a great and good man, a sort of municipal philanthropist, as it were, not a person who would contaminate his noble mind with such a foul thought as corrupting the ballot.

This is interesting and to a certain degree picturesque. It throws a new halo—self-made, to be sure, but nevertheless pretty—about the massive brow of New York's political monarch. We see him revealed by his own words in the aspect of a highly moral and intensely conscientious man, sitting up nights to devise means for the purification of government and revolving in his capacious mind schemes for the ennoblement of his fellow man. Mr. Croker does not say so, but the natural inference from his remarks is that if he ever gave out gold watches, diamond badges and \$1,200 clerkships to election districts returning the biggest Democratic majority it was done as a partial reward of meek and lowly merit, as tokens for successful argument and guardians for skillful intellectual angling for the suffrage of wavering voters. We are given to understand that when a Tammany district returns an unanimous vote, let us say for Judge Maynard, it is done simply by the superior persuasiveness of Tammany ward orators, under the inspiration of expected reward, and not through the coarse, vulgar and repellent processes of false registration, perjured voting and lying count.

Those who wish to believe this pretty tale of Tammany hall are requested to communicate with this office with a view to their protection from green goods men or from manipulators of three card monte. Those who feel that Mr. Croker is the wrong and injured victim of a sensitive and indelible conscience are advised to stay indoors unless accompanied by a keeper. The effort of Richard Croker to pose in the liverly of injured innocence will not suffice to keep from disintegration the highly moral municipal machine which he has built up in Gotham, and which, at this very moment, is shivering in anticipation of coming collapse.

It is always easier to sneer than to achieve.

MONROE COUNTY is apparently suffering from an aftermath of crime and criminal impulses implanted during the construction, by cheap imported Southern labor, of the new Wilkes-Barre and Eastern railroad. That importation was itself a crime that entitled its author to the gallows.

COMMITTEES SANDERSON and Roche, harmonized by a word, are living proofs of the efficacy of arbitration.

AS TO HOME RULE.

There are certain fundamental principles of human justice upon which progress is necessarily built; if not so built, it becomes false progress and will sooner or later collapse. One of these principles is embodied in the cry of the Irish people for a fair and honorable voice in the government of their own homes; for a system divorced from a spying constabulary and one freed of obnoxious survivals of medieval tyranny. They want, in substance, the autonomy in local affairs that is enjoyed by residents of an American state, which, although loyal to the general union, is nevertheless free to adjust its taxation, regulate its petty courts and apprise the common processes of the local government.

Certain conceited philosophers say the Irish people are incapable of self-government; that English domination, always retrogressive and obnoxious, and often brutal, is a necessary part of Ireland's continued existence as the home of Irishmen. The assertion is an insult, which is effectually disproved in the large and liberal part taken by Irish-Americans in the civic affairs of their adopted land. The Irish-American is different from the Irishman of Dublin or Mayo only by virtue of opportunities that are denied to victims of British aggression and repression. The experiment of educating Irishmen so as to fit them for self-government has never been honestly tried by the English people, who occupy, in their political relations toward the unfortunate residents of the Emerald Isle, much the same attitude sought to be occupied, in our own country, by rebel brigadiers over those white residents of the south who lack their wealth or opportunities of self-improvement and are, therefore, condemned to the lash.

It is feared by many observers that Mr. Gladstone's retirement, followed by the accession of an English peer, will greatly delay, if not altogether preclude, the granting of home rule. This view, as we believe, is founded upon a misapprehension that does injustice to Lord Rosebery's sense of fairness, truth and right. But whether it be in this respect right or wrong, it

is an erroneous view because it ignores a fundamental principle, against which Lord Rosebery's personality, were it disposed to be hostile, could no more make headway than the broom of Mrs. Partington could sweep back the rising waters of the great ocean. Home rule is inevitable, because it is just; the temporary changes of politics and politicians are more passing incidents in its inevitable approach.

ALTHOUGH UNDER its present management the number of the trolley car's accidents has been greatly reduced, such casualties as that of yesterday afternoon point anew to the need of fenders on every street car in the city. It will be found, in the end, that appliances assuring greater safety are a profitable investment.

THE RETENTION of John Morley in the Irish chief secretaryship is a fortunate beginning for the Rosebery regime. Few men in parliament enjoy the respect or exert the dignified, yet effective influence possessed by this scholar, jurist and politician. In the Indian secretaryship his usefulness would have been in large measure wasted. He is Ireland's fit representative in the English Liberal cabinet, and his proper place is one that is concerned with Ireland's executive administration.

CONGRESS will be recant to a plain duty if it does not probe this Carnegie steel plate scandal to its very depths. Grover Cleveland cannot, on top of his other blunders, afford to lay the apparent crime of compounding a felony.

FAIRNESS PAYS.

In its haste to press a demand for the calling of an alphabetical roll of delegates at the May Republican State convention, the esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record is led to say that this point "is one upon which hinges the good feeling and success of the party in 1894." While it is certainly desirable to have each county's delegates polled in due order, so as not to permit the Philadelphia and Allegheny delegations to cause a stampede, we cannot believe that Republican defeat would ensue, next November, were the alphabetical roll call ignored. By the time the May convention shall meet, there will be practical unanimity as to the main candidates, and an enthusiasm, both among delegates and among the voters generally, which will make the brigadiers turn up their noses yet higher at Pennsylvania.

Nevertheless, it is well to insist upon fair and courteous treatment of all localities and sections. The victory of last month, rendered fruitful in Mr. Grover's second initiation into congressional usefulness, shows what may be expected of Pennsylvania Republicans when they are not rebuffed by the party managers and when their spontaneous choices for political preferment are frankly accepted and loyally supported by the managers. With no disposition to resent necessary organization and discipline, the mass of voters in this commonwealth served notice on Feb 20 that they are grateful for cordial recognition, and that that recognition pays. In the person of General Hastings they evince a second choice for preliminary ratification next May, and they will undoubtedly expect the same courtesies and proper spirit on the part of the state Republican leaders that they found so pleasant during the candidacy of Mr. Grover.

In the diverting speech in which William H. Hines voiced his hostile fondness for the Wilson bill—that is to say, when he said he was against the bill's methods but in favor of its enactment—occurs the confession that "it would be very impolitic to open our ports to Canada unless she in return takes away all restriction laid on our product." The member from Luzerne, albeit as he is hedging, wriggling and straddling, will find it hard in after years to escape from this confession. It gives the whole sophistry of "tariff reform," meaning sectional tariff demolition, dealt away. The Wilson stripe of Democrat cares not a rap of his finger for reciprocity. What he wants is to give our markets, free, to our competitors, in pursuit of phantom benefits that are never caught.

In the private talk of the York state anti-snappers be any indication, Mr. Cleveland's trouble is a complicated form of chronic hypochondria and ingratitude. And the deliberate manner in which he has turned them down, after all that they did for him, would seem to justify a diagnosis no less severe.

AMONG Music Lovers.

Professor Albin Korn and pupils will give a recital at Powell's a few weeks hence.

Miss Neally Stevens, the noted pianist who appeared in this city some time ago, is anxious to secure a return engagement. Her address may be had of Miss Florence Richmond or at Powell's.

Professor Haydn Evans will go to Pittston this evening to accompany the Oratorio society in a concert.

The Penn Avenue Baptist Church choir will give a concert at the Green Ridge Baptist church on March 23.

Alfred Wooler, solo tenor at the Elm Park Methodist church, has returned from Pittsburg, where he was among the soloists at a concert given in Carnegie hall. He was royally entertained by Pittsburg musicians.

Professor Evans, who acted as an adjudicator at the Marysville, O., contest recently, states that the singing in the concert contest was the finest he has ever heard. Three of the contestants were particularly brilliant. Mr. Evans claims that the Marysville vocalists are second to none.

rendered a solo, that they immediately engaged the young prima donna to appear in a concert at that city in the near future.

The royalties of Librettist Byrne, it is said, amounted to over \$20,000 last year from "Princess Nicotina" and other works. And yet people wonder what prompts the average writer and composer to spring comic operas upon an unsuspecting public.

The ranks of musical instructors will be increased after April 1, by Mr. George Moses Rockwell, who will turn his entire attention to teaching and musical work.

It is rumored that marked changes in musical features of several of the leading churches of the city will occur about the first of April. If reports are true, the general shifting will be a surprise to people interested in church music.

The Sacred Music society now numbers 600 voices. Meetings are held regularly every Tuesday evening at Y. M. C. A. hall, and the interest in the work upon "The Fall of Babylon" increases with every rehearsal.

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