

SCRANTON TRIBUNE
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General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.
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CITIZEN COXEY surrendered to the law under protest and when all is over will be ready, no doubt, to take his place with Corbett, Sullivan and the other great actors.

Senator Quay's Speech.

It is announced that the serial speech which Senator Quay is now delivering at odd intervals on the tariff will be the most voluminous and comprehensive treatment of this subject from the protection standpoint ever made in this country. It will, it is said, mass together a greater quantity of statistics and a larger variety of digested argument, with evidence, than has ever before been presented in a single discussion of this theme. In its special field it will be what the recent speech of Senator Jones, of Nevada, was with reference to the free coinage side of the currency question. This speech, it will be recalled, filled 445 octavo pages in small type, exclusive of an elaborate index, and comprised what is said to be the most carefully compiled handbook of the free silver theory today in print.

Very naturally the prospect of having such a businesslike treatment of protection presented to the country does not please the Democratic theorists, who are endeavoring by every device permissible under the senate rules to "choke Senator Quay off." They are ridiculing the speaker because of his alleged lack of eloquence and hounding him for his persistence, but the unruffled member from Beaver pursues the even tenor of his way, sustained by the knowledge that though he be no pretentious orator, he has the happy faculty of stating a purely business question in a plain light that admits of no free trade legerdemain. If as an incident to the delivery of his speech he should retard the final vote on the so-called Wilson bill until many of its objectionable features have been modified in obedience to emphatic popular demands, it will not be a bad consummation.

While it would have been better for the Republican senators, possibly, to have faced the Democrats at the very beginning with a challenge to pass the bill or finally concede its defeat, the new turn which the tariff discussion has recently taken in the senate would seem to hold out hope that if a vote can now be delayed for a few weeks, the whole miserable free trade scheme will be ineffectually abandoned by its sponsors in favor of a bill which will in effect be the McKinley tariff revised and renamed. It is apparently Senator Quay's purpose, in addition to presenting a clear and lucid digest of the entire tariff question, to seize the remarks as to help along the good work of Democratic conversion. We assume that he has reason to believe the Wilson bill can in this manner be effectually scotched, and upon this assumption can cordially endorse his purpose. Otherwise, a vote should be reached and the uncertainty ended as soon as possible.

IT WOULD be a public blessing if all our county and state courts exercised the wholesome authority over evidences that has come to be expected from the federal district tribunals.

THE FUNERAL Directors' Association of Pennsylvania which met here last year, was in session Thursday at Philadelphia. One of the subjects discussed by its president, R. Frank Kirk, was the growth of the flower business at funerals, and renewed argument was advanced in favor of greatly diminishing the number, cost and variety of floral tributes. This reform, like cremation, will be of slow growth, but it seems to be a wise one. It is at least possible to urge the lavishness of such tokens of esteem during the life time of its beneficiary, an innovation which would make things happier all 'round.

Nonsense Grown Dangerous.

Representative Bell, the Populist statesman from Nebraska who has just asked congress to "devise means for the employment of the idle men of the country, restrict immigration, start up the mines, increase the currency and prohibit the issuing of interest bearing bonds without the authority of congress," is a remarkably modest man, else he would have included in his bill a request for congress to abolish the sinecure, formulate a curative lymph for tuberculosis, compound a process for the artificial manufacture of diamonds, ordain perpetual motion and rectify the eccentricities of the spheres. The one set of requests is no more erratic than the other. Only two of Mr. Bell's ideas come within the proper functions of government, that relating to immigration and that to the currency.

The extraordinary prevalence at this time of utterly false and quixotic conceptions as to what popular government is or should be does not speak well for the thoroughness of our popular education in civics. One of the best definitions of the true functions of government that we have recently seen comes from Colonel Robert G. Ingeroll, who is certainly sound in his political economy whatever may be thought as to his theology. Interviewed with reference to Coxyism, he said:

These armies have been produced, I presume, first, by hard times, by lack of work, but secondly and mostly by a false idea of the government. These people imagine that the government is under obligation to do something for them. They think the government is a source of wealth; that the government can give money and employment. Now, the fact is the government cannot support the people. The people have to support the government. The government is a paper and lives only on the labor of other folks. It collects taxes for its support, not for the support of the people, and the various officers that are elected and appointed have certain duties to perform for the people, for which they

are paid, and the money with which they are paid comes from taxation.

It ought to be entirely unnecessary to take such pains in the elucidation of self evident truths. Citizens ought everywhere to have these fundamental principles inculcated in them, from boyhood up. No man ought to be permitted to have a voice or a vote in the regulation of government who does not have an approximately lucid idea of what government is. Yet it is very evident these days that ignorance in this particular is widespread, if not general. The recent long era of political pandering to prejudice and illiteracy has culminated, it seems, in the predicted chaos, which should no sooner be ended than steps should be instituted to prevent a recurrence of similar episodes in the future. The ignorant man and the venal man must be eliminated from our electorate. We have, as a nation, fiddled and danced to the kindling fires of our own possible destruction; and now that we begin to perceive the danger it is time to stop fiddling and get down to stern business.

GENERAL HARRISON need not worry yet over newspaper rumors with respect to 1896. In the dull days of summer, the space fillers of the metropolitan press will probably have a good deal to say about his future, but it will not affect things one way or the other. The next presidential nominee of the Republican party will be chosen in the regular way, in obedience to the clear wishes of the masses of the party, and will be elected because the people will want him.

Definition of Prize Fights.

In a community where much attention is devoted to prize fighting and much more to sparring for amusement's sake, it is interesting to have clearly fixed in one's mind the exact legal difference between the two. Judge Gordon, of Philadelphia, in charging a jury, recently defined the law in the following explicit fashion: "A prize fight is any fictitious encounter in which violent blows are struck for the purpose of reducing the physical strength of the opponent, to injure or burn him in any way by such force, provided they were to receive any pecuniary benefit or any money was wagered on the result either by themselves or other parties, or if any other persons were to be benefited by the contest. If the encounter was one in which mere skill, mere dexterity was employed and what was to be done was not harmful, merely light touches, and there was to be no money wagered on the result and they were to receive no benefit, it would not be a violation of the law."

It is to be regretted that Judge Gordon did not elaborate his meaning in the use of the phrase "pecuniary benefit." If thereby he proposed to include medals and trophies, as well as fixed sums in actual cash, it is obvious that his definition would hereafter outlaw all such tournaments as that recently given in this city by the Excelsior Athletic club, in which "violent blows" were certainly "struck for the purpose of reducing the physical strength of the opponent." Some of the bouts in this tournament bordered so near to brutality, as that term is commonly understood, that it would not be worth while trying to distinguish the difference. It seems to us that according to Judge Gordon's ruling these entertainments are hereafter placed clearly outside the pale.

THE ENTERPRISING space-fillers of the mother county are to be congratulated upon the extraordinary and unwatered success of their scheme to infiltrate the pockets of Wilkes-Barre by taking in on paper—the surrounding towns between Pittston and Nanticoke. Any man with brains and a pencil can figure the grand plan of conquest on so as to get anywhere from 50,000 to 150,000 new population without the loss of a man. Such are the peerless victories of peace.

FOR A MAN who is lauded by several able newspaper editors to stand absolutely not the ghost of a chance, Fighting Jack Robinson continues to prove a very energetic corps. Errand runner writes ends with the cheerful intelligence: "I am going to win this fight." And if pluck gets its due reward, he will.

WHAT ONE Woman Sees.

I hope it doesn't happen often—I mean the defeat of the Scranton team. My employer came in horribly out of temper Thursday morning and in fact he isn't right pleasant to live with yet. I'm awfully sorry it happened. If that stupid base ball club of ours knew how all the type writer girls would utterly adore it if only it would keep on winning, it does seem that the boys would have made an extra effort. We were every one of us so glad that the Scranton club really seemed to be something this year, for as long as it kept on winning our employers would be obliged to hurry off in the afternoon and we could close the office early and have the remainder of the day to ourselves. But to lose to Hazleton was tough. Mr. Jones-Smith didn't make an attempt to go to St John's Field Thursday afternoon and says he doesn't think he will attend to any more this season. Isn't it horrid? You ask if I go to see the game. No, thank you. I see enough of the lunacy of man in the office. I have no desire to behold Mr. Jones-Smith, and all the other official high mightinesses divested of every shred of dignity they possess during business hours, and to have my illusions as to their importance dispelled by hearing them yell like Comanches when there isn't anything to yell about. It is base ball that helps to make the hard times harder. I've been studying it all out. There are a number of women of my acquaintance who have had to cut down with their ice cream sodas and new gloves on account of the money their husbands spend at base ball games. It's a sin.

It must be a dreadful thing to be a man on account of the barbering he must undergo. I've never thought much about the matter until lately, since that hitting on the corner of Washington avenue and Spruce street took to spreading all over the sidewalk. Hitherto, when chance and convenience has led me past a barber shop, I've always looked indifferently the other way; it seemed so immodest to gaze in at the ghastly row of men with their heads hanging off backward at a more or less perilous angle, and with themselves in a more or less state

of dishabille; but now that glass houses on Washington avenue really attract itself so importunately upon the passer-by that performs one must look in, whether one would or not. And, dear me, how the custom seems to grow! Men are very vain creatures. Just note the eagerness with which they flock to that particular shop to get shaved and to lay themselves out like so many corpses before the view of the populace. How in the world a man can serenely seat himself and appear to fall asleep, perchance to dream, while a person of whose ancestry and hereditary traits, the victim must of necessity be ignorant, stands before him brandishing a glittering weapon in dangerous proximity to his throat, is more than we women can comprehend. Suppose you are a millionaire and the barber by trade is an anarchist in belief, and suppose he is in favor of equalizing matters which in his mind seems to be awry—what is to hinder him from beginning on you? Did it ever occur to you what a fortunate thing it is for society that barbers do not seem to be imbued with socialistic sentiments and that they are sensible, quiet folk who do not go around stirring up a revolution in the blood and razors are prominent features? Not quiet, did you say? Oh, well then, talking doesn't smack of bombs and walking delegates. However, I do believe that barber shops should be provided with screens like saloons, so that we can't see the process that makes our advents beautiful, any more than the one which makes them silly. It's a great shock to a fastidious girl when she carelessly glances in at the window to there behold a hatless, coatless, collarless, wild looking individual engaged in the process of being busily powdered as to his viences and performed as to his hair—and to realize that he is her pet admirer, who always appears in such immaculate array.

Men are very queer commodities. (Maybe "commodities" isn't exactly the word I want—it means something that is bought and sold, doesn't it? They are more angelic in some respects than are we. We forgive and don't forget, but they both forgive and forget. If any other woman has injured us, or particularly if we have injured any other woman, we can smile at her, but we don't make her around in our way and we don't make her fancy her. Men are different. They have terrific rows until the air is blue, but they don't lay it up against each other in the least. They simply go right on in a few days thereafter as if nothing had happened. It is a lovely trait in them and is a sort of challenge to the pessimist. Let me see, can I not think of an illustration. Oh, yes! There are Controller Welsh and ex Controller Thompson.

Talk about feminine curiosity, it is nothing to that of a man. I don't suppose a group of women could be found who would line around at doors to hear what a star in the Pen and Pencil school committee was about. Women like to hear matters individually, but not collectively. No woman wants another to know that she would be guilty of applying her ears to keyholes and so sitting down on the dusty floor and spilling her good clothes for the sake of over-hearing the fact that she would do it. It is a very bad example for school controllers to set. Even if the mean things on the other side of the door were saying something which was vitally interesting.

Republicans are silly creatures at times. Because they believe this to be their year and that everything going to belong to the Democrats, they do not do any harm to all want to run for office and fight for it, too. If anybody suggests that they ought really to go a little slow, you know, as they may yet get overhauled and that any way it might be a good thing to let some of the other fellows have a chance.

AS THE Coffee Cools.

The selection of Louis N. Megargee, city editor of the Philadelphia Times, president of the Pen and Pencil club and brother of Bernard and Frank Megargee of this city, as one of the vice-presidents of the International League of Press clubs, the next annual session of which will be held in Philadelphia, is a double tribute, first to Mr. Megargee's personal popularity and secondly to the organization which he would represent. Those who have been privileged to enjoy the hospitalities of the Pen and Pencil club of Philadelphia do not need to be told that that fraternal body of brainy men is a model organization of its kind. Since it has occupied its handsome new home at 1026 Walnut street there has been nothing surpassing it in the United States, either in material convenience, quality of membership or rules of government. It was in recognition of this excellence that the International League of Press clubs, to which R. Frank Squier was the local delegate, selected Philadelphia for its next place of meeting.

Speaking of this selection calls to mind a kindred subject in which Scrantonians are even more intimately concerned. By common consent the new Elks lodge room on Franklin avenue is literally the finest in the order, without a single exception. If, therefore, the grand lodge of Elks, which is soon to assemble at Jamaica, N. Y., desires to emulate the rare discernment of the International Press clubs, it should unanimously decide to meet in Scranton next year. This would be no more than a just recognition of the enterprise of a lodge which, although only five years old, has contributed to the order not only the finest home in its kind, but likewise a greater number of new members than any other lodge last year. It is sufficient number of grand lodge delegates can be convinced beforehand what Scranton possesses in way of inducements it is probable that the bid which four delegates shall make will not be unsuccessfult.

The directors of the Wilkes-Barre base ball club will make a serious mistake if they permit the private business jealousy of any one official to put the whole club in the attitude of boycotting a newspaper which competes legitimately with another newspaper in which the official in question is interested financially. An attempt has been made to ostracize the Wilkes-Barre Times, a bright paper of large circulation and careful in its base ball reports. This attempt, it is asserted, was made at the instigation of the proprietor of the Ledger, who is the president of the ball club. The same petty trick was tried in the same petty fashion last year and was properly resented by newspaper men everywhere. The fair minded men who comprise a majority in the board of directors of the Wilkes-Barre ball club ought, in self defense, to overrule this dangerous kind of mismanagement. They will lose money if they don't.

Two of a Bad Kind.
Indiana ought to be proud of the two grand old Bourbons that represent it in the United States senate. There are times when it seems as if Voorhees was matchless in bombastic intelligibility, but before this becomes a settled opinion Turpie, in some turgescent flood of rodomontade, compels conviction that he is the more prosaic work-a-day of the universe. Indiana ought to retire these rival senators to a museum or an asylum for incurables.

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