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SCHANTON, APRIL 7, 1894.

The Telephone Problem.

A good many persons throughout the country are beginning to feel that if the expiration of the Ball Telephone patents is to result a general cheaponing of the cost of the public telephone service, some evidences of this fact ought to begin to appear. Some time ago, as we then announced, agents of a New York company visited Carbondale with the prospectus of a new telephone system which promised to reduce the rental of 'phones to from \$1.50 up to \$3 per month, the former figure relating to phones used in residences and the latter being the maximum rental of 'phones placed in a public office or store, We have been unable to learn the result of this visit, but two other facts that greet our eye in the news dispatches possess passing inter-

At Washington, this state, the Cen-tral District and Printing Telegraph company had heratofore possessed a monopoly of the telephone business. It refused to offer a lower rental than \$60 a year. Several days ago a number of Washington capitalists organized a company and obtained a competing franchise. Thereupon the older company reduced the rates on residence 'phones from \$50 to \$35 The second fact bearing on this question is noticed in a dispatch from Easton asserting that the Stroudsburg and Bushkill Telephone company had decided to establish a uniform yearly rental of \$24 In neither case are we informed as to the quality of the service to be rendered at the reduced prices; but with competition operating as a constant stimulus it is presumable that the service will not materially deteri-

In the local field, during the discursion of the pole tax proposition, it was repeatedly stated by the officials of the Central Telephone company that continual improvements and changes had so eaten into their revenues as to leave nothing like a satisfactory margin of profit. At the same time there has been more or less dissatisfaction with the service, particularly on stormy days. The fault in this matter probably does not lie with the company itself, since similar complaint is made wherever wires are strung overhead and connected with the old type of transmitter. But it has a tendency, nevertheless, to make the average telephone subscriber impatient for the day when decreased royalties to rich inventors will enable local exchanges to put in better instrumente at a rental if possible below that now charged.

No pourt we shall hear a scream of joy from Brother Zimmerman, the courtly and amnable editor of the Reading Times, now that a census bulletin has given Reading a larger rating than Scranton in a table showing the valuations of various municipalities, for purposes of taxation. The rating of Reading is \$31,654 001, while that of Secanton is only \$15,758,237. With a view to anticipating any premature bilarity on the colonel's part we beg to ask him what the basis of assessment is in Reading, whether on full value or only half value? These facts should be made known before any invidious distinctions are drawn.

Jack Robinson's Views.

Dashing Jack Robinson has accepted the gannilet thrown down in the public declaration of David Martin, the Philadelphia leader, in behalf of Walter Lyon. This is what he says: "I went to say, without any desire to overestimate or exaggerate the political sitnation or to turn it in my favor, that I am perfectly well satisfied with the outlook. I entered the contest with the written and verbal assurance of my friend, Colonel Quay that, there would passed make temporary relief an absobe no interference on his part. It is also true that Colonel Quay's son, Hon. Dick Quay, has been very active for Walter Lyon. This activity upon his part should be understood. Personally and socially he and Senator Lyon have been very close for a number of years. While I do not think it is very good taste for Dick to be active in behalf of any candidate, for the reason that his movements and admissions are interpreted as the acts of his father, yet I do not think that, so far, he has done me a very great amount of harm. Among Mr. Quay's stanch friends who are for me there is not one who has been influenced by the action of Dick. They believe that Senator Quay is absolutely to be relied on when he once gives assurance of fair play and an open field."

Continuing, Mr. Robinson remarks: "The situation is just this. The Republican voters of the state of Pennsylvania do not think that Mr. Quay has any preference as to who should be lieutenant governor, provided he is not a political enemy of his, Both Senator Lyon and myself have been political friends of Mr. Quay for a long time. Before the convention time comes I expect support at every place. There is not a corner of the state that I am not at work in or where my friends are not pushing for me. In regard to Mr. Lyon personally, I have the highest appreciation for him, but I do really think that it has been demonstrated already that unless he can get the active interference and interposition in his behalf of objectionable influences west, who does not know that I can let go to fight it out in the open clearing. I expect, and so do all my friends,

SCRANTON TRIBUNE against me, and, as I say, in Mr. Quay's that Luzerne will get left. In the first case, non-interference has been positively promised,"

Asked if he thought there would be any danger of a revolt this year similar to the one in 1890, Mr. Robinson of Lansford. replied: "None whatsoever. Whoever is nominated on the ticket this year will be elected; some by larger majorities than others, some candidates more cordially than others; but the Cleve-

land times will carry through almost any candidate who is put upon the ticket. But this very confidence of success and security of Republican position should suggest to the lenders not to try experiments or put personalities above party demands. In other words, we should not be too proud or haughty over the Republican conditions in Pennsylvania. It is due entirely to the menace of the Wilson bill. ture; but if she essays to enact Ophelia | That defeated or avoided, the Republican majority in Pennsylvania is not more than 30,000."

These views are presented, in justice to Mr. Robinson, whom many Scran-tonians admire. They do not call for comment. All that is wanted is a fair field and no favors. Then may the best

ONE EFFECT of the general depression in Democratic ambition should be a decision on the part of Republicans everywhere to put their best candidates foremost. There is no trouncing like a complete trouncing-that is to say, when the victims are Democrats.

One Momentous Change. Wheeler H. Peckham, of the New York bar, whom Mr. Cieveland named for associate justice of the United States supreme court, publicly charges Tammany with extorting large sums of blackmail from various business men in New York city. He says he knows positively of one corporation which pays \$50 000 for the privilege of pursuing its business in freedom from official interruption; and he intimates that another corporation, the Metropolitan Telephone company, pays annually a similar sum.

The new thing about this type of asscriion, the thing that today possesses general significa toe, is that it is made orealy and without reserve. Ten years ago men, if they knew of such facts at all, took case to speak of them in guarded whispers or to fortify their timidity behind the indirection of a bint. Even five years ago it was the enstom of the great majority of New York business and professional men to shrug their shoulders when confronted by the Temmany issue, and indicate either in words or gestures that the safest policy toward conceded abuses was acquiescence.

For the change which in so remarkably short time has been brought about, the change which, in only a few months has put the once deliant bosses in the position, not of fords, but of fugitives, jail birds or suppliants, we are indebted in great measure to one man. Aimest unknown and almost alone, he undertook the task of municipal purification, coming to it from the quiet atmosphere of a minister's study, where peace, gentility and unbroken tranquility had hitherto been the happy incidents of his career. To look even now to the first hold challenge issued by Dr. compared with which he seemed then the merest pigmy, gives the spectator a new insignt into the sublime power of truth and a firmer grasp on the eter nal verities of justice and right.

FROM THIS time on local politics will doubtless receive the undivided attention of the Luckawanna county cambalgu liar, and popular dissount should be applied accordingly.

As to Out Door Reliaf.

The esteemed Altoona Tribune thinks there "is not an intelligent sindent of sociology in the country who does not believe the out door relief system a victous and expensive method of spreading pauperism, and one almost certain to result in corruption." Is not this a sweeping statement? An intell igent student of sociology who sits on the bench of Lackawanna county believes to the contrary; and his recent opinion sustaining the power of the Scranton Poor board to grant outdoor relief was received with general approval by persons who do not place much confidence in the poor houses over the hitl.

There is a good deal to be said on both sides of this question. While it would be desirable to have sufficient business prosperity to render out-door relief unnecessary, crises such as that through which our country has just lute necessity in many cases. It is quite possible to draw too delicate a distinction in this matter. Were poor be, and were there, also, a sufficiently exaited public sentiment to admit that deserving paupers and unfortunates are to be respected and not ansered at. it would no doubt be possible to do without out-door relief and to mass atl victims of poverty in public institutions of refuge.

Unhappily, those ideal conditions do Columbus and Washington and the not exist. We are compelled to take other small boy, who have to go on people as we find them; and we find a majority of them entertaining an unconquerable repugnance to being carted away in disgrace and hoarded with good, had and indifferent fellowvictims in the contemnad abode of unfortunates. It should certainly not be the desire of public charity to undermine the self respect of those to whom tit ministers. And while, in pursuance of a contrary policy, abuses may develop and corruption form, is there real like lihood that the poor house system would be less objectionable on these counts?

Rhode Island's relemption was signified by a smaller majority than Mr. Grow got, mainly because Rhode Island had not enough voters to make it

INPOLITICAL circles the story is corrent that Collector Herring will not give Luzerne county the deputyship belonging to it and Carbon, for the reason that he doesn't fancy the ardent manner in which Luzerne Democrats he cannot win this fight. There is not stuck to Conniff. We cannot pretend a politician in Pennsylvania, east or to believe that this rumor is true. Upon the contrary, nothing in Mr. defeat Mr. Lyon if the two of us are Herring's disposition encourages the belief that he dislikes a good fighter or would punish any man for being loyal and the superfluous mud would fill to that this influence will not be used to his friends. At the same time we the high school cave very satisfied-against me. It ought not to be used would be willing to wager a toothpick torily. Heles Wayne.

place that is a Luzerne habit. And in the second place we have it on very good authority that at this writing the deputyship is slated for Editor Molloy,

In PERUSING the columns of a Wilkes-Barre contemporary we notice that Luzerne's capital has just been edifial by the organization of a Kickers' club. Its membership is made up of those who have, it is said, kicked over the traces of every other organization that they have ever been in, and who now propose to reduce this peculiarity down to the delicate proportions of a fine art This may be merely a facetion; explanation: but it is obvious that som: such an arrangement, serio usly entered into, would greatly conduce to the betterment of mankind. The Kicker may be a necessary institution, but he would look much better if herded by himself.

M/HAT ONE Woman Hears

I have had several letters the past week asking me to give my real opinon of girls who work in men's offices as typewriters and assistants. I don't see how my unknown correspondents can expect me to give my "real opinion" upon this subject in any other words than to remark that there's nothing the matter with the typewriter if she's all right. It is only occasionally that you find a young woman employed in an office where she is alone with her employer the larger part of the time; and my actual opinion is that it would be better if these cases were still more exceptional. In the of-fice which I brighten with my presence I see many persons who are coming and going at all hours, and who pay no more attention to me than it I were the radiator, the revolving top of the desk or any other appurtenance of the room. Most of the visitors are men, too, but if they are interested in any ypewriter it evidently isn't Helen.

My employer, who I believe is fond f women's society in general, but not in particular, to quote his wife, picked ne out for my business qualifications, and not for my looks, as to my best knowledge and belief he has never looked at me since I entered upon my luties some time ago. Perhaps you will recognize his portrait when I teli you that he has a habit of looking in any other direction than into the face of the person to whom he may be

But, to return to the subject, I really nd truly think that it would be better or the typewriter, and everybody else concerned, if she would insist upon eing stationed in a public office where the may be seen by many people, than to withdraw to a less consplenous one where she and her employer are thrown into each other's society. One must ither dislike or love a man exceedingly o endure such companionship very

And, speaking about men, perhaps it it a disgression to state that the mem-bers of that Breckinridge-Pollard jury are never going to bring in a verdiet of heavy damages for the plaintiff in the world. Some of them will be sure to reason that, one of these days, they may be in the same position as that now occupied by the white-haired defend-

The typewriter plays a prominent part in this case, you notice. I'm glad 406 SPRUCE STREET she seems disposed to tell the truth Parkhurst against vices and influences | about the business, but I must say that I never yet have been asked to invade love letters. As a rule most men seem to prefer to give themselves away by their own handwriting, rather than by means of a typewriter, who is apt to live long enough to tell about it in ourt. Lawyers are dreadfully sharp about writing letters that are likely to incriminate them, but they ought to earn to run a type machine themselves f they must carry on love affairs where a correspondence is necessary. The e is a little less individuality about the inachine than about the girl who manipulates it and the machine basn't is good a memory as the girl.

Talking of lawyers reminds me of preachers and I am moved to remark that is too bad the theatre people forgot to arrange for every night next week to be filled with performers, for they say there are to be several hundred preachers more or less in the city and many of them come from the country, poor things, where they naver get a chance to see a good show or in fact to have any amusement more wildly exhiberating than the sawing society, the Sunday school picate or their annual donation should think the managers would have been more coniderate, No daubt Mr. Frothingham would send the whole delegation com-plimentary tickets if he had thought of it sooner. Kate Claxton's "Two Orphans" may be rather depressing in pots, but still they may enjoy it.

Mr. Powderly, Shortstop Brooks and he Sheridan Bifles are destined to preserve Scranton from going down into oblivion. If the people here at nome forget to have these names inscribed on the tombstones of their houses always conducted as they should | memory-(is that the correct similar) they will not be allowed to thus suffer from similar neglect in other places. Base ball will survive when the pole ordinance, Rice's Surprise party, and the effacions of our local posts are forgotten. Mr. Powderly will be remembered after workingmen's organizations cease, while the status of Sheridan will be admired when foot above their pedestals, are of no account by the side of those who can ride on a fine curyeting charger.

Equestrian statues ought naturally to be regarded with approbation. There is more to em, and we Scrantonians like to get as much as possible for our money. I only hope they will secure a horse that is not too bow-legcel, like one of the statues of which

we are already the proud possessors

There are just three men in this town—no more—who should be voted a statu+ in Nay Aug park or on the Court House square. You may guest who they are.

I can't see that Mayor Connell mitted any unimportant recommendation in his message except the suppres-sion of the hardy gurdy woman and of linemen who climb poles for the purpose of dropping hammers and monkey wrenches upon the heads of unoff-sud-ing passers-by. He might also have suggested the introduction of a clause of the cabmen ordinance to apply likewise to extortionate aldermen. I wish be had specified what part of the \$40,-000 needed for street repairs should be expended on the crossing near THE TRIBUNE building and the old postoffice over Spruce street. I positively dread coming down this way every week with my copy. Two or three thousand dollars would fix it up in good style

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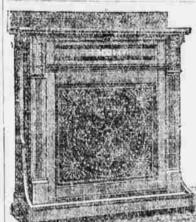
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