

**SCRANTON TRIBUNE**  
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 General Manager.

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**THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.**  
 SCRANTON, MAY 4, 1894.

AS MAY BE SEEN in the West Side news department this morning, a formal call was yesterday issued by the Republican committee of the First legislative district for a district convention in St. David's hall, North Main avenue, May 15 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, to nominate a candidate for the legislature to succeed Hon. John R. Farr, and also to choose a delegate to the Republican state convention. The election of delegates to this convention will take place at the regular polling places of the district on Saturday, May 19, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock p. m. Vigilance committees will govern themselves accordingly. There are forty-nine delegates to be chosen, the apportionment of which is found on page 3.

Doubtless a Misrepresentation. If we may believe a special dispatch from New Castle to the Philadelphia Press, a conference of politicians representing friends of Major McDowell from Venango, Crawford, Beaver, Erie, Mercer, Butler and Lawrence counties was held behind closed doors in the Leslie house in that city last Wednesday night. The conference decided, according to this authority, to inform Senator Quay that unless Major McDowell was kept on the ticket as a candidate for congressman-at-large there would be "live times" at the forthcoming R-republican state convention. It was intimated, among other things, that a general ball of Lyon delegates would occur, the beneficiary to be Wendell Robinson.

It strikes us from a superficial examination of this dispatch, that the information contained in it is doubtless a perversion or a misrepresentation of the truth. Several things condemn it as improbable. To begin with, there has been nothing in the present campaign to indicate that Major McDowell was being unfairly treated. No Republican of any dignity or standing has dared to assume that a nomination on the next state ticket would or could be withheld in advance of the convention, unless by the obvious drift of public sentiment. Hence the alleged decision to appeal to Senator Quay become an act of supererogation and folly of which few intelligent Republicans would be guilty. The choice between Major McDowell and Mr. Huff is not one to be closed prior to May 23, and nothing which any politician in the several counties previously mentioned could do would be sufficiently weighty in this year of grace to induce the Republicans of Pennsylvania to waive their rights of nomination and election.

Finally, the report bears its own denial in the implied threat which it contains. This is not a year for threats. Those who utter them in any narrow spirit of personal pique or disappointment, will not receive attention. The friends of Major McDowell are too intelligent and too diplomatic not to perceive that an attitude of petulance on their part would seriously interfere not only with the present chances of their immediate candidate, but also with the future prospects of each one of them. No man had stronger provocation to sulk than had Daniel H. Hastings in the summer of 1890. But he was too much of a man for sulking. He preserved at once his self-respect and his future, thereby virtually nominating himself in 1894.

This example has not yet lost its significance in the politics of our commonwealth.

THERE WILL be decided tomorrow in Mercer county a political skirmish which has attracted widespread attention. It is between A. L. Williams, of Sharon, and ex-Congressman Sam Miller, of Mercer, candidates for the Republican nomination for president judge in opposition to S. S. Mearns, the present Democratic incumbent. Ten years ago, in this strong Republican district, Mr. Mearns, then a mere stripling, defeated Mr. Miller very emphatically, although Blaine carried the county for president. The Republican disaffection then has long since disappeared, but there is a lingering trace of reminiscence in the prospect of a second battle between the same belligerents which gives uncommon interest to tomorrow's Republican primaries.

Need of Good Umpiring. It is in every sense desirable that men who are entrusted with the difficult duties of a base ball umpire should be men possessing fairness, firmness and patience. It ought to be possible to secure the services of such men without the payment of unreasonable salaries. Nothing will more rapidly advance base ball to its old standing in popular favor than competent umpiring, reinforced by gentlemanly deportment on the part of uniformed players. Nothing will so quickly kill interest in this admirable pastime as incompetence on the part of the umpire.

It is probably true that the average spectator at a ball game, in the excitement of a critical period during the play, is liable to permit his sympathies to sway his judgment of any umpire's work, however carefully and justly the latter may be performed. The game would not possess its present fascination if there were not something in it which makes of the coolest man an ardent partisan, temporarily surcharging his views with alternating currents of elation and despair. Neither is it possible to have in the position of umpire men who can look at every incident of the game from every point of view. The best that can be reasonably expected in umpiring which shall be honest, fair and impartial, with as few errors as possible, yet with sufficient firmness at all times to prevent a disregard of the umpire's author-

ity and, without needless bluster or passion, to maintain steady discipline. The exhibition of umpiring made at the opening game in this city Wednesday by a gentleman named Wagner is a good example of what to avoid in the future. Making due allowance for momentary excitement, for honest differences in opinion among spectators and for the unwise display of dissent on the part of many occupants of the grand stand, the fact remains that Mr. Wagner, while doubtless conscientious in his work, lacked several important qualifications. He lacked firmness, as evidenced by the frequency with which players who had no right to question his decisions were permitted to mass themselves around him in heated colloquy. He lacked familiarity with his duties, as shown in his neglect to enforce the coaching rules, his oscillating decisions on balls and strikes and his willingness to match one error by a counterbalancing injustice. And, finally, he lacked that peculiar quality of exercising authority which conveys, without words, the impression that what is said by the umpire is meant.

The selection of umpires rests, we believe, with the secretary of the league, Mr. Diddlebock of Philadelphia. Out of 400 applications he is reported to have received it ought to be possible to select a man who can do better work than has thus far been done by Mr. Wagner, of Tam qua.

THIS RAGE and dipping generosity of the local ball club to grasping visitors should be checked before we get riveted to the tail end position.

PHILADELPHIA ON Wednesday triumphed over Boston in the balloting at Atlanta to decide where the International league of press clubs should hold its next meeting, but it was in turn defeated by Scranton in the balloting at Harrisburg over the holding of the next state council of the Order of United Mechanics. There is a moral in all this, the elucidation of which we shall leave to the individual reader.

RUFFIANLY BALL playing will not do. Ruffianly ball players must go.

Mr. Powderly Again. Judged in the light of what the one had achieved, as emphasized at present by what his successor is failing to achieve, it is undeniably true that organized labor has not profited by the substitution of Sovereign for Powderly. The Hazleton Plain-Speaker does not overstate the case when it says that "among those who have had any prominence in labor circles there has been not one who has displayed ability equal to or in any measure approaching that of Mr. Powderly. In the affairs of organized labor he has, for the past twenty years, been a master mind. His way, unopposed probably ever before by any private individual, was always contested and the measures that he advocated bitterly denounced and fought and often defeated. There is no denying, however, that though he ruled with an iron hand, he administered wisely and successfully the multitudinous and tumultuous trusts over which he had charge."

It is a compliment to Scranton as well as to Mr. Powderly personally—to the city which has ever accorded to him its confidence and resisted the calumnies of his detractors—that all talk of reorganization of the Knights, or of a general new confederation of the forces of organized labor, recognize the ex-general master workman as one who would necessarily be the central factor in any such movement. We have not at all times agreed with Mr. Powderly on public issues, nor deemed his policy beyond reach of criticism, but it remains to be said, frankly and candidly, that a man who could for so long a time and in such an unmistakable manner stamp his impress on all the movements of labor in this immense republic must have stronger claim to our admiration than would appear from any of the statements that emanate from his detractors. The accurate measure which the public quickly took of Mr. Sovereign's abilities illustrates how brief would have been Mr. Powderly's tenure had he been either the designing man that certain enemies depict him or the imprudent and short-sighted man that was chosen in his stead.

Whether or not Mr. Powderly will be called to head a new federation of the organized industrial forces of the United States, as has been recently intimated in various newspapers, will largely depend upon the other question whether or not such a federation can or will be formed. If one should be formed, it would be almost impossible to exclude Mr. Powderly's conspicuous executive abilities and long experience from the discussion of personalities best fitted to be at its helm. It is not yet clear, though, that such an organization is seriously contemplated along lines which would receive Mr. Powderly's assent. So much has been said which is obviously at random that it would be well, before discussing the question of a new leader, to be sure he would have a suitable following. Even the demagogic talk upon this point is, however, a compliment to our fellow townsmen which deserves recognition as an event of much more than casual interest.

EX SENATOR FASSETT confesses that he has a hugging desire to be a second time nominated for governor of New York. Considering the fact that he is young, popular, wealthy and ambitious, this is not surprising. Few Republicans of the younger class are better qualified than he for gubernatorial duties; and not one is his superior in effective campaign oratory. He was defeated four years ago because of the cold fact that in that year New York was a Democratic state. Whoever shall be nominated by the Republicans this year will be successful, for the equally solid fact that today New York is a Republican state, by a large majority.

to which Mr. Blaine?" asked Mr. Handy, to which Mr. Blaine replied: "He was one of the men to whom I wrote."

Whether Mr. Blaine ever changed his mind is another question—one which Mr. Handy thinks that somebody else must answer. All this, of course, is immaterial today, except as tending to clear up an interesting episode concerning which there had been confusion of testimony. The final break between Mr. Blaine and General Harrison will probably always remain a subject for historians to grow contentious over.

**AS THE Coffee Cools.**

One of the most popular places of amusement in this city is the new Wonderland theater, while it has been under the efficient management of George E. Davis. Mr. Davis has insisted from the beginning that nothing shall be said or suggested in his theater which could possibly give offense to parents who attend in company with their children, or to ladies who may of an afternoon, while shopping, choose this as their place of rest. Every feature of the varied programs presented in Wonderland from week to week is carefully rehearsed in Mr. Davis' presence, and should there appear to him to be any allusion not suited to the high standard he has set, it is at once eliminated. Admission prices considered, the entertainment afforded at this well-conducted theater is signally clean, wholesome and instructive; and the success Mr. Davis has encountered is a strong recommendation of his policy.

In spite of the fact that the Wilkes-Barre Record cordially favors the scheme, there is still hope for the proposition to bury the P. Lucid Lackawanna by means of a stone archway, the surface of which could be converted into a handsome boulevard, a beautiful park or a main street. The Record truly, if somewhat satirically, remarks that "the sooner the tomato cans, gum boots and offal that line the banks of that open sewer are buried out of sight forever the better it will be for Scranton and her people. The proposed improvement would add much to the appearance of the city and materially increase the value of property in the vicinity of the useless stream." One of the principal drawbacks to this project is the fact that it would deprive Luzerne neighbors of their only remaining hope for aeratic allusion to Scranton. We shall have to lead up to such a deprivation by slow and easy stages.

It is difficult to please everybody, even at a ball game. We are reminded of this by reading in the esteemed Potomac Journal that Kettick, our own indomitable Lorry, who inspired at Potomac Wednesday, will do it. He is cool, says what he means and means what he says. Off the diamond he is a ball fellow and a great wit, and then, in the equally esteemed Reading Herald that the "feature of the game was the rank work of Umpire Kettick. His conduct almost precipitated a row several times for his decisions for both sides were equally glaring, and had not Kettick been so good, the game would have been the last game he ran up against." As Mr. Dana would say, who is the liar?

It is a pleasure to observe that the benches in summer attire of fresh paint again adorn Court House square. Whether occupied by the stray Loakeys about whose heads the buzzing insects form a scintillating halo, or by the cooling ladies and lazes at nightfall, the benches are a source of comfort to sweltering humanity in the vicinity of the square in summer, and the kindness of the county through the commission is duly appreciated no doubt by bench loggers regardless of caste.

The entertainment given by amateur photographers at Young Men's Christian Association hall last evening marked an important milestone in Kodak culture in Scranton. Under the stimulating influence of the enterprising officials of the Young Men's Christian association the Scranton Camera club is bound to flourish during the coming season of delightful outings.

"I never saw anything like it," was the remark which Journalist J. R. Parke of New York made yesterday when shown the new quarters of Scranton Elks. Inasmuch as Mr. Parke has been in nearly all the centers of Elksdom in the country this tribute to Scranton enterprises possesses unusual interest. Thus Scranton continues to set the pace.

LOCAL LITERARY LIGHTS. Among Scranton's rising authors whose productions have received much attention and favorable comment is Will Irving Finch, who is also a journalist of considerable experience and much ability. His recent story poem, "The Great Beatitudes," which appeared in the Christianian April 14, is a work of great merit and received much favorable comment. Mr. Finch is a contributor to the Boston Globe and Kate Field's Washington.

Mr. Terence V. Powderly has found time among his busy hours to write many valuable, timely and able articles for current periodicals. His great fund of general information combined with many years of public service and extensive travel give a substantial and finished effect to all his literary productions.

Dr. J. E. O'Brien has achieved much fame as a literary light by his articles in telegraphy during the war, which appeared in the Century magazine some time ago. Dr. O'Brien gave his experience as an army telegrapher in an entertaining manner that evinced his ability as a writer and insured ready sale for further works.

Theron G. Osborne continues to produce delightful pastoral and other poems that seem with delicate sentiment and noble teachings. Mr. Osborne's works in book form would make a charming collection that would be prized by any lover of high-class literature.

As a graceful writer of verse Miss Susan Dickinson, at present a valued member of the Truth staff, is well known all over the land. Miss Dickinson's poems which occasionally appear in the columns of the Truth, are gems in their way and are read with interest by admirers of verse.

Hon. John E. Barrett, the gifted editor of the Scranton Truth, is probably the best known author in the anthracite region. As a writer of clean and entertaining fiction Editor Barrett has few equals. His stories and sketches are ever marked by healthy sentiment. In the age of doubtful literary progress, when the average writers of fiction deem it necessary to introduce sugar-coated social poison into their works in order to attract attention, it is notable to note that the efforts of John E. Barrett, as a representative of wholesome morals in fiction, always finds a ready sale. Editor Barrett's papers leave little time for outside productions at present, but the occasional installments from his facile pen are always heartily welcomed by lovers of entertaining fiction.

**Col. Fred Grant's Letter**

During the last four months of his sickness the principal food of my father, Gen. GRANT, was Bovinine and milk, and it was the use of this incomparable food alone that enabled him to finish the second volume of his personal memoirs.

Dr. T. H. DOUGLAS, General Grant's physician and friend, cordially endorses the above statement as an unrivalled food, suitable for young and old.

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A good Blaine Brothers Square Piano.....	\$100	A Mason & Hamlin, nearly new, high top, double reed.....	\$90	And about 20 other good second hand organs, \$25 to \$30.	
A good Mayer Brothers square Piano.....	\$80	An A. B. Chase, nearly new, high top, double reed.....	\$75	The above collection of Second hand Instruments are all in good order, fully guaranteed, the greatest bargains ever offered in this city. Call and see them. Installments or discount for cash.	
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**School Children's Day---Saturday, May 5**  
 From 8 A.M. until noon, when every child will be presented with a copy of this beautiful song.

Parties residing out of the city will be mailed a copy by sending us their address and a 1-cent stamp.

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