

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 24, 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, 20,000. 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 spot in the United States at which to establish new industries. See how we grow: Population in 1820, 9,223. Population in 1870, 33,000. Population in 1880, 43,500. Population in 1890, 72,235. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

In this vicinity capital and labor are happily united. Individual operators are in most instances men who put the teachings of philanthropy in practice in everyday life, and the heads of corporations controlled by outside capital are with few exceptions men who have the interests of our city and its laboring classes at heart, and men in whom the workman has implicit confidence. A reduction in wage scale in this section is usually accepted philosophically by the laborer who feels certain that an increase will be granted when business will allow it. On the other hand the advance committee always receives respectful hearing from the high officials. A careful study of the capital and labor situation in the Electric City and suburbs would no doubt prove beneficial to those who are directly and indirectly responsible for the trouble at Brooklyn.

Power of the Pulpit.

The power of the pulpit in politics is recognized by the Minneapolis Tribune which in a recent issue, gives forcible examples of the efficacy of the spirit of Christianity in arousing public sentiment against evil. The Tribune calls attention to the fact that the great agitation in New York which led to the downfall of Tammany and to a purification of the city government, a work led by Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, of the Madison Square Presbyterian church, and participated in by his leading fellow clergymen, has awakened a general discussion as to how far secular topics may be carried in the pulpit. The consensus of intelligent opinion is that on subjects vital to the well-being and safety of the public, the church cannot be faithful to duty—stand apart from the world.

Most thinking people agree with Rev. Thomas Dixon, of New York, who claims that things sacred and things secular are one; that politics is the vital science of law, that all law is divine, and that the sphere of the Christian minister is that of the human conscience.

Colonel Breckinridge owes his defeat largely to the ministers, who through their prayers and sermons roused the moral sense of his hearers and urged them to stand on the side of righteousness. The late Professor Swing did good service both to God and man by preaching against that great strike of last summer, which paralyzed industry and wrought such havoc in our country.

In our civil war, the northern pulpit gave forth no uncertain sound, and must be counted as a potent force in arousing the public conscience, and kindling anew that spirit of patriotism which united the citizens of the free states as one man, in a holy crusade for the preservation of the Union.

Christianity is as much a matter of living as of believing. St. James in that one saying, "Faith without works is dead," struck the keynote for the gospel ministry of all time. God's command to His ancient prophet, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet" to show the people their transgressions and sins, is binding on His ministers of this latter day. When questions hard for solution vex the body politic, the pews have a right to look to the pulpit for guidance. In times of civil as well as religious peril, it is but natural to rely upon the watchman stationed on the walls of Zion to sound the alarm.

And now, in addition to news of general agitation in the world's politics, we are confronted with the intelligence that the Greek ministry has resigned. A great amount of adhesiveness cannot be expected from Greece, but it is unkind in the counselors of that country to refuse to act at a period when the world is burdened with the Bourgeois cabinet difficulty; the Hawaiian revolt, and ex-Governor Pattison's letter of acceptance. In view of all things this move upon the part of the unruly ministry of Greece is deserving of censure.

A vivid illustration of the power of the press has been given in the literary efforts of wild western correspondents, who made a dreaded desperado out of one Bill Cook. This long-haired citizen, whose murderous exploits have evidently been confined to the wringing of the neck of an unsuspecting occupant of a henroost at nightfall or the slaughter of a jack rabbit at long range on the plains, in the hands of the correspondent became an object that made timid people in the vicinity of Oklahoma shudder at the mention of

his name. When finally rounded up, however, Bill did not exhibit the slightest anxiety to shed blood, but surrendered with the readiness of a Wary Willie who seeks a night's lodging in the Scranton station house. Bill Cook of special correspondence, and Bill Cook, the half-starved vagabond of real life, appear to be characters entirely at variance.

John Redmond, the leader of the Parnellite wing of the Irish party, goes back to parliament with the determination to do his utmost to oust the government and allow no business to be transacted until Ireland shall have been granted Home Rule. If Mr. Redmond remains true to his programme the next English parliament will not be without exciting features. While that body who are willing to grant a measure of Home Rule to Ireland they will violently oppose any effort to make all other forms of legislation subservient to the Home Rule issue.

Records vs. Promises.

The Philadelphia Inquirer thus coolly spikes the Pattison majoritarian boom which has recently been gathering wind for its sails from the various Democratic organs of the Quaker City and of the state at large that are piping lustily in the interest of non-partisanship: "Altogether too much talk is being made about the ineffectuality of Mr. Pattison as a candidate for mayor. Lacey's divide on the subject, and only the supreme court can decide. But that court will never be called upon to decide, hence all office simply to make room for a lot of Democratic beelers and greenhorns. In short, we do not want partisan Democracy in any form. Mr. Pattison, partisan Democrat of the Harrity order, cannot be elected mayor, hence what is the use of getting excited over the question of eligibility? Let Mr. Pattison run by all means. It will end him as a presidential candidate."

Now Mme. Casimir-Perier is said to have been the cause that led her husband to resign the presidency of the French republic. He will seek a divorce from her, advises from the French capital say.

Mr. Griggsby's Bill.

There is no question that representative Griggsby, of Lancaster, is deserving of attention. In fact Mr. Griggsby is entitled to become the all absorbing topic of conversation; his name should become a household word. Mr. Griggsby has introduced a bill into the legislature that provides penalties for the adulteration of liquors. This measure if enacted and enforced would give assurance to the average consumer of snake bite remedies that in Pennsylvania one may indulge in spiritual refreshment and at the same time feel confident that any following exhilaration is produced by a first-class article, free from water or other impurities so distasteful to adherents to good old Kentucky customs.

It has often been suggested that the pay of our legislators at Harrisburg is not in accordance with service rendered; that representatives and senators deserve to receive railroad passes and other perquisites by the way of recompense for labor performed at \$10 per day in the interest of the commonwealth. Mr. Griggsby has furnished an example of what a great mind can occasionally create on a nominal salary. In contemplating this measure it is easy to understand how men grow gray under the strain of legislative work. Something should be done for Griggsby. If his scale of compensation cannot be increased, his notable effort in the interest of thrifty humanity should receive recognition in some other way. Let not true statesmanship go unrewarded.

Thirty-five bakers in St. Louis are selling 16-ounce loaves of bread for 3 cents each. This item could not be duplicated in Scranton because there are not thirty-five baking establishments in the city.

National Board of Arbitration.

Congress has taken up the question of arbitrating labor troubles and a bill that has for its object the settlement of labor disputes without recourse to strikes, through the medium of an arbitration commission, has been introduced at Washington and reported favorably from committee. In every conflict between labor and capital the great public are the greatest sufferers. They are compelled to endure inconveniences and privations and in some cases have to face an actual reign of terror because men who are at the head of the conflicting forces make pride or might their standard and refuse to grant any concessions that would lead to an amicable settlement of the matter at issue. It is expecting too much to say that an arbitration commission, even though it emanated from the head of the government at Washington, would find it possible to settle all conflicts between labor, but there is no doubt that the influence of such a board would be beneficial.

A exchange in referring to the crusade to reform fallen women opportunely remarks that it might be a good plan to also reform those who make them fall.

Queen Lil and the Duke of Orleans would not make a bad combination to star the country.

The cable conveys the thrilling information that the Emperor William

has declared that the inscription "Dem Deutschen Vöcke" shall be placed over the main entrance to the new Reichstag building.

It is not likely that any of the numerous currency bills floating about the national capitol will locate the philosopher's stone this year.

The grappling hooks of the Sherman presidential boom have already impaled numerous currency enthusiasts about the country.

M. Bourgeois seems to have encountered a large quantity of warped timber in his attempts at cabinet making.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Certainty of Punishment Better Than Severity.

Judge Wilson, in his charge to the grand jury, United States circuit court, Easton, Md., Nov. 7, 1894, said: "To prevent crimes is the noblest end and aim of criminal justice. To punish them is one of the means necessary for the accomplishment of this noble end and aim. The impunity of an offender encourages him to repeat his offenses. The necessities of his impunity are tempted to cause his disciples in guilt. These considerations form the strongest—some view them as the sole—argument against the infliction of punishments by human laws. There are in punishments three qualities which render them fit preventives of crime. The first is the materiality of the second is their speediness; the third is their certainty. We are told by some writers that the number of crimes is unquestionably diminished by the severity of punishments. If we inspect the great body of the criminal codes, their unwieldy bulk and their entangled hue will force us to acknowledge that this opinion may be in its favor a very high antiquity and a very extensive reputation. On accurate and unbiased examination, however, it will appear to be an opinion unfounded and pernicious, inconsistent with the principles of our nature and by a necessary consequence with those of wise and good government. So far as any sentiment of generous sympathy is suffered by a merciless code to remain among the citizens, their abhorrence of crime is by the barbarous exhibitions of human agony, sunk in their commiseration of criminals. These barbarous exhibitions are productive of sympathy with those latent and gradual, but a powerful, because a natural aversion to the law. Can laws which are a natural and a just object of reverence and respect, obedience or secure a regular and uniform execution? The expectation is forbidden by some of the strongest principles of the human frame, in laws which they expect the compassion of society for those who suffer, rouse its indignation against those who are active in the steps preparatory to their suffering. On the other hand, every one will, from a sense of interest and duty, take his proper part in deterring, by the infliction of a severe and passing sentence on crimes. The consequence will be, that criminals will seldom elude the vigilance or baffle the energy of public justice. True it is that on some emergencies excesses of a temporary nature may receive a sudden check from rigorous penalties; but their continuance and their frequency intrude and diffuse a hardened insensibility among the citizens; and this insensibility, in its turn, gives occasion or pretense to the farther extension and multiplication of these penalties. Thus one degree of severity opens and smooths the way for another, till, at length, under the specious appearance of necessary justice, a system of cruelty is established by law. Such a system is calculated to eradicate all the many sentiments of the soul, and to substitute in their place a cold and unfeeling indifference and degraded kind. But the certainty of punishments is that quality which is of the greatest importance, in order to constitute a system of criminal law. This quality is, in its operation, most merciful as well as most powerful. When a criminal determines on the commission of crime he is not so much influenced by the lenity of the punishment as by the expectation that in some way or other, he may be fortunate enough to avoid it. This is particularly true when with him when this expectation is cherished by examples or by experience of impunity. It was the saying of Solon that he had completed his system of laws by the combined energy of justice and strength. By this expression he meant to denote that laws of themselves would be of very little service unless they were enforced by a faithful and an effectual execution of them. The strict execution, of every criminal law, is the dictate of humanity as well as of wisdom."

To Protect Organized Labor.

Pittsburg Times: "The bill laid before the Pennsylvania legislature to guarantee the right to belong to labor organizations uncovers just such a difficulty as compulsory arbitration does. It forbids, on penalty of fine and imprisonment, the discharge of a man from employment for belonging to one of these. Governor Hastings said in his inaugural address that labor has the same right to organize that capital has, and that it certainly is true, both in law and nature. But in law there are other rights. Wherever organization is prohibited it is upon the conviction that it is hostile to the employ and here the question arises, can a corporation be compelled to keep in its employ a person believed to be inimical to it? The employer insists that he be free to employ whom he pleases of his own choice, which the proposed act would prohibit. On the other hand, the acknowledgement of the abstract right to a mere monkey. Every form of oppression would be entirely consistent with it. A right is of no value unless it can be exercised, and that of organization has no value if men can exercise it only at the cost of their livelihood. The problem raised by the bill is how to reconcile the inherently reconcilable things. But this is not the first time such a problem has been encountered. The pathway of civilization is strewn with the like of it. "The labor question is a question of civilization, and it will have to be settled as all the others were, or the chief ones, by concession, by compromise. What the compromise is, and how it is finally to be made, is not for us to say. Kind it must be. No abstract right, vital to the liberty and welfare of the industrial class, can remain in the abstract. The fact that capital organizes for its protection is itself the best of all guarantees that in the end labor will be allowed just as freely to organize for the same purpose. That is bound to come, but meantime let those concerned possess their souls in patience, remembering that fundamental rights have always been hard to establish."

Sentiment Against the Death Penalty.

Harrisburg correspondence of the Philadelphia Press: "There is a very strong sentiment in the legislature against capital punishment, judging by the discussion in committee Thursday afternoon over Mr. Cotton's bill which substitutes electrocution for hanging. A number of members of the committee expressed themselves in favor of abolishing capital punishment in this state. All finally in favor of electrocution, the sentiment seemed to prevail that inasmuch as this mode of administering the death penalty was still in an experimental stage in New York state it would be unwise at present to adopt it in Pennsylvania."

Judicial Penalties.

Wilkes-Barre Leader: "There seems to be a chance of the passage of Mr. Ritter's bill for pensioning judges. The proposition is to retire all judges after twenty years of consecutive service. Thirty years of disjointed service at full pay, provided the judges returned do not resume active practice or give advice to corporations. This last provision is probably intended more to save the profit of advice-giving to the balance of the profession, than for any other purpose, though since corporations are notoriously the richest mines in which lawyers dig, it would be quite unfair to pay a man out of the state treasury on the ground that he has earned the right of subsistence from labor, when he was at the same time good enough and

willing to do the work of the best paying of all clients. There is that in a really good judge, honorable and upright, who gives twenty of the best years of his life to the bench, that entitles him to a large share of public gratitude. Nobody would object to pensioning this sort. But there are also judges who, without having earned any gratitude, might, with profit to the people, be pensioned at double pay after the first three months of service. Fortunately this vicinity is not cursed with any of the latter, but is served rather by men whom everybody would delight to see pensioned, when they have become too old for further service, if they needed it, and pensioned liberally at that."

The Menace of Harrityism.

From the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer. Some of the Republican organs, the Scranton Tribune among the number, are trying to make it appear that Mr. Pattison is the candidate of William F. Harrity for mayor of Philadelphia. It is doubtful if the voters of Philadelphia will be deceived by any such argument. They know better. If Robert E. Pattison is elected mayor he will be no man's man. During his long and successful political career he was never subservient to any boss or clique, and we are sure he will not consent to wear Harrity's collar at this late date.

Easy to Effect.

From the Syracuse Post. McSwatters—I wish I could get out of paying Dobson that \$10 I owe him. He knows better. If Robert E. Pattison is elected mayor he will be no man's man. During his long and successful political career he was never subservient to any boss or clique, and we are sure he will not consent to wear Harrity's collar at this late date.

Abolish the Cruel Practice.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The docking of horses' tails is a barbarous practice and merits the severest condemnation. Editor Vest, of the Scranton Republican, was entirely justified in the stand he took against this inhuman and cruel practice. Why don't you go up to him with a roll of bills in your hand and say: "Dobson, here's that fifty I borrowed of you." McSwatters—But I only borrowed ten. McSwatters—That's all right. The object is to kill Dobson by the shock, and the \$10 is yours.

THE WIFE.

In youth he wrought, with eyes ablur, Lorn-faced and long of hair— In youth—in youth, he painted her— A sister of the air— Could clasp her not, but felt the stir Of plonies everywhere. She lured his gaze, in braver days, And tranced him siren-wise; And he did paint her, through a haze Of sullen paradise. With scars of kisses on her face, And embers in her eyes. And now—now dream, nor wild conceit— Though faltering, as before— Through tears he paints her, as is meet, Tracing the dear face o'er With lilted patience meek and sweet As mother Mary would. —James Whitcomb Riley.

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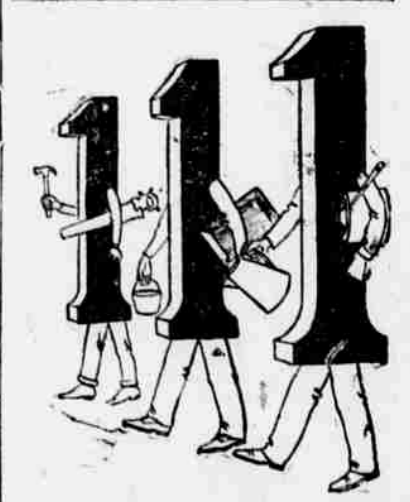
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