

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 22, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 23,592. 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. How we grow: Population in 1850, 9,223. Population in 1870, 25,000. Population in 1880, 45,529. Population in 1890, 75,000. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

It is a favorite habit of forward children when they burn their fingers to get mad at the stove. The same habit sometimes occurs in politics, but the howls in either case are amusing rather than dangerous.

The Threatened Tariff War.

We have received from Mr. Newton Blough, of this city, an ingenious letter relating to a subject which is yet of prime interest to the American people, notwithstanding that election is over and that campaign excitements are momentarily stilled. Mr. Blough's letter follows:

The protective policy of the United States which places a prohibitive tariff on the productions of other countries is beginning to react. And no sooner are its first effects felt in our midst than it becomes very evident that Americans are no more in favor of other countries' adopting a protective tariff than they are in favor of now doing so. Europe is crowded with toilers working hard for a bare support and to them this country appears to be a tempting market for their wares. But in order to protect our own manufacturers an import tax has been imposed upon foreign products that has well nigh excluded them. Of course this works a hardship to those countries that look fully upon our markets where good prices prevail. It is not at all to be wondered at that those countries should adopt measures which are calculated to give redress for the loss they thus suffer. One man has coal for sale and another has grain, and it becomes necessary for them to exchange commodities. If, now, the man with the coal charges his neighbor a tax of 50 cents per bushel for all the grain he brings onto his premises and the importer has no power to raise the tax, it is a hardship to him who sells the grain and a profit to him who buys it. But it would be a very natural thing for him to turn about and exact on coal that which he brought to his market. But if a receiver a tax on grain brought to him and pays it an equal tax on the coal he takes to market, where are his profits? So, if laws, they are very good for selfish government so long as we can collect a tax on everything that is sent to us, and send our products abroad free. But when other countries awaken to the sense of the injustice, and ask us to pay them back some of that money there is talk of war. Austria, Germany and Spain are trying to protect themselves in this matter, and no disinterested party can for a moment ensure them for doing so. If we as a nation have the idea that the commerce of the world is to be run for our especial benefit, we shall certainly very soon awaken to our mistake. The injunction to love our neighbors as ourselves is applicable to national as to individual relations. And the nation that disregards that principle toward other nations is no more right than is the individual who ignores that fundamental principle of mutual interest and welfare. Therefore would it not be a wise policy to so apply the principle of the Golden Rule to us? Should we be asked to take our own prescription it would not be so nauseating?

Our correspondent intimates that the American people no longer favor a protective tariff. What, then, is the meaning of last fall's elections? We conclude that they do not want a prohibitive tariff; but we contend it to be a fact repeatedly demonstrated beyond reach of cavil or misinterpretation that the American people hold as a fundamental political principle that a tariff on imports shall be levied sufficient to protect the productions of home labor from competition in our home markets with the productions of less-paid foreign labor. So much for first principles. Now, as to the dissatisfaction of Austria, Germany and Spain with the new Wilson tariff. What of that? We export altogether less than 15 per cent. of our home production. If our Democratic friends had continued the reciprocity treaties of the McKinley law, Spain would not have complained, neither would Austria, and we doubt even if Germany would. The Wilson bill suspended those hardly negotiated compacts without a minute's notice. It gave no reason for such suspension and proffered no apology nor excuse. The future was purely and possibly partisan, and casting discredit upon the commercial standing of an American treaty contract. Spain and Austria are mad, not because America is a protective country—for except at brief intervals she has always been that—but because an American contract, entered into only after honest and earnest solicitation on our part, was within four years suddenly and boorishly repudiated by a new administration and a new congress. This, our correspondent will find, is the real secret of the threatened European retaliation.

But, returning to our friend's broad contention that European nations will not buy of us unless we adopt the European kind of low tariffs, we ask him to specify what things Europeans will pettishly refuse to buy. Not the necessities of life,—not if we can sell them a better article at a lower price than they can buy in their home markets. The

luxuries, does he say? Let it be so. Let Spain and Germany and Austria cut off their imports of American luxuries and see how much they will affect us. It will be scarcely a fraction of 1 per cent. of our export trade. And if, in order to retain this infinitesimal trade we are compelled to lose a good part of our \$5-per-cent.-home-trade through low-tariff foreign competition, wherein do we gain? Would we not be trading a big bird in the hand for a little, chirping wren in the bush? The Golden Rule idea in international commerce is all right in theory; but in hard, cold practice, the rule which really governs men and nations is the rule of stern necessity. Europe cannot get along without American food supplies; and when the free trade countries of Europe talk of waging a retaliatory tariff warfare upon the United States they are either preparing to cut off their own nose to spite their ugly face or else are merely indulging in a huge and fastidious bluff.

The Philadelphia Press is inclined to regard as somewhat puerile the geographical contentions in the Fifteenth congress district over the nomination of a successor to the late Myron B. Wright. It seems to believe that fitness, rather than location, should govern the selection of representatives in congress. This idea is good so far as it goes; but what is the matter with combining both fitness and location? There is no scarcity of suitable legislative material in either the Fifteenth district or any other district in the north.

The Hawaiian Revolt.

Why should the honor of the American flag in a foreign country be a subject of party division among Americans? Why should a Democratic congress or a Democratic president, succeeding a congress or a president of different partisan complexion, feel impelled to at once inaugurate a foreign policy different from that maintained by the administration just preceding, irrespective of the abstract merits of the earlier policy, and solely because the home electorate had ordered a change in their public servants? If we thought that Republicanism meant patriotism only when Republicans were in power, we should say unhesitatingly: "Away with such Republicanism. It is half treason." Why should not honest and sincere Democrats, Democrats from principle, say the same with reference to the false Democracy, the low and pettish Democracy, to which the American nation has been treated during the period of Grover Cleveland's second management of the department of state at Washington?

There is no such fluctuation, contradiction and factional division in the foreign policy of Great Britain. Whether the prime minister be Liberal or Conservative, the line of party division, of party bickering, of party cross purposes, ends the moment that it reaches the shore line of England's domestic territory. Further than this, a change in the English ministry does not, as with us, signify that all the diplomatic appointees of the preceding ministry must pack their belongings and come home, to make way for a new staff of raw recruits; nor does it mean that if under one ministry the rights of British subjects in foreign lands were strenuously and aggressively protected and the commercial interests of British traders assiduously promoted, a change in ministries must, necessarily, be denoted by a direct reversal of these two strong features of the preceding administration. The result of this continuity of a purpose to protect English rights at all hazards and under any circumstances is evidenced by the fact that the English flag is respected and feared in every port in Christendom—respected for the firmness of purpose behind it and feared for the reason that any trifling with it has become recognized by those guilty of such trifling as equivalent to a direct invitation for a trouncing.

We cite the policy of England for the sufficient reason that it is strong precisely in those features wherein our own policy is humiliatingly and indefensibly weak. No more conspicuous example of this weakness has been supplied than in the abrupt change of policy with reference to Hawaii instituted by the present Cleveland administration. With the earlier details of America's humiliation at the hands of Cleveland, Gresham and Blount the public is already familiar. The people spoke their opinion of them at the ballot box last November. And now the nation is presented with a new chapter in the history of this infamy—a chapter of executive stubbornness yielding abjectly after blood had been spilled and revolution narrowly averted; a chapter of timidity and time-serving by the executive's immediate subordinates almost without parallel in the annals of the department of state; a chapter, in short, which in every sorrowful detail records new shame and new humiliation. Not the least humiliating of these new details, because of its inexcusable tardiness, is the president's attempt, after the mischief which his stubborn policy had directly invited was consummated in bloodshed and riot—a consummation eloquently foretold, six months ago, in the patriotic report of Admiral Walker, which was, at the time, pettishly suppressed because it clashed with the logic of Grover Cleveland's original blunder—to assume an attitude of eleventh-hour penitence and to make a weak show of impossible atonement by ordering a warship to Hawaiian waters a full fortnight after the danger is over.

What we need in this country is a sentiment which will not permit any partisan jugglery with the honor of our glory and of American rights abroad; and which will overwhelmingly condemn that president or that secretary of state who shall so far mistake his position as to utilize in sorry attempts to stifle the honest aspirations of sister republics or put back on rotten thrones repudiated rulers who have disgraced and debauched the dignity of kinglycraft.

In a Constantinople dispatch to the New York Herald yesterday another Turkish version of the Armenian trouble is given. To the extent of a column and a half a crown is woven for the great and good sultan that would be too large even for Anthony Comstock. If all of these certificates of character

regarding the Sublime Porte be true it is evident that the much married ruler of the land of peace, virtue and fig paste has material enough at hand for libel suits against the newspapers of the world at large to keep him busy through several lives of the length of Methuselah. Still, we are not yet ready to retract and proffer damages.

The edict of the Catholic church forbidding its members to belong to the Odd Fellows, the Sons of Temperance and the Knights of Pythias will naturally be obeyed by honest members of that church until such time as further study of the objects of these orders, by the church authorities, shall cause the prohibition to be lifted. The church has an unassailable right to say upon what terms it will administer its sacraments. If it waived its right to obedience from its membership its power would soon disappear. At the same time, we think many good Catholics will regret that there should be, in the minds of their ecclesiastical superiors, a real or seeming necessity for such an interdiction; and we are free to predict that time will yet modify the church's attitude toward these societies.

In Idaho and Michigan legislative propositions to submit the question of woman suffrage to a popular vote are received with favor. The refusal of New York's constitutional convention to permit the people to vote on this subject is fortunately not accepted as the highest expression of wisdom in the premises.

The announcement that no less than six New York managers have refused to allow Mrs. Langtry to appear in their houses seems to be pretty good evidence that the Jersey Lily has reformed.

The hustling of an American man-of-war to Honolulu is a refreshing indication that the administration of reality that battleships are made for.

The fact that Governor Altgeld, of Illinois, is opposed to capital punishment is not material, except in so far as it shows that Altgeld is not yet wholly hopeless.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Senator Charles Sumner on Capital Punishment.

The following letter by Charles Sumner, written under date of Feb. 12, 1852, is of interest at this time. He wrote: "In response to your inquiry, I beg leave to say that I am happy in an opportunity to bear my testimony against capital punishment. My instincts were ever against it, and from the time when, while yet a student of law, I read the classical report to the legislature of Louisiana by that illustrious jurist, Edward Livingston, I have been constantly glad to find my instincts confirmed by reason. Nothing of argument or experience since has in any respect shaken the original and perpetual repugnance with which I have regarded it. Punishment is justly inflicted by human power, with a twofold purpose: first, for the protection of society; and secondly, for the reformation of the offender. Now, it seems to me clear that, in our age and country, the taking of human life is not necessary to the protection of society, while it reduces the period of reformation to a narrow, fleeting span. If not necessary, it cannot come within the province of self-defense, and is unjustifiable. It is said to believe that much of the prejudice in favor of the gallows may be traced to three discolorable sources: first, the spirit of vengeance which surely does not properly belong to man; secondly, unworthy timidity, as if a powerful community would be in peril. Life were not sometimes taken by the government; and, thirdly, blind obedience to the traditions of another age. But rack, thumbscrew, wheel, iron crown, bed of steel, and every instrument of barbarous torture, most rejected with horror, were once upheld by the same spirit of vengeance, the same timidity, and the same traditions of another age. I think that the time is at hand when Massachusetts, turning from the vindictive gallows, will provide a comprehensive system of punishment, which by just penalties and privations shall deter from guilt, and by just benevolence and care promote the reformation of its unhappy subjects. Then, and not till then, will our beloved country emulate the Divine Justice, which 'delists not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live.'"

For the Protection of Our Fishes.

The twelfth annual report of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Fish Protective association among other things says: "The pollution of streams and its continued destructive effects upon fish life have been the source of much frequent and thoughtful consideration. While the wisdom of restrictive laws and their proper enforcement have made possible the security of the fishery interests of the Commonwealth, it should be more widely known that the most of the fishery, as well as the most of the fishery, are called upon to combat in the practice of rendering some of our best rivers and streams practically worthless for propagating purposes by deposits of sawdust, tannery refuse, and other noxious substances in various not only to fish, but affecting humanity where such waters are used. The Fish Commissioners have repeatedly appealed to the legislature, and the influence of the association has been exerted in this respect, but without success. Continued protests from all sections of the state give full credence to the fact that such legislation is secured many of our state waters will be unproductive of good results, however heavily they may be stocked. The necessity for the correction of this great evil is clearly shown by the recent conventions called to consider the subject, and concurred in by the State Board of Health, Fish Commission, Forestry commission, and other state boards, whose combined efforts in behalf of the disinfection of stream pollution, it is hoped, will eventually result in this much-needed reform."

Brutal Punishment Unnecessary to Prevent Crime.

General Curtis, in congress: "The navy has had no execution since 1838. During these years our flag has been carried to every clime, our ships have swung at anchor in every port, our officers and seamen have been brought in contact with the people of the most cultivated and enlightened nations, and with the wildest savages, without imbibing any of the brutal spirit which finds expression in torture and the infliction of death. The navy has in four years of war, with conspicuous devotion and efficiency, not only maintained all the grades from ordinary seaman to admiral's command, but stands second to the navy of no country in those qualities and attainments which give efficiency, maintain honor, and win respect. The navy has for forty-five years been disciplined and governed on a higher plane than the articles prescribed by congress provide. Obsolete, useless, and barbarous laws, inherited from the customs of those who, despite their lurking pre-

ence, have wholly neglected to enforce them. The abolition of flogging as an authorized punishment for offenses in the army in 1839 and in the navy in 1850, however much doubted at the time by conservatives, contributed much to increase the morale of both the army and navy."

No Good Reason for It. Philadelphia Times: "There is no good reason why the state of Pennsylvania should go into the publishing business. There are many reasons why it should not, and especially why it should not supply expensive books, having no relation to public business, for free distribution by members of the legislature."

Parker on Capital Punishment. Said Theodore Parker: "The state teaches men to kill. If you destroy the gallows you carry one of the strongest outposts of the devil."

Journalism in a Chicago.

Chicago has no greater pageant than the annual charity ball. It is the best spectacle in the calendar, best because it is the richest and most beautiful, because nothing has a better motive and most brilliant because it is conceived in the spirit of royal elegance and executed with the lavishness of hands that know the touch of millions. Precise and timed to the second against the impropriety of an entrance too early or an interruption too late, the dashing coteries and parties for the boxes fled into place before the homages of bowing admiration from the thousands. They brought treasures of the loom, jewels as rare and abundant as the settings of the ark of the covenant, plumes, splendid robes, ruffles of their fragrance, bouquets of valley lilies, vases of orchids, head dresses of rubies, sapphires and pearls, rarettes from the cedar chests of ancestors, clusters, coronets and diadems, hatted from the forefathers or new-bought in the capitals across the seas. All that art could fashion or money buy or nature contribute massed into one vast array of color to dim a dozen rainbows or blot the record of the glorious Solomon. It was over in ten minutes, the one event for which society has planned the winter. Music, beauty, grace, all combined in a masterful effort, reaching its climax just as the magic word, "charity," was flashed in a hundred acres over the scene. Gradually the swinging measures of the entire music faded and the string instruments sent the bewildering and diversified companies into their whirl of the waltz.

A Mistake. I said you were heartless, I take it all back, and ask your forgiveness, My memory's slack;

For now I remember, How could I forget? That mine has been given, And you've got it yet. —Detroit Free Press.

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