

The Scranton Tribune

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THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 26,500. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It is 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 1820, 5,213. Population in 1830, 25,092. Population in 1840, 45,570. Population in 1850, 75,215. Population in 1860, 100,000. And the end is not yet.

The Democratic business men and property owners of the Seventh ward are recommended to nominate M. P. Gilroy, whom some of their party bosses are preparing to urge for common council. We believe that the ward could find a better man than Gilroy to represent it in council.

Pattison's Second Term.

Among the results achieved during the second administration of Governor Pattison was a re-organization of the methods of transacting public business in the auditor general's and state treasurer's departments, whereby in one year the collection of state revenues rose from \$8,625,919.10 to \$13,067,161.74; the reduction of the permanent bonded obligations of the commonwealth from \$12,349,920.28 on Jan. 1, 1891, to \$2,066,552.75 on Jan. 1, 1892, being today \$4,775,908.53 in the sinking fund; the total disbursement, by improved methods, of \$21,000,000 for the support and maintenance of the public schools; the securing from the general government of the re-payment of \$1,700,000 direct tax, which was, at Governor Pattison's suggestion, applied to the state debt; the enactment of a generally satisfactory system of ballot reform; the organization of the departments presided over by the superintendent of banking and factory inspector; and a generally progressive discharge of the duties of the various state bureaus, boards and commissions. During this period Governor Pattison vetoed altogether 169 bills, of which but one, of minor importance, was passed over his disapproval. His liberal course toward the National guard will be gratefully remembered, while among his most conspicuous mistakes will be the vetoing of the compulsory education bill.

It will, we think, be the general opinion of fair-minded judges that Governor Pattison's second term has not fulfilled the expectations aroused by his first tenure of the office of governor. It has been very far from a failure, in any except the political sense of the word. The public business of the commonwealth has prospered under his supervision; there have been no grave scandals in any department of the state service, except one for which Governor Pattison was in no sense responsible and which he did much to unravel and to cleanse; the tenor of affairs has been peaceful and progressive. For these very reasons—because conservatism is always tame, always commonplace—we suspect that Governor Pattison's second term will be regarded as falling short of expectations. His first term was that of a man new to the office and earnest with untiring zeal in behalf of sweeping public reforms. Whatever else he did, he in that term made a distinct and picturesque impression upon the public mind. When his term expired the people remembered, not his real achievements, which were small, but his glowing promises and fine rhetoric, of which he never experienced a shortage. It was this recollection, deceptive as it afterward proved, which re-elected him governor four years ago. We do not hold it to Governor Pattison's discredit that, under the heavy load of weighty responsibilities, he sobered down from the exuberance of youth into a very ordinary executive.

We merely state the fact as an interesting part of contemporary history. If Senator Quay has any more of his "few remarks" to release, we respectfully suggest that he wait until during the Fifty-fourth congress. The public wants this congress to hasten its work and die.

Time to Get to Work.

Inasmuch as elections for common councilmen occur in the odd wards Feb. 19, it will be necessary to make nominations a sufficient time prior to Jan. 22 to render possible the filing of properly-prepared certificates of nomination, which must be in the hands of the county commissioners twenty-eight days before election. The various ward caucuses ought to be held not later than Jan. 19, or less than three weeks hence.

It is time, therefore, for citizens who wish to see a proper representation in the lower branch of councils to bestir themselves. In a number of wards the floaters and heelers of both parties are already busy. If the better class of residents in those wards—the men who own the property, pay the taxes and do the business of their several wards—expect to cope with the political non-descripts who are already setting up

candidates of their own ilk for what there is in it, these substantial citizens would do well to move promptly. Merely hoping and waiting for some one else to take the initial step will not accomplish the desired result. The Tribune has gone into this battle with a full foreknowledge of its many difficulties, of which the chief one is the inexplicable sluggishness, the almost idiotic patience, of the public which, under the present system of councilmanic misrepresentation, is not only being misrepresented, but also in many instances is actually being cheated. Nevertheless, we propose to stay in the fight until a substantial victory has been achieved in behalf of clean local government administered by reputable and representative business men.

Scrantonians generally will share the compliment paid to Hon. H. M. Edwards, law judge of Lackawanna county, in his selection as presiding official at the big Utica, N. Y., state-fair which begins this evening. The tribute was only natural, considering Judge Edwards' international reputation as a conductor of extended-fair and also as an adjudicator in literary contests; but that our fellow-citizen should be called to this historic duty is nevertheless a pleasing new reminder of his prominence and his worth, both of which reflect credit upon this city and this county.

The Lexow Committee's Work.

The retirement of Recorder-elect Goff from active connection with the Lexow committee inquiry makes opportune a few remarks concerning the committee, its counsel and the expected consequences of its revelations. Much is said in critics of the latitude permitted by the committee to Mr. Goff in cross-examination. We regard this as necessary. It is a case of the end justifying the method. Rogues cannot be handled with the scrupulous nicety that prevails in the decorous higher courts. The whole purport of the inquiry was to reach the results that have been achieved, no matter by what route. To have crippled Goff's freedom in cross-examination would have been to cripple the entire reform movement which has received its impetus and sustenance from the findings of the Lexow committee.

As to John W. Goff individually, now that he is to rise upon the bench vacated by Recorder Smyth, it is fair to phrase the tribute that is in all men's mouths. A Democrat, connected obscurely with the district attorney's office in New York city—an office itself under suspicion of complicity in the dominant conspiracy of municipal misrule—Mr. Goff came to the chief place in the Lexow inquiry and untried and unknown man. It is the simple truth to say that his selection for so difficult a task was originally regarded with anxiety. The subsequent vindication of the wisdom of that choice is now familiar history. Great results are obtained only by the co-operation of great men. Yet it is no more than just to John W. Goff to say that in himself, while acting as counsel for the people before the Lexow committee, he combined the resources, the energy and the unswerving directness of a host of trained fighters. In the eye of the future, his fame will be largely reflected.

Lastly, as to the consequences. The determination of them rests with the people of New York. The temporary defeat of one partisan municipal ticket was the very least of the details of the task unfolded by Dr. Parkhurst and the Lexow committee. It was so infinitely unimportant, in contrast with the immense importance of the duties that remain as yet untouched, that we are amused as well as chagrined, to see trading politicians and careless citizens, regarding the election of Strong mayor as the end of the battle. The skin of the surface of Gotham's misgovernment has scarcely been abraded as yet. The reorganization of the police force; the divorcement of the saloon and the low resort from collusion with public officials; the establishment of a clean and stable civil service and the placing of every municipal department upon a solid and honest business basis are some—and only a few—of the tasks that beckon. We trust that the foremost city in the new world will not fail in its duty. A failure after expectations had reached their present pitch would retard the cause of good government in every city in the land.

Anthony Comstock claims, and truly, that during the last ten years he has convicted more "green goods" men than all the police of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania combined. This, however, is not the point under discussion. We believe Mr. Comstock innocent of the charge of bribery preferred against him by two witnesses before the Lexow committee. But at the same time we should like to see him prove it. Getting angry at Lawyer Goff will not constitute a vindication.

Establish a Precedent.

We are glad to learn, from the state department, that no American citizens were injured in the Armenian massacres. The escape of our missionaries from death is a subject for devout thanksgiving. It is an escape in no wise added, however, by the exemplary influences of an American foreign policy which would be calculated to render exceedingly dangerous to any foreign power the maltreatment, within its jurisdiction, of a citizen of the United States.

The plea that the United States cannot insist upon the appointment of a representative upon the Armenian commission of inquiry unless there is proof that American citizens have been injured in Armenia is in accordance with international law, as that law is customarily construed between civilized nations. It, however, overlooks the important fact that Turkey is not a civilized, independent power, but a barbarian ward, existing in its present form by courtesy alone. The porte assumes that it has the rights of an independent power; but there is nothing in the porte's conduct to give this claim moral validity. It has persistently and systematically ignored the principles of toleration and upright dealing. Its sway has been despotic and arbitrary. Its rule is a rule of mingled ferocity and treachery. By every dictate of justice it stands condemned as a continual menace to peace and civilization. If there is no precedent to authorize

American intervention in this instance, the occasion would seem to be a good one for the establishment of one.

We trust that at the session of the legislature which begins tomorrow some member will introduce a carefully-drawn bill creating the office of county controller in counties having 150,000 population or more. The recent collapse of the Kline law through structural defects cannot be regarded as other than a public misfortune.

The present city administration is entitled to the credit of having, during the recent storm, promptly and impartially enforced the ordinance against snow-obstructed sidewalks. This enforcement was simultaneous in all parts of the city; and it was also thorough. The innovation was somewhat startling; but it was agreeable.

Mr. Cleveland will simply add one to his many blunders if he shall call an extra session of the Fifty-fourth congress to consider financial legislation. The country does not need legislation so urgently that it cannot bide the accustomed day.

The young man down in New Jersey who shot himself the other day because he was too smart to enjoy life, seems to have been in direct competition with the old theory that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Senator Lodge favors the enforcement of the income tax because he thinks that is the quickest plan to get the tax repealed. There is logic in this argument.

The effort of Madeline Pollard to live down the penalty of her shame should be respected by decent newspapers. Nothing is gained by parading her doings in print.

The next common councilman from the Nineteenth ward should be a clean, upright and trustworthy business man. No more figurehead will do.

POLITICAL POINTS.

Representative Jeffrey is presenting the claims of E. P. Davis, of Luzerne, for sergeant-at-arms of the house. George Hoppis, sergeant-at-arms of the last house, is a candidate for re-election.

Representative Ritter, of Philadelphia, appears to have the inside track for chairman of the judiciary committee. The standing committee of the two houses will not be announced before week after next.

Philadelphia Times: "The country member unacquainted with their card parties and suppers, will two months hence wish his bill is too far back on the calendar to be reached or why it has been held up in committee. It is understood that General Hastings has decided to appoint as superintendent of public printing Thomas Robinson, ex-collator of the Butler Eagle, who is a personal friend of Senator Quay. This is said to be a compromise resultant from the senator's recommendation of Mr. Robinson for deputy secretary of the commonwealth.

Joseph H. Christie will be the chief orator of the New York Republican convention Feb. 12, the anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln. He will respond to the toast, "Abraham Lincoln." Those who know say that the great lawyer is preparing an oration which will add greatly to his fame as a speaker. For the past month he has been busy getting his speech ready.

A seventh legislative district for Luzerne county will be carved out in the next legislative reapportionment bill. It will be remembered that at the last session Representative Daniel J. Rose proposed such a district to be made up of Ashley, Nanticoke, Sugar Notch and Conyngham boroughs, and Hanover, Hollenback, Newport and Slocum townships. It is probable that this proposition will this time prevail.

Doubt is expressed that Speaker-to-be Walton, of the house of representatives, can satisfactorily arrange his standing committee appointments and after conference with many of his fellow members following the organization of the legislature. Therefore, it is predicted that, after a day, or perhaps two, the legislators will return home, and that, in order to lay the Philadelphia Republican members attend the primary elections and conventions of their party on Jan. 5 and 6, the adjournment will be until the evening of the 9th, Wednesday. Senator Quay is said to have advised that the session of the legislature be limited to three months.

Approves of the Hazleton county project, which will soon come up again, it is interesting to recollect, in the language of the Wilkes-Barre Record at the time of the same agitation two years ago, that "Luzerne will still be a large county after 'Hazel' is torned out of a part of it. There are now 150,000 people in the Wyoming valley, and by 1900 the number will be increased to 200,000. This is still a little empire, strong and united, and it is to be proud of the pride of its citizens. The cost of running it would be considerably less than at present, for it would be more compact and homogeneous. Financially speaking, therefore, it would be wise to let the Fourth district go and permit joy to go with it. Again, it would only be a fair and just act to the people of that section. They are located a great distance from the county seat and it is both a heavy expense and a terrible inconvenience for them to come here to transact their legal business." These considerations are fully as strong now as they were two years ago.

Beginning with 1872 there have been eleven organizations of the legislature and eight out of the eleven times the speaker of the house of representatives has been taken either from Philadelphia or Allegheny, each county having thus been honored four times. In three instances only in that time has a choice been made from the interior, the first in 1877, when E. Reed Myer, of Bradford, was chosen; the second when Benjamin L. Hewitt, of Luzerne, was named in 1881, and the third ten years later when Caleb C. Thompson, of Warren, was chosen. Twice in twenty years the Democrats have controlled the house. In the first instance they took the speaker from Allegheny, and in the second from Philadelphia. The speakers of the house since 1872 were William Elliott, H. H. McCormick, S. F. Patterson, E. Reed Myer, Henry Martin Long, Benjamin L. Hewitt, John E. Pounce, James L. Graham, Henry K. Boyer and Caleb C. Thompson. Elliott was also speaker in 1872. He, ex-speaker Thompson, and ex-speaker Boyer are the only speakers in the last twenty years who succeeded themselves. Harry Walton's election tomorrow will undoubtedly be taken by Allegheny as a license to name Mr. Walton's successor.

What Platforms Are For.

From the Courier-Journal. There are those who think that party platforms were made to be ignored, but no party ever yet successfully ignored its platform. Turn over the pages of your political history and find an instance where one ever did, and, when found, get the best hat in town and send the bill to this office! A party pledge is a promissory note and, as a promissory note, it should be met and redeemed upon maturity. The price of political credit in the price of personal credit.

Children, Too, Have Rights.

From the Altoona Tribune. Usually those who oppose compulsory education do not even take about the "rights" of parents. They never seem to think that children have "rights" also. The fact of the matter is that the parents' obligations outweigh his rights. He is under obligations to give the child

an equal chance with its fellows, and one of his most imperative duties is to provide it with an education or permit the state to do so. There is no tyranny in compulsory education; there is in compulsory ignorance. That the time has fully come when it is the duty of the state to see that careless and selfish parents do not send their children out into the great world maimed and blind, ought to be clear to every student of statistics. Even here in Pennsylvania, one of the first states to be settled, and where schools of all sorts abound, there are thousands of children growing up in blank ignorance because their parents will not send them to school. These children are going to be a source of expense and trouble in the future.

Benevolence, Not Tyranny.

From the Altoona Tribune. Compulsory education does not mean, as so many seem to imagine, the tyranny of the state shattering parental authority, but the benevolence of the state exercised on behalf of defenseless childhood.

A Contrast.

From the Post-Express. Croker is rich and out of politics. Croker is poor and nearly out of congress. One will race horses like a gambler and the other will practice law like a gentleman.

Punishment Near Its End.

From the Post-Express. The sentences of many congressmen have nearly expired.

TO THE NEW YEAR.

Was it forth from the flakes of drifting snow, As they carelessly hurry them to and fro, Thou camest today, O white New Year? Or out from the golden gates of Dawn When an angel opened them wide, at morn, Didst thou come this way, O bright New Year?

Was it forth from the realms of an unseen hither by touch of an unseen hand, Thou camest today, O blest New Year? Or out from the shades of the saddened past, Where the Old Year cares are hid at last, Hast thou come this way, O best New Year?

Was it down from the heaven that spreads above And forth from the land of Eternal Love Thou camest today, O benign New Year? Or it into the world by an angel's hand, With thy spotless robe thou hast entered in, And come to stay, O divine New Year? —From the January Lippincott's.

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—The secret is out. Not only do they say we do washing for a living, but that we do it well. So keep it going. Tell everybody you see, but tell them not to tell.

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Wherewithal Shall Ye Be Clothed?

As the icy breath of Old Boreas sweeps around the corner it carries that question right home to us. Humanity can no more stand such weather unprotected than can the Lilies of the Field. Remember right now, that flannels are cheaper than funerals, and that underwear costs less than undertakers. Therefore, we say: Come unto us all ye who shiver and are lightly muffled, and we will warm you up

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EXCELSIOR



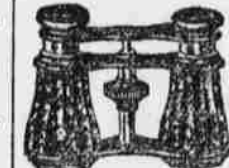
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