

# The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JUNE 9, 1894.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

- For Governor: DANIEL H. HASTINGS, OF CENTER.
  - For Lieutenant Governor: WALTER LYON, OF ALLIANCE.
  - For Auditor General: AMOS H. MYLIN, OF LACKAWANNA.
  - For Secretary of Internal Affairs: JAMES W. LATTA, OF PHILADELPHIA.
  - For Commissioner of Labor: CALUSHA A. BROW, OF SUSQUEHANNA.
  - For Commissioner of Agriculture: GEORGE E. HUFF, OF WESTMORLAND.
- Election Time, Nov. 6

BY AND BY, one of these time-serving politicians who believes that America has no option but to be the dumping ground of other nations' pauper labor, will awake some fine morning to find his political future lying all but blind.

### Is It Wise to Change?

It is no more than fair to many citizens to say that since the last municipal election at which the bridge bond question was ratified, some apparently strong reasons have been presented why the site of the structure that it is proposed to erect over the Lackawanna should be at Mulberry street, on the southern side, rather than at Linden street, as was first designed. The Tribune, with no property interests at stake in either choice, is free to say, as it would be in any event, that the advocates of a changed location have to all appearances made out an unexpectedly good case. They have asserted with evident sincerity that a bridge at Mulberry could be built for less money, and that it would be a better bridge, than one at Linden; and they manifestly believe that a substitution of the former site for the latter would work greater convenience to a larger number of citizens than would be achieved by a bridge in the place originally selected.

Considering these arguments we have certain facts. One is the opinion of the city solicitor, Mr. Torrey, that to build a bridge at Mulberry instead of Linden street would involve the legal necessity of authorizing a new bond ordinance—which would virtually require a reopening of the question from its beginning. Another fact is that with all this necessary delay intervening to postpone the actual work of construction, one of the principal reasons for the advocacy of the bridge—namely, that its prompt building would give employment to many men who otherwise would be idle and dependent upon the community for relief—would disappear to a large extent and there would spring up in its place a sense of public disappointment. Lastly we have the fact that an affirmative vote for this bridge was cast under the distinct belief that the structure would arise in a certain place; wherefrom any change would expose our credulity to charges of bad faith.

It would materially strengthen the Mulberry street campaign if such definite computations were laid before the public as would convince that public that it would be a prudent and a profitable thing to undergo the delay incident to a reopening of the subject. Instead, the impression exists very generally that if the Linden street site be now abandoned Scranton would be quite likely to get no new bridge at all; and that all the later expended in securing the ratification of this highly necessary improvement would therefore be worse than wasted. Such an impression may be inaccurate. We mention it merely as a patent fact. It should be carefully considered before the last action has been taken.

PARTISANS NOW threaten to precipitate a Democratic afternoon paper and another Democratic morning paper upon Scranton. The universal and openly acknowledged opinion of leaders of the local Democracy, which is to the effect that something must be done, would give color to the most fabulous rumors concerning a threatened flood of free trade literature. Let us prepare to be educated.

### Boodlers of High Degree.

Many Scrantonians know St. Clair McKelway. They know him as a Democrat, they know him as a Democrat, but withal an honest man. They know him as an editor who will any day fight until sundown in defense of party principle; but who would sit up nights to pillory partisan corruption. They may not have been entirely secure in their own minds as to the truth of the charge, emanating from Republican sources, that certain Democratic politicians, some in the cabinet and others in the senate, had been literally bribed by the Sugar Trust to feather its treasury in the disposition of new tariff tokens. But when they see St. Clair McKelway bluntly reiterating this arraignment in the editorial columns of the Democratic Brooklyn Eagle, they will no longer doubt the existence of an ugly condition. Let us follow the Eagle in one of its caustic flights:

Even \$100,000 was not too high a price to pay for a United States senator, and we wonder if it was paid? If \$500,000, just one installment, was sent from the trust's headquarters in New York to the branch office which the trust has lately opened in Washington, the sum was not too much for the work required. The bribery and betrayal of adding hundreds of millions to the cost of sugar to the people of the United States will not be condoned by the fact that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the fortunes of United States senators and the politicians who control them. The blocks of stock which the Sugar Trust holds for these United States senators under disguises which investigation in earnest could easily penetrate may close the account between the senators and the trust.

This story of shame and crime, despite the easily understood effort of a dust-throwing investigating committee to turn certain newspaper men into scapegoats, will probably, as the Eagle predicts, "go through to the end."

But the end is not yet. The people are not fooled in this thing, though they are somewhat quiet about it. Their deficit in noise is balanced by a large surplus of thinking. It is Democracy's turn to sell and barter in the temple of government. It will be the people's turn anon to drive those traffickers out in abject disgrace. Mr. McKelway is right when he proclaims his belief that "this, after all, is going to be a good year for honesty. It is going to be a good year to live in and to work in. An immense lot of house-cleaning will be done in November. Brooms, brushes and soap will be made ready between now and then, and so will plenty of fire."

It is charged with damaging particularity that the house committee on immigration, headed by Chairman Geisenbater of New Jersey, is devoting its able energy to the work of puncturing present laws restricting immigration. The accusation may be false; but the committee's painful lack of affirmative action certainly looks suspicious.

### A New News Department.

It takes all kinds of people to make a world, and all kinds of news to make a newspaper. The principle along which THE TRIBUNE strives to increase its popularity is that of giving to each reader something that will particularly interest him. It may be news of churches, news of sports or news of industries; but it will always be that which will appeal to his special interest and supply, in as careful a manner as conditions will permit, what is humorously yet accurately described as a "long felt want."

While recognizing the necessity of a varied news supply, THE TRIBUNE nevertheless hopes to be able to put in its best legs along lines that will elevate as well as amuse, and instruct as well as gratify merely momentary curiosity. There are influences at work in this community superior to those which find expression in murders, elopements, suicides and brawls. A newspaper cannot close its columns entirely to news of a darker aspect. If it did, it would not be a newspaper in the general acceptance of the term, and would become merely a journal giving the limited news of certain circles and classes. Yet it need not neglect those influences which tend to make people better and brighter. It should, indeed, give these the preference, and build upon a broad foundation such a growth as will ever point upward.

This explanation is prefatory to the new department begun on the sixth page of this issue, a column in which we hope to chronicle, from week to week, the activities that are at work in our churches and church auxiliaries. Representing a membership comprising easily nine-tenths of our entire population, these religious organizations, Protestant, Catholic and Hebrew, present an attractive field for cultivation in print. No newspaper would be complete without a liberal representation of them in its regular news departments. In dedicating a particular place to them in THE TRIBUNE, we imply no enrichment of other religious intelligence, always a bright feature of this paper; but rather trust to encourage a new cordiality of mutual relationship, by which each reader will profit.

AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP will not soon replace the loss it has sustained in the death of Professor Whitney. Philologist without a peer, his career illustrates the wisdom of concentrated study and incessant application. He chose his field and he did not rest content until he became its unequalled master. That is the secret of all great success.

### The Common School Question.

The true position of church and state in this country is not difficult of definition. The New York constitutional convention which has this problem before it may decide the matter in a very few words. The two are separate. They were separated deliberately. They should not coalesce; and they could not without violating the fundamental principles upon which our government is founded. It is the mission of the state to give to every possible citizen the advantage of a non-sectarian, common school education, to be paid for by general taxation. The theory of our government requires this. Equality of citizenship would be a manifest farce without equality of opportunity in the preparation for citizenship. When all citizens have had equal chances to prepare for their civic duties, they will have completed the curriculum rightly devolving upon the state for maintenance; and may pursue such special secular or religious studies as they may elect, very properly at their own expense.

There is no other official language known in this country than English. The schools that are established and supported by the state should, therefore, teach English. They should not teach any other tongue, not even the dead tongues, unless for purposes of mental discipline. There is too much mental gingerbread work in our public schools. These schools are for the elementary educational purposes, not for the making of highly polished graduates. The state oversteps its bounds when it pays for fancy frills that pupils should be willing to pay for themselves, if they want to acquire them. The colleges and the universities are intended for those who become learned. The making of each high school into a small university at the taxpayer's expense is wrong in principle. The common school system should profess to impart only a common school education; a beginning, as it were. Those who choose to go farther should be privileged to do so, by paying their own way or having it privately paid for them.

Those who have the sensible course outlined, without sectarian or denominational difficulty. If any congregation or branch of a religious faith desires its young to receive additional instruction to that provided in the public schools, they should be willing to supply the same at its own expense. There is no bigotry in this belief. It appeals alike to Protestant, Catholic, Hebrew and Mohammedan. The state cannot trust itself to go into questions of conscience. Its mission is civic and secular. It can demand that all its citizens, whether native or naturalized, be

good citizens and loyal; but it can do no more.

A SECRETARY of the treasury who, after writing an annual message urging congress to free the necessities of life, would put in his spare time framing a high tariff on sugar, so as to please the trust, may be perfectly honest, as an individual. But he needs yet to take a few lessons in public fairness.

WHEN MARK TWAIN said that there were only twenty-four jokes in the English language, it was before Senator Hill had declared that he "was opposed to compromise where questions of vital principle were concerned." This makes twenty-five.

ROGER Q. MILLS is entitled to the full credit of having been the only senator capable of voting to re-enact the Hawaiian policy of infamy.

THE AMERICAN republic will not realize the hope of its founders until it contains less spurious politics and more horse sense.

IT IS GROWING happily evident that the next Republican presidential nomination will not have difficulty in locating its man.

PERHAPS, AFTER all, it is fortunate for the Democrats that "Holland" didn't tell all he knew about "sugar."

THERE ARE many honest men in congress, but there clearly needs to be a revival in the item of honest methods.

DOOMSDAY is approaching with a lurid hue to the recipients of sugar trust "tally."

FOR A DEFEATED man Jack Robinson is behaving nobly.

### AS THE Coffee Cools.

The recent postoffice appointment at Moscow would seem to offer a favorable illustration for the use of people who argue that postmasters should be elected by the people instead of being appointed by the president. The fact that an unpopular person without qualification can through the influence of political party leaders supplant a faithful and deservedly popular public servant is obnoxious in this land of government by the people. The Moscow postoffice case furnishes one of the most blatant examples of the evils of the political patronage system on record. Previous to the first election of Grover Cleveland, Miss Sue Pyle, an estimable young lady, was appointed postmistress of Moscow. Miss Pyle, a mere girl, who at the death of her father and mother had been left with several younger brothers and sisters to care for, received the hearty endorsement of the good citizens of Moscow regardless of political faith and creed. During Cleveland's first reign a different class of men had control of the patronage in this locality and the suggestion of ousting the young girl who was struggling to provide for her little brothers and sisters, it seems, was not even thought of.

Miss Pyle arrived through the Cleveland and Erie administrations and the affairs of the Moscow postoffice were ever conducted in a businesslike manner. Each day the young postmistress could be found at her post faithfully guarding the trust reposed in her, and so far as is known no complaint has ever been made against the service rendered. At the second election of Cleveland the average citizen had no thought that Miss Pyle's position was in danger. They did not believe that a man could be found in Moscow who would seek under existing circumstances to drive a woman from an office, and the friends of Miss Pyle in both parties never thought it worth their while to inquire if an application for the office had been filed.

In this, however, they were deceived. For during the past few years an individual living in Moscow by the name of Erhardt had been secretly longing to occupy the position by which the orphan girl had gained a livelihood for herself and the little ones left in her care. So far as he ascertained, Erhardt is not a representative citizen of Moscow. He had never been known to enter the Moscow postoffice until after his appointment. In fact about the only qualification for appointment he seemed to possess was his acknowledgment of the Democratic faith. At a convention held in this city Erhardt, as a delegate, represented the handful of Moscow Democrats. He was fortunate in holding something like the balance of power between two factions of the untried. He cast his vote in the interest of the faction which to-day controls Lackawanna county patronage.

As soon as the plums began to be distributed under the Cleveland administration, Erhardt secretly made an application for the Moscow post office. His claim was not backed by the indorsement of his fellow citizens of Moscow; it was not based upon important service that he had ever performed for his country or the Democratic party. But he could vote and Miss Pyle could not. On the strength of the convention ballot, it is said Erhardt demanded and secured the appointment, and four weeks ago the young lady who has served as postmistress to the satisfaction of all, was thrown out of employment to make a place for the man who had a "pull." So secretly was the whole business transacted that even Postmaster Vandling, of this city, did not know of the change until the appointment had been officially announced. The indignation of Moscow citizens has been very great over the affair, and a sort of boycott against the postoffice has been established by many leading business men who mail letters on the trains and use the office as little as possible. The leaders are chagrined over the storm that has been raised, and in suggesting future appointments will probably consult the wishes of their constituents before clinching a bargain.

### Commodore Singler's Sarcasm.

Philadelphia Record. While the Record has no intimate knowledge of the intentions of the Democrats of Pennsylvania, it may confidently be predicted that the Hon. Joe Sibley will not be nominated as their next candidate for governor. His political record shows that he is more of a Populist and a Protectionist than a Democrat. Besides, if elected governor he might resign.

### Guarding Against Paralysis.

Chicago Journal. Now that the May grand jury has reported that gambling is going on in Chicago, great care should be taken to keep the rumor from the police. The shock caused by suddenly hearing the news might be too much.

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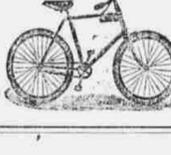
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