

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 16, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 140 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 20,000. 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 1870, 25,000. Population in 1880, 45,500. Population in 1890, 75,250. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

The re-election yesterday of the Wilbur management of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company is a notable triumph of business prudence over personal prejudice.

Governor Hastings.

It is a fortunate circumstance which brings to the fore, as the leader and personal medium of Republican restoration in the chief magistracy of the commonwealth, a man so well adapted in physique, temperament, training and purpose to the duties of that lofty position as is General Daniel Hartman Hastings. Massive, majestic and manly, he at once unites the ideals of the common people, from whom he springs, with the necessary requirements of those who view in public office, under our system of party government, duties to party and to party organization second only to those duties, the fulfillment of which belongs to the whole people.

General Hastings becomes the governor of Pennsylvania with few hands and clean garments. The majority by which he was chosen, the largest ever cast in any state in this Union either in war time or in peace, commits to his charge a trust far in excess of party boundaries and commissions him with a power exceptional even in government by popular suffrage. It is pleasing to be able to say, with entire candor, and to have partisan opponents concur in the statement, that General Hastings, as a man, is entirely worthy of that trust.

His record as governor will be awaited with an interest on the part of the people commensurate with the measure of their personal admiration and with the magnitude of his opportunity. Their welcoming of him to office is cordial to an uncommon degree; but it does not forget to recognize, with kindly appreciation, the high personal character of his Democratic predecessor, who will take with him, into private life, the esteem even of those who have most widely differed from him in details of gubernatorial policy.

The Wilkes-Barre Record's sarcastic reference to the Armenian protest meeting in this city is abominably clever; but we think the Record will, upon reflection, agree with us that Christian sentiment in the United States cannot be better enlisted than in the two-fold purpose of protecting American citizens in Turkey and in deprecating a gross international outrage.

The Inaugural Address.

Of the four leading topics discussed by Governor Hastings in his inaugural address, two are of general scope and two appeal directly to state legislation. After a modest and many introduction the governor treats at length of the first of these larger themes, pausing only long enough to pay a gracious tribute to his chivalrous recent opponent on the minority ticket. He finds in the last two sweeping revolutions in national public sentiment, occurring as they did in opposite directions within two years, proof not of the insecurity but rather of the strength and stability of our form of government, inasmuch as they indicate the growth of serious and independent thinking among the people. The tariff question, though, he regards as settled in its essential principles. Upon this subject he shrewdly says: While the American wage rate is almost as distinctive a feature of our national system as our Declaration of Independence or our flag, and protection to our own industries a settled conviction of our people, yet conservative judgment will always demand that legislation upon this subject be of such a character as will be just to all sections of our common country, all industries and occupations, and that with changing conditions, the schedules of protective rates shall be so modified as to prevent monopoly or oppression of any class of our people by the power of aggregated wealth.

The mutuality and interdependence of labor and capital, the interruption of which, by either, causes so much trouble to itself, the other, and to the whole community, are discussed in the address with particular candor. We recommend the reading by every one of that portion of the address in which the mutuality and the separate rights of labor and capital are clearly defined. We especially bespeak for the following excerpt thoughtful attention: The state that permits large aggregations of capital to be employed should surround the artificial person thus created with the same restrictions, privileges and protection, which it gives the individual citizen. The laws affecting each should be just and equitable. The burden of tax-

ation should rest justly and equitably upon both, having due regard to every privilege, advantage and related interest. Neither should be a target for the demagogue or the tool of the avaricious. Wise laws, rigidly enforced, are indispensable to both as well as to the state. Every man has the right to sell his labor at his own price, and is entitled to protection in its performance. Labor has the right to organize for mutual protection and advantage the same as capital; but neither labor nor capital has the right to combine to prevent men from working at any price they please, no more than capital has the right to control or pervert the natural channels of industry so as to depress the price of labor or raise the cost of living. I have been constrained to dwell somewhat upon this subject, because in the further development of our material wealth it is necessary for the peace and dignity of the state, and for the preservation of the lives and property of her citizens, that there shall be no recurrence of law-breaking methods to enforce a settlement of private disputes. The state is concerned that there shall be industrial peace; that mining, manufacturing, trade and commerce shall continue without interruption and to the advantage of all concerned; and I shall regard it as one of the most solemn obligations of my oath of office to see to it that the peace and dignity of the commonwealth be maintained and the laws enforced and open defiance thereto restrained promptly and at whatever needed cost.

Where strikes occur or are threatened, the governor thinks that "some sure legal method of ascertaining the facts, and laying them bare to the public before disputes result in violation of law, destruction of property or injury to public rights," by whatever means it might be called, "would bring the merits of both sides of the contest before the public for its judgment, where the right is sure to prevail."

Disposing thus of two topics of national import, the governor next addresses himself to two other themes of primarily state concern—the public schools and the public roads. These portions of his address may be briefly summarized as favorable to a modification of the public school system along the line of manual training at state expense, and as endorsing state aid to struggling communities where the construction of proper roads is prohibited by reason of its cost. We regard it unfortunate that at this time, when the educational interests of the commonwealth are intent upon achieving the logical supplement to our present fine system of free public schools known as compulsory education, the newly-inaugured chief executive of the state should have no word of encouragement, but should instead pass to the consideration of a project somewhat alien to the occasion, and of doubtful practicability except through the channels of individual beneficence.

In fact, this is our view is the one defect in an address otherwise rich in counsel and suggestion, and phrased in language at which the most cautious cannot take offense. Senator Penrose has introduced a bill at Harrisburg authorizing any city or borough to raise money by taxation, the levy not to exceed two mills on the dollar, for the establishment and maintenance of free libraries. A law similar to this has long been in operation in Massachusetts, and as a consequence, where Pennsylvania has only ten municipal free libraries—and these the result of private donation—Massachusetts has more than 200, all of them flourishing. The remarkable success of the Albright memorial library in this city is a strong argument in favor of permitting the establishment, by taxation, of similar institutions in boroughs or cities in which private generosity has not paralleled the magnificent work of the Albright heirs.

In the replacement of Lieutenant Governor Wares by Hon. Walter Lyon there is consolation by reason of the fact that it will restore to this city and community one who has for twelve years served it and the state with conspicuous credit at Harrisburg. Should the same law of promotion obtain in the future as that which four years ago took him from the floor of the senate and made him the Republican lieutenant to a Democratic governor, few Scrantonians would be surprised and no decent one would feel sorry.

It is said that Mayor Strong, of New York, has decided to retain Superintendent Byrnes at the head of that city's police department. If this be true, we fear it is a mistake in judgment. No doubt there would be difficulty in replacing him with one of equal experience. But the fact that his control in the past has been coincident with grave abuses which he did nothing to correct would seem to seriously impair his future usefulness.

If capital punishment should be abolished in this state, the Wilkes-Barre Record thinks that "condemned murderers would be comfortably clothed and fed at the people's expense, while many an honest man would starve and freeze." The same argument would apply to criminals condemned for other crimes than murder. Does the Record favor killing off all criminals, just to save expenses?

It is perhaps a trifle early to forecast with accuracy the result of the senatorial election in this state in 1897; but since Senator Cameron has decided not to be a candidate and inasmuch as the seat already has one senator, we violate no confidence in saying that the next senator will be likely to come from northeastern Pennsylvania.

We trust that every progressive citizen of Scranton will take the trouble to attend the caucus in his ward at which candidates for council are nominated. Such attendance would solve the problem of good government in this city. There are no substitutes, no point-less platitudes and no insincere generalities in Governor Hastings' inaugural address. It is the thoughtful message of an honest man told candidly and received with conviction.

Governor Pattison's traditional "luck" would speedily cease to be a factor in Pennsylvania politics if Republicans would be guided by the principles of common sense.

There appears to have been a high flavor of dime-novel romance connected with the sudden disappearance of three young men and two girls who left Dunmore the other day for parts unknown. The dark plot for escape was mapped out in a barn where mild-eyed quadrupeds of the bovine species calmly masticated what was once new-mown

hay as the trusting maidens pledged eternal fidelity to the young heroes, who were prepared, if necessary, to spill red blood for the objects of their adoration. One practical measure of precaution, however, was adopted by the young men. This consisted in the purchase of new shoes, which were duly charged to the account of the stern parent in each case. The new shoes will doubtless prove a blessing to the elopers upon the return journey homeward, especially if the walking is sloppy.

Although its remark will encounter violent dissent, the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer is not far wrong when it says: "Manual training, or advanced education as some of its friends call it, has no place in the curriculum of the common schools and an attempt to put the cost of maintaining it on taxpayers will simply be an imposition and nothing else." Private benevolence ought to solve this problem. General taxation of the many for the few is wrong. No one questions the desirability of manual training; the only room for difference is with reference to the method of supporting schools for manual training.

The Altoona Tribune is convinced of two things; first that Senator Quay has somehow tried to rob the people of Philadelphia of their right to home rule; and secondly, that Senator Quay, on general principles, is a bold and bad man. We regret to see so good a paper as the Tribune in two such great errors, for neither of its suppositions is in accord with the facts.

City Solicitor Varwick, of Philadelphia, is no doubt personally an able, courageous and clean-handed man. The Republican party could hardly select a better man for mayor. The fact is, however, that the manner of his nomination over Penrose has belied the prospect of his election; and the Republican party in Philadelphia would be foolish to take chances.

The bill of the state board of health authorizing the establishment of township health boards is now before the legislature. Its principles cannot be assailed. There is a growing belief that precautions in protection of the public health, to be effective, must be continuous, covering federal, state, municipal and also country districts.

New legislators naturally mean new gift books. It is not surprising, therefore, that there is a movement at Harrisburg to print another edition of the "Birds of Pennsylvania" and also of "Pennsylvania at Gettysburg."

If Editor Singery's reference, in yesterday's Record, to Governor Hastings was in excellent taste, the governor's later return of the compliment was equally felicitous and graceful. Fair exchange is no robbery.

The base assertion that the people of the south take no interest in the elevation of the colored race was refuted last year by 166 lynchings.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Medical Men on Capital Punishment. In connection with the movement begun by Senator Vaughan to abolish the death penalty in this state it is interesting to note the attitude of prominent medical men upon this question, especially upon the difference between disease and delirium. For example, the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the state of New York discussed the subject at its annual meeting, held in February, 1891, and without a dissenting voice resolved "That a committee be appointed to urge upon our legislators the abolition of the death penalty, and the substitution of a method of punishment more logical, more reasonable, more humane, more thoroughly effective as a protection, and more in harmony with the enlightened and progressive spirit of the age." The Eclectic Medical Society of the state of New York had this subject under consideration at a committee for a year, and at its annual meeting in Albany in March, 1892, and resolved by an almost unanimous vote "That it is the recommendation of the Eclectic Medical Society of the state of New York that the legislature of the state of New York should abolish the death penalty, substituting therefor life imprisonment, with such well-considered safeguards as will forever prevent any actual murderer, once incarcerated, from retaining the liberty he deserves forfeited by his own impulsive or foolish act." The Medical Society of the state of New York, at its annual meeting in January, 1893, referred the subject to a committee of three of its ex-presidents, of which committee Dr. A. Jacob was chairman, to consider and report upon the subject at the next annual meeting of the society. This committee submitted an exhaustive report to the annual meeting in January, 1893, which has attracted wide attention in this country and Europe, closing with strong resolutions condemning the death penalty.

How to Get Good Roads.

Philadelphia Inquirer. The editors of the newspapers of the state are mistakenly urging that the cost of building improved roads be distributed according to the benefits derived therefrom by the community. There is no method of distributing the cost which is more unsatisfactory or more certain to create an early day widespread hostility to any road bill than the legislature may pass. Besides, to adopt such a plan of distributing the cost is to cling to the very basis of the old short-sighted system of toll roads which prevented road improvements because the land owner could not see that an expenditure for the good of the community was for his own good. If we are ever to have good roads it will be when we determine to distribute the cost as widely as possible and make it as light as it can be made upon any individual.

Interest on State Funds.

Senator Kauffman, of Lancaster county, has introduced a bill to provide for the payment of interest on state funds deposited in banks. In speaking of it the Philadelphia Press says: "Interest paid on public funds should go to the owner of the funds—the public—and not to the salaried custodian. The hardy disclosure furnishes an argument in favor of the principle of Senator Kauffman's bill which cannot be answered. The city banks are glad to pay 2 per cent. for the privilege of having the custody and use of the city's money. Why should not the state depositories pay the same and pay it, too, into the state treasury account?" Upon the same subject the Pittsburg Dispatch recently remarked: "Why should not the state prescribe for its own funds the same rule as for the funds of cities and counties—namely, that they shall be deposited with a sufficient number of banks, selecting those which bid the highest rate of interest in an open competition? We know of no reasons why this should not be done, except those arising out of politics."

Avoid Class Legislation.

Hazleton Sentinel. The legislature has it in power to do a great deal for the revival of business and promotion of prosperity, not so much by the passage of new laws as by a wholesome restraint in that respect. It is possible to give all necessary protection to the rights of labor, and yet not refuse due protection to the rights of capital. The two forces are alike essential to the welfare and prosperity of society, and they are alike entitled to just and considerate treatment. Any

scheme of legislation which assumes that they are either antagonistic to each other or independent of each other is false in theory and sure to be disappointing and injurious in its practical results. A law that causes capital to be withdrawn or withheld from active service in the channels of production is not to be justified by any kind of politics or economic logic. When money lies idle because it cannot be safely invested the fact signifies that the sources of employment are lessened, and that labor is placed at a disadvantage. It is when capital is encouraged to multiply the agencies of commerce and industry, to construct factories and inaugurate new enterprises, that wages are high and the masses contented and happy. There is an abundance of hoarded money in the country at present which will be put in the way of making better times just as fast as the opportunities are presented for doing so under reasonably secure and propitious conditions. The legislature can hasten this desirable result by manifesting a disposition to give capital a fair chance, as well as labor, without discrimination against either. There is much to be done that will benefit labor and capital in this region, but class legislation will not do it."

Inseparable Saracens.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. Ha! Ha! Allah! Allah! Now let the unspeakable Turk tremble in his harness! The great City of the Year hath spoken, and his doom is sealed. Should the cable flash the dread news today that a terrific earthquake had devastated all Turkey, the cause of the disaster can be easily explained. It will be due to the violent tremor of the sultan and his minions at the awful import of Scranton's anathema. For fully 200 of Scranton's best and bravest out of an alleged population of 30,000 have arisen in their awful wrath and smote the Mussulman sly and thick with a resolution. The detonation of that mighty engine of war with which Scranton is such an adept will no doubt be heard in the uttermost corners of the earth. And wherever a bloodthirsty Mohammedan may be, when he hears that blast of wind he will fall upon his prayer mat and supplicate Allah for deliverance. But it will be in vain, and the miserable Turk, seeing no hope before him, can do naught but cover his head with his cap and get off the earth. For the mighty Scranton hath spoken.

Tribute of a Farmer Rival.

From the Philadelphia Record. General Hastings will enter upon his exalted station amid the acclamations of admiring thousands and surrounded by all the potent influences of the most important event of so much public importance. The Record, for itself and for its great family, would join the throng that will throng the corners of the new governor with cordial grasp, and would wish, as its inauguration greeting, that he may find in the many grateful expressions of the day a pledge that all the days to come may be days of pleasantness and of ripening honors.

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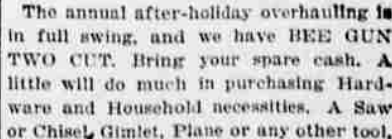
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