

# The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 9, 1894.

## THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 105,000. Registered voters, 25,500. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000.

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See how we grow:

Population in 1880..... 6,223  
Population in 1890..... 45,000  
Population in 1894..... 105,000  
Population in 1894 (estimated)..... 105,000  
And the end is not yet.

The Tribune, in printing election news, does not permit its preferences to overshadow the actual facts. The county treasurer is in doubt, with the official count of ballots necessary to decide the authentic result. Hence, until that count is ended, this journal is not making any claims. By the same rule, while we have every reason to believe that Frank H. Clemons has been elected sheriff by a plurality exceeding seventy-five, we shall, until the subject is authoritatively decided, keep our columns open for any new facts. The day when people would tolerate the deliberate falsification of election claims by partisan newspapers to fit their editorial bias has passed in this country, except in the remote backwoods.

## The Serious Side of It.

There will be, for some weeks to come, an outpouring of the agitated Democratic mind in attempted explanation of why it so happened. The Democratic party, always noted for its expertness in the philosophy of defeat, will this time win new laurels by its sapient interpretation of how it got knocked out. No repudiation of its teachings ever long disturbs it. Like the colored Tennessee postmaster, who remarked that "no administration could change quicker than he could," it has to be said of the Democracy that no alteration in the manifest current of public opinion can be too radical to deter it from forsaking precedent and principle and from getting "in the swim."

Any other party, under the humiliation of a popular reversal of confidence which is utterly without parallel in the history of our politics, would ponder long and thoughtfully whether it had any genuine excuse for further existence; whether, indeed, it ought not to follow the historic advice of Wilbur F. Storey, founder of the Chicago Times, when, just after Hancock's defeat in 1880, he penned his celebrated editorial, entitled "Let It Die." But the Democratic party, in this one respect, is manifestly no ordinary party. Founded upon no central principle, it has nevertheless managed to hold together in substantially its present form during more than forty years of strife and vicissitude, with no greater bond of union than an overmastering appetite for public spoils; and this same greed may be confidently expected to insure its prompt recuperation from the present defeat, and to bring it again in the arena at the very next call.

The Republican, therefore, who anticipates an easy pathway to presidential victory in 1896 misinterprets the teachings of history. There is an element of danger in the sheer momentum of the present avalanche. Had the Democracy, two years ago, captured congress by only a small majority it would no doubt have escaped many of the excesses of unexpected power, and by the same rule Republicans, in this moment of overwhelming triumph, must be admonished to keep cool tempers and level heads. The country has not entrusted the Republican party with a commission to revolutionize this government. It has turned to the Republican party, in all soberness and candor, because the turn of power to which it had previously turned mistook its favor for boundless license and abused its partially by inordinate carelessness.

The Democratic party is not dead. It is only momentarily stunned. The big pluralities of the last two years, first on one side and then on the other, show the growing mobility of the popular will and invest even the greatest victories with the solemnity of serious responsibility, and the ever-present fear of sacrificing public favor through the lack of adequate self-control.

A word of commendation has been fully deserved by the United Press for the superior manner in which it supplied its subscribers with election news. Because it was one of these, The Tribune was enabled to present in its early mail edition, last Wednesday morning, so thorough a summary of the result in every state that nothing since received has materially modified that report. Readers of this paper, however, scarcely need to be assured that its new-getting facilities are the very best.

## Fast City Solons.

As long ago as last spring the property owners along West Lackawanna avenue, between the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad and Ninth street, petitioned council for permission to pave that almost impassable stretch of muddy road; and in order to facilitate matters, even agreed to waive the usual thirty-day margin between the adoption of a pay-

ing ordinance and the laying of the curb. Nothing tangible came of it. Last night, after six months delay, during which common and select council fell into a deadlock over the awarding of the contract, common council generously condescended to let these property owners have the privilege of paying for the paving of a public thoroughfare that now resembles more nearly a slough of despond than a respectable roadway in a modern city.

The point that we wish to bring out in this connection is the beautiful celerity with which common council precipitates itself along the line of progress. We sometimes wonder that the pace doesn't take its breath away!

When Quay predicted a quarter of a million, he knew.

Frank H. Clemons will without doubt be the next sheriff of Lackawanna county; but if by any accident he should not be, his opponent, Mr. Bailey, would enter the office realizing that neither Mr. Clemons nor any Republican newspaper during the progress of a heated campaign forgot the common courtesies that obtain among gentlemen and descended to personal slander and blackguardism. We regret that the opposition cannot truthfully say the same thing.

The Democratic party in Lackawanna county is sadly in need of a new leadership.

## The Philosophy of It.

It is undoubtedly true that there is a good deal of unnecessary atmosphere-churning in the political discussions of the present day, just as there is too much "barnstorming" on the American stage. The one, like the other, is calculated to amuse rather than edify the intelligent spectator. But we are unprepared to agree with those who summarily assume that this tendency to bathe in on the increase and that the men of today are distinctly inferior to their distinguished sires. Does not the very fact that those who are not fascinated by buffoonery on the stump and on the stage can sit back comfortably and laugh at it prove that we as a people are moving on?

Once, you will remember, there were no genial chaffers even in politics. Everybody got profoundly serious over the gyrations of his favorite partisan orator just as he did over those of his favorite expounder of theology or spouter of heroic verse; and the luckless might caught snickering up his sleeve, whether at stump meeting or in church, was promptly dubbed skeptic and led out. The amiable temper of a public which, after all the hurrah-boy fervor of bass-drum rally and torch-light parade, can settle back in its easy chair, pick its teeth and digest the news in its favorite paper while it also digests its recent meal is not a symptom of retrogression but of progress; not a token of degeneracy but rather a sign of returning common sense.

There is only one phase of the political outlook, viewed from a philosophic standpoint, that is discouraging. That is the factor represented by those who, lacking the virility either to cheer or smile, can find no better pastime than to sit back and growl. There are kickers in politics who kick from honest principle, and they are heroes. But there are also other kickers who kick simply out of acridulous habit, and they are just plain bores. One of the pleasant circumstances of this autumnal canvass for the control of the next congress is that the sour-stomach kicker has quite effectually disappeared. Like the Mugwump and the Arab he has folded his tent and silently stolen away.

Free trade would have done it; nevertheless, Harrityism helped.

Whether Mr. Schadt or Mr. Davies shall prove to have been the victor last Tuesday, The Tribune will be heartily glad of one thing. It will be glad that no word uttered by it during the recent spirited campaign either reflected upon Mr. Schadt's character or sought to fasten upon him the stigma of an undeserved accusation. It therefore has nothing to apologize for and nothing to regret.

Despite all false reports, the Democrats have held their own in Tennessee and Texas.

## The Evolution of a City.

One of the forward movements of the times that, during the stir incident to a close local campaign, received less attention from The Tribune than it deserved was that which by an endorsement at the polls last Tuesday made it possible for Pittston borough to transform itself into a progressive third-class city. The success of this proposition in the preliminary election, achieved against great opposition and heavy odds, is a splendid token that the civic activities which one year ago achieved a step toward municipal reform in Pittston will not cease, notwithstanding the apostasy of bogus councilman "friends" of reform, until there shall be a general cleansing out of the corrupt element which has so long pulled Pittston backward.

To the majority of our readers this subject may lack local interest; but it is nevertheless invested with very considerable interest as a typical instance of the general progress which is everywhere overtaking our town and city governments. The conditions in Pittston are precisely those which, upon a larger scale, have made the good citizens of Gotham, irrespective of party, revolt against official debauchery and organized venality in the conduct of municipal affairs. The Pittston Tammany was a very small fac simile of the New York Tammany, but in its total percentage of rottenness, ignorance and egotistic pretension it gave even its Manhattan model a close shave for supremacy. The formation of Pittston's down-at-the-heel borough into a third-class city will afford the reputable elements of that community a new chance to assert themselves, and to inaugurate the needed era of local reform by means of officials who cannot be bought, bluffed norajoled.

If a suggestion will be entertained from an outside source, we venture to propose that as an act of common gratitude, the first majority of Pittston city should be accorded, if he will accept, to honest Benjamin Harding. As the originator and chairman of the citizens' committee which has done

practically all that has recently awakened that municipality to a realizing sense of its own shortcomings, Mr. Harding has displayed fine executive powers combined with genuine grit and zeal. As mayor he would be absolutely honest and impartial. All the paving agents this side of Gehenna could not corrupt him nor, with his knowledge, practice corruption on others. We do not know that Mr. Harding would accept even an unanimous proffer of public office; but he has fairly earned the right to be considered among the foremost promoters of Pittston's municipal advancement, to whom the city must turn for its first officials.

The retirement of Colonel J. D. Laclair from the managing editorship of the Scranton Republican is announced. Colonel Laclair's connection with Scranton Journalism spans an eventful quarter of a century, during which time the colonel has displayed most faithful and honorable qualities. He has particularly distinguished himself by his thorough mastery of local and national politics, in which special field he ranks deservedly high. It is reported that Colonel Laclair will begin the new year in a responsible and lucrative position on the editorial staff of the Philadelphia Press. If this be true, the Press is to be congratulated. Colonel Laclair's successor on the Republican has not, to our knowledge, yet been selected.

The indiscriminate mixing up of the words "plurality" and "majority" is again vexing the soul of the man who bets. For his benefit, as well as for general information, it may be well to explain that "plurality" means the excess of one leading candidate over his nearest rival; while "majority" means his net excess over all rivals. It would be easier to signal to Mars, however, than to get the average writer for newspapers to observe this advantageous distinction.

Senator Voorhees, just before election, tentatively announced that he would soon retire from politics; and just to make sure of him, the people of Indiana burned his bridges by 59,000 plurality.

It will be now in order for William Hines to seek pecuniary consolation by pushing that libel suit.

## VIEW OF THE RESULT.

Is a Dispassionate Judgment.  
Philadelphia Bulletin: "The condemnation of the Democratic party is no sudden act of caprice; it is the deliberate and passionate judgment of the American people, and its effect will be more decisive and far-reaching than any of the great reactions since the downfall of the Democratic party with its antebellum Bourbonism in 1872. In many respects the most significant feature of the returns is the defeat of Professor Wilson, the head and front of the free trade movement. The moral prestige of his retirement to private life cannot be easily measured. Next to the ascendancy of the Republicans in the house, it will do more than any other event of the day to break up and demoralize the modern free trade movement in the United States. The most gratifying effect of the whole victory is that it makes tariff agitation absolutely powerless for mischief in the next two years. A Republican house at Washington will stand as an effective barrier against any more Villalobos. That was the uppermost purpose in the minds of the voters this year. They have secured for the country a relief from the vexations and follies of the most harmful strife that can afflict an industrial nation in a time of peace. So far as the tariff is concerned, the country may now look forward to a period of tranquility which no design or threat of free trade will disturb. It is unlikely that we shall henceforth witness the gradual extinction of 'tariff reform' as a Democratic issue. The reaction in favor of protection is not a spasmodic movement. The country has learned a lesson in the dangers of a tariff disturbance which it will not soon forget. The experience of this year's elections will convince the Democratic leaders that no party can even hope for success in the next decade if it shall go before the people with free trade or its virtual synonym, 'tariff reform,' inscribed upon its banners. The politicians will not follow Mr. Cleveland in a losing cause. The one deduction which those of them who study the popular drift will draw from the returns is that the Democratic party must find a new issue if it shall not enter the presidential election of 1896 hopelessly beaten in advance. To deny that there will be a counter reaction in favor of the Democratic party in the next two years would be to discard all the lessons of political experience. But the sober conviction of the American people that the Democratic party, after being put to the test, is unfit for the administration of government is today so far-reaching that only Republican blunders can prevent the party from reaping the full fruits of this victory in the next presidential election."

## People Are to Be Congratulated.

Washington Post: "The Democracy went into the campaign fatally handicapped. They undertook a contest discredited and repudiated by their own chief. Mr. Cleveland's letter to Hon. William L. Wilson stigmatized as perdition and dishonorable the tariff bill, a purely party measure—subsequently enacted into law by both houses of a Democratic congress, and sent them before the country branded as traitors and delinquents by their own leader. They were stripped of their armor and robbed of their defense—not by the enemy, but by their commander—and sent into the thick of the fray naked and helpless. Not only that, but they were divided among themselves, infirm of purpose and incoherent as to their organization. Abused by the Mugwump, taunted by the Cuckoos, rent asunder by dissension and distrust of chart and compass, they were like some abandoned derelict, the prey of every current, the sport of every vagrant breeze. It is no wonder that the Democrats have been overwhelmed in every part of the country where there was a possibility of their defeat. Without a leader, without the hope and courage that come of harmony, discredited in the house of their friends, and disarmed before the opening of the battle, they would have been superhuman had they triumphed. They have fought gallantly, wonderfully; but there was a forlorn hope from the beginning, and only a miracle could have saved them. Set against each other by foolish leaders, stimulated to suspicion and recrimination, embittered and alienated by scandal and detraction, they were a mob rather than an army—an intestinal melee rather than the demonstration of a propaganda. We think the country is to be congratulated. As things stood there was nothing to be gained by a different result. The American people can always be trusted. They at least have not lost the art of government."

## A Permanent Landslide.

Washington Star: "The good that will come to other American cities through the decapitation of the Tammany tiger will be immeasurable; everywhere virtue will be encouraged to assert itself and vice prompted to seek the section in which—as it must always exist—it should be compelled to reside. The unclean elements may be inclined to minimize the value of the victory in New York and may make reference to the fact that Tammany had a similar experience when the Tweed ring was smashed and that it came in smiling after brief retirement. It is true that Tammany survived the ordeal that crushed Tweed, but in those days it did not have to deal with men and women like those who choked his throat a few hours since. The spirit of every-day

Christianity, the doctrine of non-partisan municipal government, a great popular demand for honesty in official life, are all actively in evidence now. Party landladies are not infrequent; they come and are buried beneath other landladies. The landslide beneath which Tammany is buried is of the permanent variety."

## Wedded to Its Idol.

New York Sun: "Dearest than ever is David B. Hill to the untiring, weariless, indomitable Democracy of New York! He has made the greatest political fight witnessed in this land since Andrew Jackson encountered and defeated the United States bank and the monied power more than half a century ago. He has made it disinterestedly, heroically, uncompromisingly. He has proved himself the bravest, ablest and steadiest champion of Democratic ideas and policies. He has established himself as the true chief of the national Democratic party. The situation is not a joyful one for the Democracy or for Hill; but the future has ample opportunities of recovery and development, and the glory of consistency and fidelity will be theirs who remain true to the principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Tilden."

## Two Parties Are Sufficient.

Washington Star: "Whatever the outcome, the country cannot but be shown that there is little to be gained by a division among three faiths and that the best legislative results are obtained with two strong parties facing each other, one with a small majority and the other with an alert, vigilant, determined minority. The example of France, with a national legislature split up among a dozen shades of political beliefs, and torn by factional troubles, should suffice to make the spectacle of three parties in the United States seem striving for dominance an unpleasant one."

## Honesty Pays.

Carbondale Anthracite: "Corrupt politicians, like other kinds of villainy, may thrive for a season, but the end is disastrous, and in the majority of instances precludes the possibility of resurrection. Tammany is dead and the herds of venal politicians who have been its parasites, tools and promoters, will go to the political grave along with it."

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