

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 17, 1894.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 128,100. Registered voters, 20,292. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It's the metropolis of northeastern Pennsylvania. Can produce electric power cheaper than Niagara. No better point in the United States at which to establish new industries. See how we grow: Population in 1880, 35,000. Population in 1890, 45,850. Population in 1894, 75,510. And the end is not yet.

The Tribune has prepared a neat souvenir pamphlet containing the official returns of last week's election in Lackawanna county, by districts. Copies of this may be had for the asking, by application at the business office.

As to Election Contests.

It is entirely improbable that a contest for the sheriff's office, like that which is soon to be begun by Mr. Bailey, will alter the result of last week's election. Mr. Clemons, the sheriff-elect, under a law drafted by one of the Democracy's foremost local leaders, will qualify and fulfill the duties of the position while the contest is pending; and even though he should lose in the final decision—a supposition which we honestly believe to be almost incredible—he would in all probability, before the end of the contest could be reached, have served a greater portion of his term, leaving to his competitor only a barren victory.

Upon the other hand, following the precedents in election contests in this county, if he should be confirmed in his office—and in all candor we may say that, knowing as we do something of the inner facts in this case, we have not the vestige of a doubt of it—the net result would be that the county would be saddled with a big bill of expense; the contestant, Mr. Bailey, would be out of pocket, out of time and out of office, all in one; and the Republican sheriff-elect, who, under the law would originally qualify in any event, would simply be bothered in the discharge of his official duties, to no purpose and to no avail.

Only the specific knowledge of material illegality and fraud justifies the waging of so costly a contest. These contests, under any circumstances, are of doubtful expediency. Admitting that there is often apparent provocation to them, the expense which they entail upon the county—expense not only in the direct cash outlay necessitated by them, but also in the general uncertainty and disturbance which they introduce in the administrative processes of the county government—is invariably a heavy price to pay. If the processes of original fraud prevention be insufficient to secure fair elections, the process of reform by means of after-election contests, while justifiable in extreme cases, is in the majority of instances to be deplored rather than encouraged.

It is said that on Monday President Cleveland will extend the civil service rules over internal revenue employees—less with a desire to improve the service than to keep Democrats in office after 1896. This, by the way, is usually as far as the beautiful theory of civil service goes, under our system of changing politics.

Voting by Machinery.

If the object of ballot reform be to secure as much accuracy in voting, as possible, in the shortest possible time, we do not see how ballot reformers can consistently object to the use of labor-saving ballot reform machinery. It is already a demonstrated fact in the counting room that adding machines are more accurate than bookkeepers; and upon the same principle why should not a voting machine be preferable to the fallible individual ballot-marker?

Perhaps most of our readers have already heard of the Myers ballot machine, about which there is just now so much talk in New York state. The new constitution adopted last week gives the legislature power to authorize the use of this machine whenever it shall appear that the people so desire. The machine itself is an interesting study. A writer in the Sun succinctly describes it as follows:

To all outward appearance the machine is nothing more than a sheet-iron box five feet square and seven feet high. It has two doors in the front, one for the entrance of the voter and the other for his exit after he has registered a freeman's will. On entering the box the voter finds himself fully enclosed from prying eyes, for there is a roof over the booth, which is lighted from within. At the back of the booth the voter sees several rows of knobs in parallel, perpendicular rows occupying almost the entire back wall. Each of these rows is reserved to the candidates of a particular party who are to be voted for. The party designation will be found at the top of each row of knobs and opposite each knob will be found the name of the candidate to be voted for. If the voter cannot read, he can recognize his party candidate by the distinctive color of the paper on which the names are printed. Provision is made for the strict party man who wants to vote the straight ticket, which is the easiest thing to do in the Myers voting machine, as it is by any mode of voting yet devised. By pulling a

lever at the top of the column of knobs the vote is cast for every candidate of the party. At the same time all the other levers and the knobs are locked and the voter should remain in the box all day he couldn't cast another vote. In voting for individual candidates the pressing in of the knob opposite the name of the candidate (for mayor, for instance) would lock the knobs of every other candidate for mayor, so that there would be no danger of anybody's voting twice for mayor. When the voter leaves the booth by the "exit" door all of the levers and knobs are released by the action of the door, and the booth is ready for another voter. Outside the booth the voter will find a chart representing the position of the knobs and their relation to the candidates, which will assist him very materially in recording his desires when he gets inside. Similar charts can be used by the political poll workers in instructing their friends. Only a blind man would be incapable of voting with the machine, but he might have assistance, the law so providing. So much for the voter's part. The machine does the rest. Back of those long rows of levers and knobs is a shallow box fitted into the back of the booth, which contains the counting machinery, which is worked when the levers are pulled or the knobs pushed by the voters. This automatic counting arrangement is similar to that of the automatic cash register, or a better comparison, perhaps, would be the counting machines which registers the number of newspapers run off by a printing press, or the fare registers on a street car. This counting machinery is protected by a door which cannot be opened except by the inspectors of election after the voting is done and then the canvass of the vote is practically completed. The exact vote cast for every candidate will be indicated by the machines. Should the tally of voters who entered the booth kept by the election inspectors and poll clerks not agree with the machine, the conclusion would be that fallible man was mistaken, and that the machine's record was accurate.

One objection to Myers' machine is its cost. Each apparatus costs \$250. But this objection is met by the assertion that one machine would do the work of two election districts as at present constituted, while it would do away altogether with the expensive issue of ballot printing and with a number of the election officials required, for example, under our Baker law. So far as the opportunities for fraud are concerned, honors are apparently even. We do not believe that any known system wholly obviates fraud. But a proper method of voting by machinery might lessen it, inasmuch as it would reduce the detective work in each district to the comparatively simple problem of watching each machine, instead of several dozen men. The "machine" in politics has already demonstrated its deterring, and it may yet require a real machine to checkmate it.

We sincerely trust that if New York really desires to proffer a testimonial to Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, it will come to a decision with greater haste than marked the progress of its monument to General Grant.

Third Party Progress.

The revised official count indicates that the total vote for Hawley, Prohibition candidate for governor, will approximate 20,000, which is 12,000 less than the high water mark recorded by the candidacy of Charles S. Wolfe. While this vote is a handsome one, under the circumstances, we do not see that it sustains the hope of those who expect the Third party to attain national prominence as a competitive factor in American politics.

In this connection, we observe in the Wilkes-Barre Record a letter from Emmett D. Nichols in which the assertion is made that "in 1872 the Prohibition vote was 5,607 in the nation; in 1876 it was 9,737; in 1880 it was 19,366; in 1884 it was 156,626; in 1888 it was 249,945; in 1892 it was 270,813; in 1893 the states aggregated 300,000, and I dare say this year it is still more. The Wine and Spirit Gazette, a prominent journal published in New York in the interest of the liquor trade, recently declared that there were at least 500,000 votes cast for the Prohibition party in this nation in 1888. That journal no doubt had some grounds for making such a declaration. What hope would one of the old parties have of getting an honest count if all the election boards were composed of members of the other party? That is the position of the Prohibition party at present. The election boards are in the hands of our enemies almost entirely, and while we have some honest boards, yet there are many boards who are none too honest to throw out our vote, and we have strong evidences that such despicable tricks are often practiced upon us. Of course we believe that a vote cast for principle is never lost."

This is a plausible statement of the case; but can it be regarded as thoroughly satisfactory? If the Prohibition party were, as its advocates claim, the coming party, would it require ten years to double its vote? The history of the Republican party, with which the Prohibition party is frequently compared, contains no such record of lethargy. It bounded by giant strides into the national arena and in a decade grew faster than the Prohibition partisan movement has grown in more than a score of years. Even the Populists, in less than a decade, have trebled the growth of the Prohibitionists. The loyalty which adheres to principle even against hopeless odds is to be commended and admired. But we are yet unable to see, upon the face of the returns, just what our third party friends hope to accomplish by remaining together as a small minority party.

We notice, with pleasure, that the conference of departmental heads at Harrisburg Thursday adopted, substantially without amendment, the bill for state forestry reservations prepared by Dr. Rothrock. It also approved a bill drafted by President Ford, of the state fishery commission, to preserve the purity and prevent the pollution of the waters of the commonwealth. We do not have before us the text of this bill; but the assertion that it does not bear unjustly on any business enterprise is important if true. The urgent need of such preservation is not open to argument; but it will require careful pilotage to avoid conflict with polluting interests.

In 1893, an off year, Ames, Prohibition candidate for judge of the Pennsylvania supreme court, polled 21,470 votes. Last week, in an exciting gubernatorial year, Hawley, Prohibition candidate for governor, according to the People, the state Prohibition organ, polled 22,821 votes, a gain in one year of only 1,351 votes. Saying nothing of the natural increase in the Republican vote in Pennsylvania, from year to year, which is even more rapid, proportionally, than the total gain in the Prohibition

vote, it would, at the foregoing rate, take something like three and two-thirds centuries for the Prohibition party to become a majority party in this commonwealth. Figures sometimes are stubborn things, but they are worth noticing.

The fact that Scranton's water supply is officially indorsed as the best in the country is another feather in the cap of our proud pre-eminence. With this happy circumstance in mind, there is less excuse than ever left for neglecting to drink it.

Even the most uncompromising friend of the West Lackawanna viaduct must admit that the city should not blindly take a leap in the dark. The question of crossings should be definitely settled before new debt is contracted.

The cleanly appearance of Pine street between Quincy and Clay avenues, or where the new asphalt paving has been completed, is an impressive admonition to the other cross streets on the hill not to get out of fashion.

The wife of the repudiated Populist governor of Colorado says women were bribed to vote the Republican ticket by offers of chewing gum. Where was Waite's confectionery pull?

With moderate speed in the numerous preliminaries, the Swetland street bridge ought to become a visible fact long before this date in '95.

A material improvement is noticeable, of late, in the quality of Republican headgear.

CHATS BY THE WAY.

There are a good many playgoers these days who are quite ready to agree with the sentiment thus expressed by W. S. Gilbert in one of the songs in his new opera, "His Excellency":

Quixote is his enterprise, and hopeless his adventure in life. Who seeks for jocularities that haven't yet been said. The world has joked incessantly for over fifty centuries. And every joke that's possible has long ago been made.

I started as a humorist with lots of mental fitness. But I found a drug which it's fashion to abuse; For my stock in trade, my fixtures, and the good-will of the business. No reasonable offer I am likely to refuse. And if anybody choose He may circulate the news That no reasonable offer I am likely to refuse.

Oh, happy was the humorist—the first that made a pun at all— Who, when a joke occurred to him, however rosy and mean, Was absolutely certain that it never had been done at all— How popular at dinner must that humorist have been!

Oh, the days when some stepfather for the query held a handle out. The door-mat from the scraper, is it distant very far? And when no one knew where Moses was when Aaron put the candle out, And no one had discovered that a door could be ajar!

But your modern hearers are in their tastes particular, And they sneer if you inform them that a door can be ajar!

In search of quip and quiddity I've sat all day, alone, apart— And all that I could hit on as a problem was—to find Analogy between a scragg of mutton and a Bony-part.

Which offers slight employment to the speculative mind: For you cannot call it very good, however great your charity— It's not the sort of humor that is greeted with a shout— And I've come to the conclusion that the mine of jocularity

In the present Anno Domini is worked completely out! Though the notion you may scout, I can prove beyond a doubt That the mine of jocularity is utterly worked out!

Local hunters will peruse with pleasure this interesting paragraph from the Wilkes-Barre Leader: "There are deer in close vicinity. A fine buck was seen back of Dalton, and bear have been noted on the Bowman's creek watershed and in the swamps that abound in the fastnesses of the Lehigh range. The number of foxes shot within the past week shows that roynard is keeping up his progeny. The wildest is abundant on the Lehigh and Moosic mountains. One hunter alone in the past four years shot 250 foxes, 300 wildcats or catamounts and a large number of skunks. The skins of the fox are worth from 25 to 50 cents. New Zealand skins sell for 20 cents to \$1, according to size, and for skunks a good demand will place the pelt at \$1. Notwithstanding the aggression of civilization the wilds of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Monroe and Sullivan counties are full of game of the wildest sort, and the woods will be full of hunters from now on until the season closes. The markets are crowded already with smaller game, and later in the season there will be deer and bear meat galore."

It will be welcome news to wheelmen that the big cycle companies will in all probability name \$100 as the standard price for 1896 models. One of these companies—the Hamer firm in Chicago—has already made this announcement, and it would be singular, indeed, if its competitors in high grade goods did not follow its example. The raw material in an average bicycle costs less than \$1. The labor in making it costs less than \$2. And the remaining \$95 represents freight, tolls, advertising, commissions and profits. The cost of the bicycle is bound to come down. You can put it down at anything that inside of twenty-five years the best wheels will go begging at \$50 apiece.

Up to date, Editor Singler's emphatic demand for a new leadership in the Democracy of Pennsylvania has not been honored by a spontaneous response. Neither is it altogether clear that Secretary Harty is yet under any obligation to proffer his resignation as boss. Indeed, those of Harty's friends who may be supposed to know, intimate that the private secretary of the commonwealth believes the late candidate for governor is merely doing some more loud "talking through his hat."

POLITICAL POINTS.

Senator Quay will today return to Beaver. The appointment of Lewis E. Beiler, of Philadelphia, as Governor Hastings' private secretary is regarded by all the prophets as a foregone conclusion.

Senator Porter, of Philadelphia, declares that City Solicitor Warwick does not wish to be Governor Hastings' attorney general. His gun is loaded for majority honors.

An effort will be made by John Craig, of Ridgway, to unseat William Hyde, the Democrat, who was elected state senator by 81 majority, in the Thirty-eighth district, composed of Elk, Clarion, Forest and Cameron counties. Craig is preparing his papers.

Judge Furst, of Bellefonte, has received a letter signed by every member of the Center county bar urging him not to resign before the expiration of his term, which is Jan. 7, 1895. In response to the letter and request the judge has waived his own personal interests and agreed to serve out his term.

Chairman Babcock, of the Republican congressional campaign committee, is of the opinion that it would be wise to have permanent Washington headquarters as a rendezvous for members of the party in congress, where they could go to meet

one another in party conference and where they could also have a constant supply of party literature on hand for the use of inquiring constituents and of facts and figures for the use of congressmen themselves. Mr. Babcock would recommend the making of the present headquarters permanent.

If the Philadelphia Press is correctly informed, the work of making General Hastings' cabinet without consulting him may become labor wasted. After noting in its news columns that Senator Quay favors Lyman D. Gilbert, of Harrisburg, for secretary of the commonwealth, the Press significantly adds: "Some friends of General Hastings say that he will not appoint Mr. Gilbert attorney general and that he may upset the states that are made without consulting with him. They say that when the time comes General Hastings will make his own choice of men for attorney general and for secretary of the commonwealth. Up to the present he has not indicated who he will appoint to these offices." Does this mean Colonel Lambert for the state portfolio?

In the present house sits W. B. English, a Democrat from the Third California district, who was seated on a contest for the seat to which S. G. Hilborn, Republican, was elected by 23 majority. The unusual position taken in that case in order to deprive a Republican of his seat that affidavits of voters as to how they cast their ballots should be regarded as superior evidence to the ballot themselves actually produced, furnishes a precedent through which every southern Democrat whose seat in the next congress is contested may be evicted from congress. It is reported that the entire Democratic delegation from Virginia will be challenged upon this ground and finally turned down. The Republican congressional committee have already been notified of thirteen contests—one in Kentucky, three in Louisiana, one in North Carolina, one in Texas, one in Virginia and one in Nebraska. There will be at least four other contests from the south, probably more than that.

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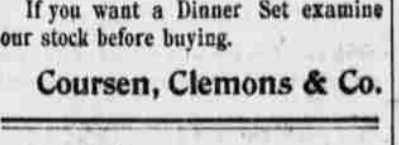
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