

The Scranton Tribune

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E. P. KINGSBURY, GENERAL MANAGER.

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SCRANTON, JULY 9, 1894.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

- For Governor: DANIEL H. HASTINGS, of Centre. For Lieutenant Governor: WALTER LYON, of Allegheny. For Auditor General: AMOS H. MYLIN, of Lancaster. For Secretary of Internal Affairs: JAMES A. LATTI, of Philadelphia. For Congressmen-at-Large: GALUSHA A. GROW, of Scranton; GEORGE E. HUFF, of Westmoreland. Election Time, Nov. 6.

IT IS ALWAYS well to hear both sides of every case. Do those who condemn the Pullman people for not arbitrating really expect that business men can run industries for any length of time at a downright loss?

The Bridges Delayed. It is encouraging to learn, upon a liberal calculation, that Scrantonians, ere much more than a year has passed, will probably be enabled to walk from Linden to Swetland street without wetting their feet. To be sure, this prospect is six months further off than most people had been led to expect; and easily three months more remote than there would have been any necessity for, had the original will of the voters been accepted gracefully and promptly by all interested. There should have been no aimless obfuscation of the bridge enterprise in the form of a belated effort to achieve a change in site. That point, if pertinent at all, should have been raised prior to the special election. Now that it has petered out, the bridges, of all who really favor the enterprise, should be directed to furthering the preliminary work just as rapidly as is consistent with safe and prudent progress.

The delay that has marked this movement is the fault of nobody but the people themselves. It is not the fault of the city engineer's department, which, with a small force fully occupied with regular work, has nevertheless made valiant inroads on the bridges. But even as the case stands, after several weeks frittered away in futile sea-sawing over a site, it is possible to experience additional delay unless the taxpayers of Scranton evince an active interest in this matter, and intimate to members of councils a more vigorous desire to see something tangible accomplished in the direction of real bridges. The thing to do is to buckle on the harness and pull ahead. Indifference is as hurtful as open opposition. In this particular instance it is even more so. There will, we are confident, be no disposition in councils to shrink this duty if the members are led to believe that the citizens of Scranton are keeping close watch upon the successive steps that lead toward actual results.

The bridges must be speeded. The delay already experienced has been anything but creditable. From this time forth let each citizen see to it that the enterprise is moved steadily ahead.

IT IS REFRESHING to encounter one candidate who does not truckle. Although Commodore Singler is a nominal aspirant for the governorship, his paper, the Philadelphia Record, continues to speak its mind as usual, pointedly and ably. We append two specimen utterances:

Exit Coxy; enter Debs. How one humbug drives out another. The Knights of Labor who have had some previous experience in being "called out," if they are asked to strike at this juncture, should, before obeying the order, have a commission of experts determine whether Grand Master Workman Sovereign is not insane. Some of the mouthings attributed to him indicate that he is beside himself.

The people respect editors who have pluck. And while they may not elect Editor Singler governor, they are quite certain to read his outspoken paper, whether they agree with it or not.

Libel Law Amendments. Some individual in Salt Lake City recently thought to make a little pin money at the expense of The Tribune of that city and accordingly threatened Judge Goodwin, its editor, with a suit for libel. The manner in which this irate journalist replied to this overture will find many sympathizers in the newspaper offices of the United States. After citing the facts to show the utter lack of any ground for litigation, The Tribune continued:

The only way The Tribune is in the least concerned in that libel suits costs some money, even when they are won, and The Tribune does not like to spend the necessary money to employ a lawyer to enable Mr. George Henry, on his own statement, to establish how worthless a creature he is, and to enable his attorney, Mr. D. S. White, to probably make it clear in the court that he is a disgrace to his profession. We are satisfied that these facts will be made perfectly clear when the case shall be brought to trial, but we insist that the public at large ought to be protected against malicious people; that the Bar association ought to investigate the matter to vindicate its own self-respect, and that so soon as the legislature can meet again there should be a law passed which will protect decent men and decent newspapers against suits which are only brought for purposes of blackmail. One other essential which the law of libel should contain should be that when a party commences a suit claiming damage for a reputation injured, it should be incumbent upon such party to substantiate by affirmative proof that he has a reputation that can be damaged, and that his reputation is not such that he would make money by losing it altogether. And this should apply as well to the attorneys in certain cases as to the plaintiffs.

This journal has frequently shared the exasperations of its Gentile contemporary with reference to the crudities of the libel law as it stands today; and is inclined to think that the suggestion of Judge Goodwin, albeit advanced in jest, contains some elements of justice. It is probably true that three-fifths of all legal proceedings against newspapers based upon alleged

damage to plaintiff's characters have their origin in a desire to extort money. Very rarely is a man of real character wantonly injured by a conscientious newspaper. If the sheep could be separated from the goats before these libel cases got into court it would be a signal advantage to society.

THERE IS NO logic in the contention that because an employe in Pullman, Ill., cannot get along with his employer there, it becomes the duty of employers in Scranton to wage war on their employes here, against whom they have no grievance; and, in this senseless warfare, to injure or destroy the prosperity of this section, hurling hundreds who have absolutely no finger in the fight. The sooner this unsound doctrine is thrown overboard, the better will it be for every man, woman and child in this neighborhood. A strike is a bad enough weapon even when it is used upon heads that really deserve a drubbing; when it is held as a general club over innocent men by those who use it without logic or discretion, it becomes a boomerang which will hurt labor more than all other agencies combined. This may not be a palatable comment, but it is the stern, cold common sense of the situation; and we are ready to stake all we have on the verification of its wisdom in the sharp test of experience.

The Proper Standard. The cordial support accorded to President Cleveland by leading men and leading newspapers of all parties supplies one of those signal proofs of genuine patriotism which our proneness to partisanship renders all too rare. The course which the chief executive has selected in this present difficulty is not less open to opposition than was the course of his predecessor, for instance, in upholding the dignity of the American flag on the furthestmost coast of Chili. Yet in the one case, we have the president sustained almost to a man with Republicanism, Democracy and all the other isms merged into the one happy thing called good citizenship; while in the other case one-half of the press and nearly one-half of the people of this country set out to find fault with, ridicule, asperse and impugn the chief executive's policy and motives.

If it were the desire of the Republicans to embarrass the Democratic executive at this time there would be an abundance of pretexts. The fact is not to be lost sight of, even if the friends of protection generously consent to waive it for the moment, that the business depression in which this great labor difficulty found nurture and nourishment was in large degree the offspring of Democratic incapacity, which sapped the confidence of business men and in its throes of sweeping economic changes invited just such turbulence as has recently been witnessed. In the face, though, of this strong provocation to partisan upbraiding, it is a conspicuous no less than an exemplary fact that the Republican advocates stand shoulder to shoulder with their bitterest partisan opponents in strengthening the position of our common president, confronted as he is by a unique duty that calls for all his firmness, discretion and courage.

Out of this incident ought to develop a more wholesome comprehension of the duties of citizenship, as distinguished from and overshadowing the minor obligations appertaining to parties. The successor of the martyred Carnot sounded the clear note of lofty patriotism when he said: "I belong to no party, but to France." We need in the presidency of this nation men who have the courage when elected to belong to no party but the whole people; and we need also a citizenship which will sustain such an executive, whether his emergency occur amid the firebrands and anarchy of turbulent Chicago, in the chambers of legislation at the capitol or beneath distant skies where foreign hands seek to do dishonor to the American flag. Such a standard of public duty will carry the people with it if not today, then tomorrow.

Anything less would be dishonorable.

SCRANTON is better off than Venice was in its prime. Scranton has two bridges of signs.

The Mistake of Labor. It is well said by the Northwestern Lumberman that "the mistakes of the labor unions is in assuming that capital, employed in the industries, can be forced into unprofitable arrangements with labor. Labor leaders are too much inclined to personify capital, as if it were a domineering, cruel and selfish individual, bent only on enslaving those who labor. Nothing could be more foreign from the fact. Capital is an indefinable quantity, not a concretion under wholly personal control, and united for a single purpose. Instead of being confident of its own entrenched and impregnable position, it is timid, cautious, and always fearful of its ground and the enemy that may attack and destroy."

"Out of the activities of the years as they pass, individuals accumulate wealth, but capital, as a distinct quantity, comes and goes and changes aspect like the pictures and shadows cast by a magic lantern. When the laborer invades against capital as if it were a personal tyrant, they are hurling epithets against a shadow, for there is no such thing in existence. If they were to pick out here and there an employe who had manifested an overbearing, despotic and fighting disposition and turn the fight against him, they could be doing something to a more certain purpose. If such occasional employes were in control of certain industries, strikes against such industries might have some justification on the basis of a manly opposition to a manifestly flagrant wrong. But to assume that capital is arrayed against labor, and therefore capital must be crushed, is simply assuming a fallacy, for the thing capital has no mind or volition and can be wilfully opposed to nothing. When labor kicks at capital as a quantity distinct from the individuals who happen to be managing capital, he is like a person kicking at a shadow, straining his muscles and biting nothing."

"When capital is assailed, it goes into safe quarters. It is a poor fighter because it is afraid of loss. That is to say, the individuals who control capital are afraid of losing it. When labor unions attempt to force capital to this

or that, they often find that their effort is futile. In case profit can be secured or retained by yielding to the demands of labor, capitalists are apt to make concessions. But when loss is sure to be the result, a strike might as well be precipitated against the walls of the Grand canyon."

Those persons who contend that there is an irreconcilable conflict between capital and labor have always an object to gain by the spread of this fallacy. To say that because here and there isolated employes are unjust and merciless men therefore all employes are rascals and must all be punished would be amusing in its utter lack of logic were it not so very serious. The contention of Debs that "capital has conspired to enslave labor" could just as truly be paraphrased to read that "labor has conspired to enslave labor;" for it is labor today that is injuring labor the most grievously—not honest labor nor yet thoughtful labor, but the professional labor that tells not, neither does it spin, and only is active in the working of mischief.

Labor's bitterest foe is the labor that orders foolish strikes, and when it sees the battle going against it, lets out its spite on the property and the persons of innocent people.

BROTHER JOHN COURIER MORRIS appeal to the "God of Fire and Flames" to guard the interests of the West Side with respect to Hyde Park's "abominable" approaches possesses elements of novelty, but an earnest application of virilified trick would perhaps do fully as well.

IT IS UNKIND in our esteemed Freedland namesake to ask what Billy Hines has done. Has he not drawn his salary without missing a day?

THE G AMMAR of Prophecy, Chicago Tribune. Declension of Debs: D=bs, debtor, debris.

WIKES-BARE RECORD. The war between the SCRANTON TRIBUNE and the Republican has ended in armed neutrality. There's no telling though whether the flag of truce may disappear and the red tide of war surge on. It would be quite in order for the Luzerne county papers to bring these warring factions to book even as the Scranton papers pulled us up in the Leisegang affair, but we prefer to mind our own business, confident that the intelligence and good sense of Lacka will see to it that the war will be a secondary matter.

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HER LINE: She angles for a compliment—The crafty little thing. He takes the bait and she's content—To get him on her string. —Judge.

AN AMUSING instance of juvenile precocity is related in a Chicago paper at the expense of a little girl who has been given some of these instruments of feminine toilet known as "kid curlers." She was properly proud of them. But "Kid curlers" was too long a name to suit her, and when she wanted her hair "curled up" they then she briefly referred to them as "kids." There was no particular harm in that, but her little brother did not quite approve of it. It sounded to him very much like slang, and he had been lectured and punished for using slang. Consequently he took the first occasion to remark to his sister, "I don't see why you kids," said she to him, and he solemnly returned: "You mustn't say 'kids,' Mamie. That's slang. Say that you must go and get your children."

THE RECREATIVE SEASON: The hand that once was raised to fire The patriotic shell, In flag-seed politics will retire Until the burn gets well. —Washington Star.

WAS MERRILY FRACKING: "I am to understand, then, Miss Plunkett," said the young man outwardly calm, whatever may have been the tempest of passion that agitated his interior, "that this avowal is an unwelcome surprise to you." "I have never dreamed, Mr. Hankinson," she replied with a cold and almost disdainful glance, "of the possibility of such a thing, and I beg that you will never refer to the subject."

IT WOULD BE LUDICROUS. Northwestern Lumberman. If it were not for the suffering to innocent women and children, the Pullman strike would be excessively ludicrous. The fact was, that the Pullman company had reached a point where a summer shut-down was eminently desirable. The works were kept running, if we can believe the managers of the company for the sake of giving the employes a chance on such wages as they could earn. At a time of prostrated industries, when about 3,000,000 wage earners were out of employment, the Pullman workmen went on strike. A prominent banker, who ought to know, says that the company is making \$1,000 a day by the stoppage of its car works. What are the employes making? And how can they expect to gain anything against such odds? When the Pullman managers see that the time has come to re-open the factories at a profit, the wheels will begin to turn, and such as want to work can have an opportunity until the places are all filled. The wage question then will be a secondary matter.

DEBS MUST BE HUMBLER. Washington Post. This man Debs, because of the encouragement, if not the active support of the governor of the state and the mayor of the city, has undertaken to overthrow order, to extinguish the rights of property, to paralyze commerce and to suspend the functions of government. He has set up a regime of violence, and de-

clared his personal supremacy to the duly ordained institutions under which we live. His object is the subordination of the machinery of civilization to his insatiable and insidious ambition, and his insistent and desperate arrogance. And the president understands this thoroughly and knows that, whilst the struggle is nominally for the expedition of the mails, it is really for the preservation of society. If Debs can dictate at Chicago today, he can dictate at New York tomorrow. If the United States government falls in this emergency it will cease to be a government in everything but name, and the country will be delivered over to despotism more absolute than any in Europe, since it will be a despotism of ignorance and passion. We need no delusions in this connection. The question is one of civilization or barbarism, of law or license, of peace or rapine, of order or anarchy, there is nothing to arbitrate or discuss. We must choose between Cleveland and Debs—between the enlightened liberty he questioned to the foundation of the republic and the pestilence brought here from abroad by the criminals and the outcasts of European slams.

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