

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
F. E. WOOD,
General Manager.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.
SCRANTON, MARCH 12, 1894.

THE SCRANTON OF A. D. 1900, if it would redeem those rosy expectations, will have to purge itself of the wooden block pavement.

ROBERT ROSS, MARTYR.

By its desperation in seeking, even through murder, to perpetuate itself in power the Murphy regime in Troy has not only overreached itself, but it has unmistakably lost an unexpected impetus to the whole cause of electoral reform. It has overreached itself for the reason that, although upon the blood-stained face of the manufactured returns, it has apparently succeeded in electing its man, it has caused such a recoil in public sentiment that future victory will be for many years impossible.

For a score of years, in the city of Troy, this thing went on with such unerring precision on the part of the controlling forces that honest citizenship grew discouraged and, after repeated proof of the apparent futility of its warfare, had well-nigh settled down into a condition of unfruitful apathy. Similar failure was encountered by civic reformers in Buffalo, Albany and Brooklyn; while Tammany-ridden Gotham threw out bulwarks of adamant in defence of its vicious rule. Then came the elections of last November, with their overwhelming Republican reaction. And when it was seen that the constitutional convention would not be converted by Hill, Murphy and their agents, into a frightful mechanism for the forging of new political fetters, but instead be unexpectedly dominated by reputable and intelligent civilians, bent solely upon restoring and protecting municipal liberty, there came new hope and cheer and stimulus to the friends of franchise purification and they girded themselves anew for further battle against bossism.

In this revisiting what are already familiar facts it is the Tribune's aim to show that the election of Murphy's man, Molloy, is one of those dubious victories that cost more than a dozen defeats. What will be its influence upon the May constitutional convention? Will it not redouble the zeal with which that notable body—notable in its membership, notable in its opportunity and doubly notable in its promise of far-reaching good results—will undertake its weighty task? Will it not in every state add strength to the growing demand for a pure ballot and for an honest count? Unless we greatly err in our interpretation of the temper of the plain people, of those men who yet believe in government by a fair majority, and who await only the proper signal to fly at that government's despoilers, the thousands of sorrowing Trojans who last Friday followed to its tomb the body of Robert Ross and, at the side of his untimely grave placed across his coffin the suggestive word "Martyr," were not wrong in their implied prophecy, whose fulfillment will be the avenging death of bossism as a municipal evil.

PERHAPS IT'S because they run their cars so fast that many trolley managers go so slow on street car fenders.

IN THE case of Brockbridge free trade seems to have gone hand in hand with free love.

THE BANNER COUNTY.

Under the terms of a circular issued Feb. 2 by the campaign committee of the Young Republicans of Philadelphia, Thomas L. Hicks, chairman, a handsome silk banner was offered to the Republican committee of the county showing the largest percentage of votes for Mr. Grow, comparison to be made upon the vote cast last November for Colonel Jackson. The fortunate county, as we learn from a second circular, is rock-ribbed Northampton, the home of that curious economic enigma, Howard Mutchler.

This county last fall cast 3,761 votes for Jackson, while last month's vote for Grow rose to 6,334, a gain of 68.94 per cent. The next best showing was made by Democratic Elk, where 922 votes for

Jackson were superseded by 1,381 votes for Grow, a gain of 49.78 per cent. Berks came third with a gain of 46,815 per cent., Columbia fourth with a gain of 44,176 per cent., and Little Pike fifth with a gain of 39,446 per cent. Luzerne county is fifteenth with a gain of 23,201 per cent., and Lackawanna twenty-second with a gain of 11,229 per cent., her vote for Jackson, 11,233, having been increased to 12,499 for Grow.

It has been suggested that a fairer basis of computation would have been to have given the banner to the county showing the largest apparent Republican gain. Upon such a basis Luzerne and Lackawanna would both have ranked much higher in the list. But this was not the offer made, nor would it have been rewarding, since it would have rewarded not a real Republican gain so much as a Democratic falling off. Those Democrats who were too much disgusted to vote would thus have cut a larger figure in the award than Republican converts. Upon the whole, it is gratifying to see that the largest real gains have in every instance been made in Democratic strongholds. That is where gains count.

IN THE DEATH, last week, of John Torrey, Wayne county lost a public spirited citizen, of ripe experience, liberal views and untiring activity. Mr. Torrey belonged to a family noted for its energy, shrewdness and enterprise; but his own successful career honestly gave it additional renown.

MR. CLEVELAND is fortunate in the selection of John H. Mullin for the titanic postmaster-general. Prominent in business, an ex-burgess, one of the foremost factors of the Pittston fire department, and for many years its chief, Mr. Mullin brings to his new office well-balanced experience and the general confidence of the public. Since the fortunes of war render the selection of a Democrat inevitable, we can think of no Democrat better fitted for the trust.

TO CROAKERS each new estimate of Scranton real estate values is the high water mark. Meanwhile, those values climb incessantly upward, and Scranton, generally, climbs upward with them. But, then, Scranton always was an unfortunate city for the croakers.

THE TINKERED TARIFF.

Secretary Carlisle estimates that the Wilson bill as it emerges from the Senate will produce between \$170,000,000 and \$185,000,000 of annual revenue. The Wilson bill as it left the house would, as he figures it, have raised only \$129,000,000. A conservative estimate of the average annual expenses of the national government places them at \$490,000,000. Supposing, then, that in round figures, the senate bill meets those expenses, the question naturally arises, how has the senate increased the revenue contemplated by the Wilson bill from \$129,000,000, which was approximately the amount as the bill left the house, to \$185,000,000, as it stands today? Where and how did it get the additional \$56,000,000?

To begin with, the imposition of a cent and one-fifth duty on raw and refined sugar will, at one blow, produce \$42,000,000 of new revenue, since in the house bill sugar was placed on the free list. It will, in fact, do more than this. It will entrench the Havemeyer sugar trust so firmly in its present monopoly of the American sugar refining industry, under the advantage its large surplus capital gives it in paying the duty on the raw imported material, that consumers may reasonably expect the retail price of sugar to advance two cents per pound, should this senate bill become a law. This would enable the sugar trust to reap even more than 88 per cent. annual profit on its actual capital, as it did last year, besides placing an enormous burden upon the working man by reason of the increased cost of a prime household necessity.

For the other \$7,000,000 of extra revenue the senate tariff bill looks chiefly to increased importations under a low tariff. That is to say, by way of illustration, if imports, under a 47 per cent. tariff are, let us suppose, \$500,000,000, giving us \$235,000,000 in gross revenue, by lowering the tariff to 29 per cent. the imports might increase to \$1,200,000,000, thereby giving us \$552,000,000 gross revenue; whereby, according to Democratic belief, we should be \$15,000,000 the gainer. The erroneousness of this reasoning consists in the supposition that we, as a nation, could afford to have our importations doubled or tripled, since every extra dollar thus sent out of the country in payment for foreign-made goods would be a dollar subtracted from profitable home circulation, from wage-paying home usefulness.

Thus, in either view, the Democratic senate bill is false and harmful. True, the reconstructed bill is better than the original Wilson bill in some minor particulars. It is also a better revenue producer, and to that extent more strictly conforms with the Democratic party's Chicago platform pledge. But it is unpardonably vicious in its thrusting of the heavy burden of taxation upon the laboring classes, whose sugar is made one-third more expensive in order that a corporate trust which contributed largely to the Democratic campaign fund, might multiply its inordinate profits by two. And it is fundamentally wrong in its assumption that American consumers can buy cheap English imported goods after the cessation of home industry shall have them no money with which to do the purchasing.

Either contention would condemn it. Both combined brand it as almost madly ruinous and unwise.

MAJOR ISAAC B. BROWN'S voluntary withdrawal as a candidate for secretary of internal affairs, clarifies the outlook and puts the party under new obligations to the gallant major himself.

VICARIOUS TAXATION.

Unless Colonel Sizerly shall instruct his Record editors to desist from asking troublesome party questions, he may himself yet feel the need of a powerful harmonizer. One of these editorial subordinates, with most uncomfortable curiosity, wants to know what "has so suddenly come over the spirit of the Democracy, causing them to embrace what they so recently denounced and diatribe?"

And then he asks, "Is an income tax any more constitutional now than when it was a measure of the Republican party?"

But if you think that is the full measure of his temerity, listen to this: "The Republicans could plead, at least, the emergency of a great war, and the loss of revenues from imports because of the heavy decline of foreign trade. No such plea can be made now. A tariff for revenue, with moderate excise taxes on whisky and tobacco, would provide amply for all expenditures of the government, without any need to resort to an extraordinary and odious mode of taxation which lies under the condemnation of the Democratic party."

If we really thought the Record editor wanted a direct reply to these interrogatory exclamations of dissent; if we, indeed, fancied he was a honest seeker after truth, he should have let on one's own tongue to give him the light that he now pretends to grope for. We should, in that event, tell him that the present "spirit of the Democracy" is essentially the spirit of Artemus Ward when he wanted to crush out the cruel rebellion if he sacrificed all his wife's relations. We should remind him that that spirit is eagerly solicitous to put the burdens of taxation on the other fellow and to devote its time in spending the proceeds thereof. But we suspect the knows this already, and, like any honest man, is as much disgusted with it as he dare be while under salary to expound Democracy's doctrines.

Vicarious taxation is a fertile factor in Democratic economics.

PERHAPS IT IS due to the proverbial close mindedness of Wilkes-Barreans that they have not yet entered a bid for the Jackson Corbett prize fight. They appear to have every other requisite, including a district attorney who never hears of pugilistic events until afterward; police who are willing, in return for free admission, to officiate as bottle holders, referees or masters of ceremonies; and a gymnasium in the center of the city wherein the many art proceeds without hint of interruption, even to "mills" that, in the matter of gore, would push an abattoir hard for honors.

IT IS NOT easy to see what immediate good can come from a monotonous series of journalistic curtain lectures, apparently addressed to members of select council upon the assumption that they do not know their duty and are unwilling to learn. We do not, ourselves, believe that such an assumption, laying aside the question of its propriety, is even half-way correct.

IT IS WORTH noting that while there are Democratic factions of all creeds, beliefs, sizes and kinds, each struggling to have the uppermost voice in the regulation of government, there is only one Republican party and only one view to be taken of its credentials. It wants a protected currency, a protected home market, a protected home wage, a protected loyal veteran, a protected ballot and an honest count.

IT WOULD be a blow at every wage-earner to put a tariff on sugar, because sugar is one of the necessities that we do not produce in competing quantities at home. But even this blow would be enduring, if the Democratic tariff tinkers would put adequate protection on work and wages.

SECRETARY BARNARD, of the Grand Masonic lodge of Illinois, says plainly that Mrs. Leese lies when she says she is a Mason. If this, from the Populist standpoint, is ungalant, Mrs. Leese can presumably put and cry.

OF THE \$2,701,996.82 spent by the taxpayers of Pennsylvania during the last nineteen years upon the printing of official public documents, dare anybody hazard a guess as to what percentage was absolutely wasted?

CHARGING the workmen more for his food and then cutting down his opportunities for getting living wages is the queer any tariff reform goes at it.

TRADITIONAL OPINIONS as to southern chivalry seem, in view of the Breckinridge case, to be in need of unpleasant revision.

SENATOR MURPHY'S reverberating silence is not construed as a token of complete innocence.

AND BY the by, what has become of that Robinson gubernatorial boom?

FOUND and Then Noted.

The season at Nay Aug Falls showed signs of emulating the budding arboreal yesterday. Although the Traction company did not encourage springtime exuberance by running cars to the falls there was quite a gathering of untimely small boys about the gorge who celebrated the day in characteristic style by slaughtering a dog whose good name had been ruined by the assertion that the unfortunate cur was mad. In spite of unpleasant episodes it is a pleasure to state that the falls are still promising as a popular summer resort and are ripe for improvement. Good citizens generally will hail the day that Nay Aug park is opened with proper police protection as a resort for descent people who desire an occasional breath of fresh air in summer time and is no longer the rounding up place for tramps and hoodlums.

The pneumatic-tired wheel and excellent pavements of Scranton have enabled enthusiastic bicyclists to enjoy speeding on their wheels without interruption almost the year around. In this respect the Electric City has for several seasons been unsurpassed save, perhaps, by Washington; and Scranton stands high among American wheelmen in this respect as well as in the matter of the hospitality of its citizens. During the last few pleasant days there has been a marked increase in the number of wheels seen on the streets and avenues, and many of the summer riders are now taking daily spins up and down the asphalt-paved thoroughfares. Scranton has taken kindly to cycling since the date of the first craze and the safety machine was not necessary to make the sport popular, as a large club in this city risked life and limb upon the Columbia and British wheels long before the safety was thought of.

Colonel George Sanderson was

among the first business men to become enthusiastic over the machine which was at the time regarded as a plaything. Colonel Sanderson was captain of the Scranton Bicycle Club in its palmy days when tournaments were numerous and Jacob Schlager was winning glory and medals for Scranton right and left upon the race track. At that period the safety was unknown and it required nerve to ride a wheel. With the introduction of the small wheel and inflated tire the utility of the machine for exercise and rapid transit was at once recognized by the solid men and its popularity has never waned.

Prominent among the well known admirers of cycling may be mentioned Rev. W. G. Partridge, of the Post Avenue Baptist church. The eloquent young minister seldom lets a week day pass without taking exercise upon his wheel, and his bronzed countenance and robust frame are the best evidence of the benefits of cycling. N. A. Halbert, the music dealer; J. A. Lamsie, of the Stratton store; Dr. J. W. Coollidge, Attorney C. S. Woodruff, Prothonotary Pryor, Deputy Myron Kasson, Charles Powell, music dealer; Charles Chandler, Will J. Welch, W. W. Berry, jeweler; Fred C. Hand, B. P. Connolly, H. C. Wallace, and A. A. Thompson, of the Car Tracers association, are noticed among the riders who in pleasant weather use the wheel almost entirely in going to and from business.

It is intimated that the price of wheels is to be greatly reduced this season. In that case it is probable that the number of machines will be greatly increased, especially in circles that utilize wheels for business purposes.

IT IS easier to criticize the best thing superbly than to do the smallest thing indifferently. There is no class of persons so vindictive, so heartless in their criticisms as musicians. It is almost impossible for a musician of merit to remain in Scranton. Every person who sings or plays feels perfectly free to attack the man or woman whom they regard as their competitor in a most relentless manner, making satirical remarks and statements that are wicked and ungenerous.

The music at Elm Park has been the joy of the whole city. Prof. Carter has been an inspiration to everybody; his playing is superb. There is a pathos and a tenderness in his execution that lifts his auditors above the sordid and temporal and places them in rapport with higher and better thoughts. A great character is always eccentric and peculiar. The man who says the right thing, who acts with perfect propriety at all times, who is restful in his work and satisfactory to everybody, is never a reformer or a genius.

Professor Carter, like every great musician, is not a financier or a diplomat. The Elm Park church congregation is entirely satisfied with Mr. Carter. The best of feeling exists between the organist and music committee; and the large audience that listen to his recitals are evidence that his playing is appreciated by all who love music. It is a pleasure to note that his engagement at the Elm Park church promises to be a permanent one.

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They were talking about the vanity of woman, and one of the few ladies present undertook a defence. "Of course," said she, "I admit the women are vain and men are not. Why," she added with a glance around, "the necktie of the handsomest man in the room is even now up the back of his collar," and she smiled—for every man present put his hand up to the back of his neck. That proves it. We being men are no exception. What we are vain of, however, is this: Being able to offer

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