

SCRANTON TRIBUNE  
F. E. WOOD,  
General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, APRIL 13, 1891.

When Judge Woodman, of Luzerne, once facetiously declared that Scranton had no limits, he must have been thinking of Scranton mail.

The Bar Banquet.

Although young in years, Lackawanna county's bar-enrollees within its ranks some of the most distinguished and also some of the most promising attorneys in northeastern Pennsylvania. It has been a bar famed for its enterprise, cordiality and aggressiveness. In the busy period attendant upon the organization of a new county and later in the rapid development of a relatively young community, its members have not had, as yet, that long leisure in which profound scholarship is nurtured, they have at least demonstrated their insatiable energy, their irresistible vim and their extreme love for tolerance and fair play. When they work they work with a fervor that carries success by storm, and when, as at last evening's annual banquet, they relax the dignity that customarily begets them about, it is to reveal an equal capacity for frank, honest and hearty good-fellowship.

It is a happy omen of Lackawanna's professional destiny that this county and this city are steadily drawing to themselves and assimilating the best talent and the best character that the entire circumambient region can supply. Among the responses at last evening's festive gathering none was in a happier vein than that in which Judge Seely treated the theme "Legal Fictions" and yet he could with equal aptness have explained why it was that he exchanged the quiet atmosphere of picturesque Wayne for the surcharged air of busy Lackawanna; and why it is that in all the counties that form our neighborhood rising ability in all the learned professions looks to a residence in Scranton as its ultimate destination and reward. We repeat that this natural gravitation of genius to the metropolis of the northeast is a hopeful and happy omen; and in no direction does it afford greater promise than in the enrichment of our bar, already gaining rapid recognition in a state famed afar for the number and brilliancy of its jurists and practitioners.

The conditions of our growth have been such that we greatly need amenities like that of last night. The period when any professional man could gain immunity from fraternal duties by the plea of extraordinary private business was passed in this country and is fast passing in this county. The inevitable softness of pleasure conditions has given way to a broader and more liberal fellowship, as true in the law as it is true in medicine or trade in the theological sentiment of the sects. Fraternization in the workshop of the hour; men of all kinds are "getting to-gether" and the radius of the wall flower is becoming an exception devoid of honor. In this happy commingling of self-interest upon a plane of common good will the Lackawanna bar-enrollees have played a prominent and creditable part, of which last evening's instance was most happy in all its aspects.

Lawyer BIRD'S reforms of gigantic street sidewalks has won many converts of late.

COUNCILMEN generally agree that no other feature of our municipal government is so badly administered as the street cleaning department. This does not necessarily imply that the men in that department do not do their duty. Possibly in some respects they could improve; but the great fault undoubtedly is that Scranton has outgrown the methods now in vogue, and needs newer and larger and more effective ones. Streets cannot be made without straw, nor can the hundreds of miles of streets in a constantly enlarging city be kept presentable without liberal appropriations. For public's sake, if not for the general convenience, Scranton ought to begin to emancipate herself from the annoying present servitude to mud, dust and squal.

Even the weather nowadays seems to share in the general uncertainty.

Acknowledging a Compliment.

In the course of his remarks at the city social session Wednesday evening Mr. John D. Miesler, head of the gifted theatrical manager, dramatic critic, journalist and litterateur, took occasion to pay a tribute to the newspapers of Scranton to which they can, without impropriety, gratefully allude. Speaking with the authority of a man of wide observation, extensive experience and conspicuous personal success, Mr. Miesler contrasted the public spirit which has made Scranton what it is, with the sluggishness noticed in several less enterprising cities having twice Scranton's population, and then added in substance:

"There has, it is true, been some rivalry at various times between Scranton and Reading. I think it is largely a pleasant rivalry, cultivated perhaps by the newspapers; certainly, it does not amount to bitterness and leaves neither city the worse for its stimulating existence. And right here, if I may be pardoned the digression, I want to say a word for the newspapers of Scranton. In point of comprehensiveness, brightness and unflagging devotion to the public interests of your city, they constitute a public resource of which you can never overestimate the value. The papers of Scranton are wonderful productions for a city of Scranton's size, and you who live here and share in the good that they do in advertising the community ought to be proud that you have such a progressive local press."

A tribute like this, coming without ulterior motive from a visitor who knows

journalistic value when he sees it, is not to be despised; and for The Tribune's part it is one of which we are somewhat vain. It does not overstep the fact that each one of the four daily newspapers of Scranton regularly contributes more to the city in way of publicity for Scranton's numerous advantages as a residence center, and in way also of voluntary advocacy of needed public improvements, than is contributed by any other single business agency within the municipal limits. Invariably the first thing by which any community is judged by those who visit it for the first time, or who make distant inquiry, is its newspapers; and Scrantonians most certainly need not shun this test.

There are times when this free contribution of valuable space to public purposes, albeit as some may say a dictation of policy, seems like a waste of generosity. There are times—and these are not rare times—when the men who publish newspapers feel downcast at the apparently trifling valuation put upon this work by the public it benefits. Yet such a token of recognition as that spontaneously proffered in the comments of Mr. Miesler proves that the thinking people are with them; and that, in the end, recognition will not be scant.

Judge HARRIS is so well pleased with Senator Quay's recent refusal to sit in unusual senatorial session for the avowed purpose of enacting a law that would destroy Pennsylvania's industries that he has addressed to him an open letter of praise. This is a new kind of epistle for the junior senator to receive; and as he contrasts it with those three open letters of oblongation with which he used to be belabored, by many earnest correspondents, a smile must flit across his impassive countenance at this striking evidence of time's pleasant revenge.

As to That Viaduct.

It is not desired by any advocate of the proposed West Lackawanna viaduct to have the city work injudiciously to any affected property owner. Neither is it desired to have the viaduct matter shunted through councils blindly. Careful and conservative inquiry should be made as to the damages that would result in case the viaduct is built; and if it be ascertained that the project is not now feasible, the subject can be postponed until a more auspicious period.

There are many who feel that a viaduct at the West Lackawanna avenue railroad crossing would be a desirable public improvement. There are others who hold that it would, in the end, cost more than it would be worth, particularly in view of the fact that the opening of the Linden street bridge will at no distant day offer a convenient means of escape. These different opinions ought naturally to be given due consideration.

For this reason, an exhaustive inquiry seems not only wise, but necessary. We have favored the viaduct because it has appeared to be a desirable improvement. But if it would involve the city in possible damages in excess of its worth to the community, then it would obviously prove a bad business investment. The question is purely a business question. Let it be thoroughly investigated from a business standpoint.

PEPPER'S PLAN of a cross-federal railroad on which all the unemployed could get work doubtless has in view the purpose of taxing the rich to make the engine go.

MAJOR BUTTERWORTH seems to be trying to make up for the utter weakness of his own familiar bluster. No one begrudges him the earning of this fee.

Where Praise is Due.

Dedicating a text from the recent Arcade fire, one local journal and several neighboring contemporaries have commented with more or less severity upon the present fire department of the city of Scranton, and have proceeded, some seriously but many satirically, to advocate the adoption of a regular, paid service. As to the need of the latter improvement there is no dissent. The present department frankly admits that it could do better work, if organized upon a strictly business basis, with ample pay for all services rendered; then it can do more, while a portion at least of the voluntarily membership is compelled to look for support to other employers, giving to the city only such time as they can conveniently spare.

Nobody, therefore, opposes a paid fire department, least of all the officials and the rank and file of the present volunteer department. Any comment in favor of this needed municipal advance will receive very general commendation, whenever the finances of the city are in a condition to warrant the extra expense. But, in order to bring this change about, it is really necessary to pitch in and abate the services it now exists, charging it with being less efficient than it actually is? Can we not prepare the way to a paid service without abusing those who now generously protect us without pay?

As a matter of fact, there are remarkably few cities in the United States which have a more industrious, loyal and self-sacrificing corps of volunteer firemen than are those who constitute the great majority in our present service. Time without number they have dared risks and performed feats for which no recognition would be too profuse. The Arcade fire might have been prevented had there been a paid department, and it might not. The evidence on this point is meagre and inconclusive. But it is tolerably safe to wager that no paid department anywhere in the United States, without a single exception, could have done better work than did our volunteer firemen in confining that vicious fire to the one building in which it originated; and in preserving the adjacent walls from almost the slightest semblance of injury.

Let us be just in this matter.

COUNCILMAN GREEN, last evening showed his loyalty to the Scranton Times, which is entirely proper in its way; now let him show an equal regard for his other constituents.

HAVING FAILED as a snap convention pucker, Senator Hill now tries the lofty statesman role, and unexpectedly makes the hit of his career.

GOSSIP  
Of Politicians.

The Scranton Republican yesterday made formal announcement of the candidacy of its senior proprietor and editor-in-chief, Joseph A. Scranton, for a re-nomination. The Republican said in part: "During the past few weeks many of the influential leaders of the Republican party of Lackawanna county, as well as large numbers of representatives of the rank and file, have manifested an earnest desire that Mr. Scranton should permit his name to go before the people as a candidate for re-nomination. Within the past few days the movement assumed such proportions, was supported by Republicans of such prominence throughout the district, and a favorable decision so urgently pressed, that Mr. Scranton yielded the dismission he had formerly expressed to entering into any other campaign. Having formally placed himself at the disposal of the party he now makes this public announcement that his name will come before the ensuing Republican convention for re-nomination."

An impression that the list of candidates for the district attorneyship competition on the Republican ticket has been recently abridged has prevailed of late, but careful inquiry among party leaders proves that this opinion is incorrect. A free field and no favors await any or all of the various estimable gentlemen who have been mentioned as aspirants. Among these are Milton M. Lowry, George M. Watson, A. Colburn, Jr., James B. Barr, J. Elliott Ross and John R. Jones.

The Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer claims to have inside information to the effect that Collector Herring is preparing soon to replace Peter Ginter, who has served faithfully in the internal revenue department for more than twenty years, with a Democratic partisan. The information is given for what it is worth.

Announcement is made in a Harrisburg paper that Justice James B. Ebert, delegate from the second Luzerne district to the Republican state convention, will support his personal friend, Colonel John Stewart of Mont gomery, for the lieutenant governorship. Colonel Stewart's name is known to be favorably considered by many as a likely compromise candidate, in case the Lyon-Robinson battle should wax too warm for comfort. The Luzerne delegation is now believed to stand as follows: Lyon I, Stewart 1 and Robinson 1.

Prominent Republicans in Carbondale are agitating the organization of a representative Republican club, and it is probable that practical steps will soon be taken. It is the aim to organize a permanent club, secure a permanent home and make the organization a permanent force in the local dissemination of sound political principles. The magnificent success which has characterized the establishment of the Central Republican club of this city would seem to point to a corresponding career of usefulness for a similar club in Carbondale, if rightly organized and managed.

Captain John C. Delaney, formerly of Dunmore, and later receiver of public moneys at Oklahoma City, has leased the Shoenor mansion at Cottage Ridge, one of the best suburbs of Harrisburg, and will make that city his permanent residence. Captain Delaney is one of the most astute politicians in the state; and it is currently rumored that Governor Hearings will not forget him when he also moves to the capital.

Walter Lyon is credited with allowing his hearing Media opponent only 38 delegates out of the 201 who will constitute the next state convention. Richard Quay is more generous, for he gives Robinson 61 and Lyon 300. Mr. Lyon allows Robinson only one delegate in Luzerne, whereas he has given while in his own column he places three votes from Lackawanna when it is quite well assumed that Robinson will get at least two, and he may carry the entire delegation. One thing is certain: If Robinson keeps up his record ratio of gains, he will come under the wire not far behind the winner, and will be in a good position to take a conspicuous part in the election of Senator Cameron's successor.

The Luzerne county senatorial contest promises to afford a fair and impartial test of Senator Cameron's popularity among the Republican rank and file. Since his report, the field has been narrowed down to two candidates: Keiffman, who is naturally opposed to Cameron, and Slover, who, while not committed in direct words to Cameron's re-election, is generally believed to be the beneficiary of the Cameron support.

Representative J. A. Foltz, of Clarksburg, is making a very energetic campaign for a re-nomination, and in consequence is getting a great many nice things said about him by fellow legislators and brother journalists. Mr. Foltz, fortunately, deserves every syllable of it, for he is one of the really honest, capable and level headed men in the lower house. His re-nomination would be a fitting tribute to the good work that he has done.

POLITICS IN SMALL DOSES:

Luzerne county's senatorial primaries occur next Saturday. Chris Spruce carries a \$875,000 paid-up life-insurance policy.

Chris Spruce will probably present Walter Lyon's name to the state convention.

Lyon figures his present strength at 115 votes. He would need only twenty-eight more.

Hessel may have to take the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in default of other victims.

It is now said that Postmaster General Russell will re-open the Kingston postmaster-ship matter.

Apparatus strongly favor the nomination of George S. Ferris, of West Pittston, for orphan's court judge by Luzerne Republicans.

Under the new Luzerne county rules, all Republican candidates must announce themselves at least twenty days before the primaries.

Editor Shumway, of the Pottsville Chronicle, is willing to step into Postmaster Cole's shoes, provided Mr. Bissell has no objections.

The Democratic State committee will meet at Harrisburg Monday, to elect a chairman. Deputy Attorney General Stranahan has the call.

It is intimated by First district committees that the selection of a delegate to the State convention will be made simultaneously with the nomination of a legislative candidate.

The Carbon county grand jury's indictment of Editor W. M. May, for irregularities in the printing of official tickets is said by his friends to be part of a political conspiracy to ruin his chances of preferment at the hands of Collector Herring.

Danger of Trying to Coin a Vacuum.

Washington Post.

Governor White is in a most dangerous mood when he thinks no thinks.



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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR

WE HAVE no doubt that April's intentions are good. While she shows a lamentable disposition to stop and set down on old Winter's lap occasionally, she will get here by and bye and bring some weather with her.

Oh, April! Hear our pleading call. We give it up—you've fooled us all.

In the meantime come out between the showers, or snows (as the case may be), and see what we have to make life worth living. Look at these:

Beautiful New Ducks, Striking New Galatee Cloths, Hand-made Dotted Swisses, Novel French Wool Challies, Quadruple Printed Brocaded Cashmerings, Plain and Dotted Serpentine Crepes, Scotch Crinkle Gingham, French Swivel and Lace Effect Gingham, American Creponettes, the latest, French and German Printed Flannels, American and English Swivel Silks, Irish Printed 40-inch Linens.

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