

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 1, 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, 23,599. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000.

The new county craze has broken out this winter with the startling distinctness of a week's growth of whiskers on the face of a masculine brunette.

Lackawanna Reapportionment.

Two propositions relative to the relative reapportionment of Lackawanna county have been submitted to the Harrisburg committee having this matter in charge.

The second suggestion, that of Representative Connell, provides that the city districts shall be as follows: First district—Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-first wards.

It would seem as if the members of the committee who live in unaffected districts ought to be willing to let those members who are directly affected have some voice in this discussion.

The prompt ending yesterday of the Fifteenth district congressional conference at Tunkhannock by the nomination of E. J. Jordan, of Wyoming, and James H. Coddling, of Bradford, for the short and long terms respectively will naturally disappoint the friends of C. Fred Wright, of Susquehanna, who had hoped to see him entrusted with the performance of his deceased brother's uncompleted work.

We suspect that in David Martin's case the public is rapidly nearing the beginning of the end.

A Good Scheme to Let Alone.

The efforts of the United Mine Workers, which is an organization composed at the present time almost exclusively of men engaged in the bituminous coal mining business, to gain a foothold in the anthracite regions are meeting with scant success, for which fact there is an obvious and a sufficient reason.

If their plans should succeed, the anthracite element, being in a minority, could, in any question as to the advisability of a general strike, be outvoted two to one, and thus be literally dragged into disturbances in which they have no interests to guard and no grievances to fight.

a union of labor interests would simply mean that the bituminous people would accomplish by strategy what they have been unable to achieve in open commercial warfare; that is to say, the conquest of the anthracite business.

Emigrants of the United Mine Workers are now busy in these parts. Notwithstanding the chilliness of their early reception, they are bent upon catching the workers of this region in the snare. Forewarned, however, is forearmed. The sensible miner of anthracite will think twice before he decides to play into the hands of the opposition.

If the officials of steamship companies which are too poor to equip their passenger steamers with an adequate number of life boats could be made to take a dose of their own medicine, this form of murder would soon decrease.

The Inevitable Has Come.

One of the first questions that naturally arises in connection with the recent exchange of compliments between Senator Lexow and Dr. Parkhurst is why the former, occupying as he does a public office in which he is peculiarly the representative of the people, should regard as "impertinent" and "insulting" an expression by the people, or by a considerable number of them, concerning a subject of vital public interest and importance.

Let us remember, in the present case, the difference between the two men who have just publicly "fallen out." One is a politician, in politics for what there is in it in way of glory and self-advancement and spoils. Three years ago he was, so to speak, an unknown man. Outside of Albany and his home district few persons had ever heard of Clarence Lexow. The circumstance by which he was pitched into public prominence was not of his own creation, nor was it of his extraordinary deserving.

The comparison of such a man with Charles H. Parkhurst is not a comparison, but a contrast. We do not know whether it will be expected of us to again portray Dr. Parkhurst as he appears to those who are in full sympathy with his herculean work and who have taken pains to study him not in envy nor in malice but fairly, justly and in the clear light of all available evidence.

It would be singular, indeed, if in the face of the almost infinite responsibilities and tasks and discouragements that encircle him, he should invariably be smiling like the sucking babe and placid as the noon-day lull. The point with him upon which politicians like Platt and Lexow, from the nature of things, never agree is that reform must not consist of turning one set of rascals out merely to accommodate another set of opposite partisan belief. He wants the good work to go on, not simply until election day—for indeed that is, in his view of the matter, simply the beginning of the work—but until every vestige and trace of the old municipal rottenness shall be cleansed and fumigated, and the city accorded a clean bill of health.

In the matter of making a settlement with China, the Japanese government appears as independent as a lady operator in a telephone exchange.

The Church and the Poor.

Ought church-goers to wear good clothes? It is conclusive to Christianity to "dress up" on Sunday? These questions look simple enough, but there appears to be a negative side to them founded on serious argument. The February Chautauqu, discoursing editorially upon the relation of the modern church to the poor, bravely utters this sentiment: "The thoroughly bad habit of wearing the best clothes to church, the expectation of a certain smartness and fashionableness in the dress of a congregation, draws a line against people who are shabby and have not grace enough to forget it and forgive their brethren for being better dressed. It is true that there is a kind of piety in clean and fresh clothing; and many

would blush to appear in the Lord's house clothed in office or kitchen garments. This brand of piety has some claims to respect; in many hearts it is associated very closely with the properties of sincere worship. But it does tend to exclude the man with the shabby coat and his wife, with her last year's bonnet. If we want to church in everyday attire, we should look less like a smart social club and some of the poor would worship with us in a more comfortable frame of mind."

The tenor of the Chautauqu's contention is that the modern church—and, as we take it, more especially the Protestant church—has not yet caught the full meaning of Christianity's duty toward the abounding poor in our populous cities. The feeding of these people of the spiritual graces of religion when their physical stomachs are suffering from a chronic absence of meat and potatoes is a kind of zeal which is mistakenly applied. Even Jesus, it will be remembered, first fed the multitude before He preached to it; and no doubt had He sojourned in Pennsylvania rather than in Palestine, He would have clothed it as well. This much may be said without irreverence, since it is only a logical extension of the instructive parable of the loaves and fishes.

One of two of our large cities, notably in New York, it has come to be the fashion for wealthy congregations which themselves worship amid luxurious surroundings in vegetable and earthly temples to establish, in the poorer districts, mission missions, in which plain pews and a plain service beckon to a plain and poor attendance. One cannot criticize the sincerity of good intention which prompts this thoughtful measure to be added that this division of the Christian church into distinct classes, when dictated by other reasons than necessity, is scarcely in unison with the divine democracy of that church's Founder. How, then, shall the problem be solved? It is perhaps not for the secular press to answer such a question; yet we fancy the true solution may be reached, in time, without the necessity of dividing the churches into sections, the one kind for the fastidiously affluent, and the other for the penniless unfortunate.

One of the men recently admitted to citizenship in a county not a thousand miles from here confessed, while under examination, that he did not know who the president of the United States was, and did not care. We should think that our glorious republic would feel proud of such a son.

It is none of our funeral; but it we cannot help remarking that we are a rare kind of Wilkes-Barre philanthropy which seeks to defeat the Quay county movement because it would cost Hazletonians too much.

Legislative Topics.

Captain Delaney's Little Bill. Harrisburg correspondent of the Carbonate Anthracite. "John C. Delaney's bill has successfully withstood the battering ram of that great and original thinker Intrepid warrior, General Gobin. Delaney's bill is to increase the salary and responsibilities of the custodian of the public buildings and grounds and for which the honorarium is remedied. Time was when we old timers who have seen the map of Europe change and who have withstood the shock of the discovery of horse blankets would call this job, which John C. is, as a friend of mine who I have borrowed money of and to whom I can go at any time for a chew of fine cut. When his bill passes he will be appointed to the same salary, and will pocket the \$3,000 salary like a little man."

The New Charities Measure.

A bill to establish a department of charities and correction has been introduced in the house by Representative Marshall. It provides that the chief officer shall be known as superintendent and be appointed by the governor for a term of three years. The superintendent is empowered to employ three inspectors and clerks, and also three deputies, to be known as inspectors of charities, corrections and lunacy. It is the duty of the superintendent to see that the laws respecting charities, corrections and lunacy are enforced. For this purpose he is vested with all the powers now conferred upon the board of public charities. The superintendent is given full power to visit and inspect the books of all institutions receiving state aid, and to inquire into the grounds of any request for state aid by any institution. Whenever he shall be satisfied that any insane patient in any county or district alms-house cannot there receive proper treatment he shall make application to the president judge of the proper county to have the patient transferred to that hospital.

Another Good Roads Bill.

A bill introduced by Mr. Sniely appropriates \$500,000 to improve the public highways under the charge of a secretary of internal affairs. It provides for the election and appointment of a township road committee and a county road engineer. The money is to be disbursed by the state treasurer upon order of the secretary of internal affairs, when this order is accompanied by the sworn statement of township committees, county engineers, the county road engineer. The appropriation is to be expended outside of cities and boroughs prorate, according to the population of each county or such road as the secretary of internal affairs with the county engineer and township committees shall agree upon. All such roads shall be kept in repair by the state. The local committee will consist of five men who shall serve five years without compensation except expenses. The pay of the engineer shall not be less than \$50 a year and actual expenses.

Thinks Its Friends Hurt It.

Carbonate Anthracite Representative Farr's compulsory education measure does not seem to be making that haste which was expected from the great clamor made about it at the hearing of the legislative session. Compulsory education is likely to suffer because of its friends it has made. When any piece of

legislation is backed up by particular societies, opposition is likely to take a course that will annoy and perhaps check the measure."

AS TO ANTHRACITE COUNTY.

From the Philadelphia Press. Our esteemed contemporary, the Carbonate Daily Anthracite, is as busily engaged as anybody could expect to be in these rather dull times manufacturing a brand new county. It is a very popular sort of enterprise with a considerable number of the newspapers in different parts of the state, and there is no reason on earth why our sprightly Carbonate contemporary should not have a share in it. There isn't much else worth bothering about just now.

This new county project contemplates taking a strip from Lackawanna county, a considerable chunk of Wayne and quite a large bite out of Susquehanna in order to make up the necessary 400 square miles of territory and satisfy our contemporary's craving for a new county, which is to be called Anthracite county in honor of the newspaper which has invented the scheme. There is no news from Wayne and Susquehanna that the people in those counties are sitting up nights and tearing around in the day time to advance this new county movement, but it is possible they will catch on in the course of a few hundred years and accommodate themselves to the vociferous demands that are being made upon them to make the county seat of something or other.

Nobody will blame Carbonate—which is a fine town with most of the modern improvements excepting a court house—for wanting the great distinction of being a county town. It could not be expected to stand unconcernedly by and see Hazleton, so near its own side, moving gaily and uninterruptedly forward to become the dazzling center of the new Quay county's round about show, which is not a travesty of the success of the alluring prospect. Whether it is of a less exuberant nature than Hazleton or is merely playing a deeper game we cannot pretend to say, but it is certain that Carbonate has not yet been aroused to that degree of intensely hot hourly convulsions. Hazleton, and which impels every public-spirited Hazletonian to keep his ear near the end of a telegraph wire to intercept the first news from Harrisburg. Nor does the county round about show that eager appetite for a new county which Jim Sweeney has so successfully stirred up in the vicinity of Hazleton.

These things may come in time, however, though we fear that Carbonate is laboring under some disadvantages. The countermine of the proposed name for the new county. Nobody could be expected to get much excited over Anthracite county. There was no particular interest in Hazleton's project as long as the intention was to call it Hazle county, but now that it is to be Quay county everybody is enthusiastic and all jobs in demanding it. That was a long-headed proposition and there is no longer any doubt that Quay county will go through; Hazleton will have a nice new court house and a full outfit of county officers all to the better.

Mr. Powderly in Philadelphia. From the Philadelphia Inquirer. Robert Watchorn, the retiring chief tax collector, gave a dinner last night at the Hotel Vendue to his successor, James Campbell, of Pittsburgh, and a few friends. During the progress of the dinner, T. V. Powderly, the former chief of the Knights of Labor, registered at the hotel, and as soon as his presence was known he was prevailed upon to join the party. Mr. Powderly is on his way home to Scranton from Washington, and as soon as he gets there he will commence to practice at the Lackawanna bar. The former labor chief was received with admiration, and in view of his long residence in Scranton and the high place he holds in the community, it is probable that he will find the law more profitable than the role of a labor leader.

Will Prove a Popular Member. Senator James Vaughan, I am inclined to think, will prove a popular member of the upper house of parliament. He is approachable, courteous, obliging and has got a great deal more sense than an ibex.

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