

# The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 8, 1895.

### THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 100,000. Registered voters, 23,462. 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 1880, 9,223. Population in 1870, 25,000. Population in 1860, 45,500. Population in 1850, 75,215. Population in 1841 (estimated), 104,000. And the end is not yet.

"The compulsory education bill." Says the Truth, "squarely places the school board in loco parentis in its very first section, and we all know how well qualified the average board is for such a sacred duty." In the place of what kind of parents? Those fit to discharge the duties of parentage? Not a bit. The Truth knows that the Farr bill doesn't "hound" any father nor "persecute" any mother fit to be called by such dignified words. All its talk to this effect is sheer and wilful misrepresentation, designed to befog and bedevil the issue. To follow its own words, it is "about the cheekiest piece" of deliberate dust-raising "that we have met with in the course of an extensive acquaintance with the mental processes" of special advocates like the Scranton Truth.

### The Purity of the Bench.

A stock drover of Indiana county. "Jim" Nickle by name, is very much in evidence these days during the hearing of the Blair-White election contest in that county. Nickle, it seems, was a singularly persuasive supporter of Judge Harry White, and a gentleman so winning in his manner that he seems to have had no difficulty in getting inside election booths and there "helping" along the cause of his choice. To one Dan Conrad it appears he presented a day's wages, \$2, in exchange for the exacting labor of voting a White ticket. But when Samuel Crowley, a cattle grower, would not sell his time in this eminently conventional manner, the aforesaid Jim promptly bought a consignment of cattle from Sanguel, paying 2 cents premium per pound. That settled it. Crowley, from a Blair man, changed into a howling supporter of the Honorable Henry White; and there were others like him.

Mr. Nickle, it was shown, bought a number of votes in the same frank and matter-of-fact manner that he would have employed had he been merely purchasing so many cows or hogs; but his artistic nature chafed under such commonplace duties, and he yearned to let his fine Italian hand daily with the more diplomatic aspects of the hoodler's game. This yearning of his, it may be worth while to remark, in passing, cost the opponent of Judge White several votes. But if Nickle was coy, the judge himself appears to have been several shades coyer. The evidence shows that Judge White had in his office a jug of liquor so seductive in its fluid mellowness that no wary citizen, after a smack of it on his lips, is known to have failed to vote early and often for the liquor's astute owner. But let the liquor should fall, there were held in reserve other ways and means, of a kind seldom ineffective during hard times. The game of corruption was worked from every conceivable standpoint.

Indeed, the hearing of this contest has been simply a miserable succession of exposures and scandals, each one, if possible, more humiliating than the rest. On all sides, it was a regular scramble for office, in which nearly every consideration of dignity, purity and decency seems to have been literally thrown to the winds. The man who won had enjoyed, up to that moment, widespread respect. Today he is as unfit for the bench as is the meanest criminal ever arraigned before him. For the criminal there may have been some excuse. For the judicial hypocrite and dissembler there can be none. Both Blair and White have been proved by cumulative sworn testimony to be political corruptionists of the most dangerous character. The presence of either upon a bench purchased at the price of manifold electoral crimes would be a disgrace to American civilization. The bench at least must be kept clean.

Harry Hayward, on trial for the murder of Miss Grogan, at Minneapolis, is getting a good deal of amusement out of the case. Harry is at present the funniest man at court. If the happy young man is accorded what at present seems to be his due, there is no question that the public will join him in a smile of satisfaction as the scene is adjusted.

The Philadelphia produce exchange has entered a formal protest against the enactment of the proposed law to compel merchants and others to sell eggs by weight. The law would be a hardship and a nuisance generally and no one has yet been discovered who would receive the slightest benefit from such a measure. It seems strange, in this age of enlightenment, that an individual whose ideas of statesmanship consist in framing laws to regulate the sale of onions and eggs should be allowed a position of responsibility through the votes of citizens of ordinary intelligence.

We are glad to know at last that the Scranton Truth does not favor the proposed law prohibiting child labor beneath the 15-year age limit. It brands such a proposition as "idiotic" and its judgment on that point is unquestionably accurate. We asked for information because we remembered with what vehement eloquence and fine pertinacity the Truth once advocated the mine and factory laws prohibiting child labor under the 12 and 13 year age limit. Since it has not recanted this advocacy, we may without injustice assume that while it scorns the 15-year project it yet favors keeping all children under 13 years away from workshops, and does not much care whether or not they be sent to school. Yet it is at precisely this tender age that children receive their vital impressions. If educated to be street gamblers, they generally remain illiterate and incorrigible. Under the law—a law which the Truth helped to pass—these little children dare not work for a living. Why, then, shouldn't they be sent to school, and be thus prepared for clean and creditable later careers?

**Novel Liquor Decision.**  
In the little town of Canton, Ill., six suits for damages, each in the sum of \$500, have been instituted against Canton saloonkeepers by women who allege they have been deprived of the support of their husbands, as they spend all of their money in the saloons. A similar case was tried a few weeks ago and the plaintiff was awarded \$700 damages against the saloon proprietor and the owner of the building occupied by the saloon. It is said, in the press dispatch from which the foregoing is taken, that this novel turn of affairs has spread consternation among those engaged in the liquor business in Canton, and that three men have already quit business in preference to facing an inevitable broadside of damage suits.

This decision is not widely different from that which is recorded in the Luzerne county courts holding a saloonkeeper pecuniarily responsible to the widow of a patron killed by a railroad train, while intoxicated from liquor purchased in the defendant's saloon. The Illinois finding merely carries this principle of equity out to a somewhat finer point. Instead of waiting until the drunkard's wife is a widow, to do her justice, the Illinois court evidently believes that she should be compensated even while her shiftless spouse is pursuing his vagabond career from bar room to bar room, neglectful of family and home. From at least a sentimental standpoint, Illinois, to use a colloquial phrase, has "seen Pennsylvania and gone her several better."

In both of these decisions, however, it appears to us that one important factor in the premises has been entirely overlooked. If the saloonkeeper is to be held responsible in pecuniary damages for the evils growing out of that business, why should he not seek to put a share of this responsibility upon his partner in guilt, the state which licenses him? The evils would probably not occur if the state should withhold its permission for their occurrence, in exchange for a money consideration. Therefore the state, having shared the profits, ought, in common fairness, to share losses of the business arising from judgments entered against it in the courts of justice.

First we were told by the Scranton Truth's Harrisburg correspondence, with pertinent embellishment, that the Farr compulsory education didn't stand the ghost of a show of getting out of committee; but now that the bill has been unanimously reported with a favorable recommendation by eighteen out of twenty-five members of that committee the Truth handily informs us that this was merely because the committee had got tired of the whole business, and wanted to throw its burden on the house. Precisely what excuse the esteemed Truth will invent when the bill shall pass both branches and receive the governor's signature we do not know; but we will wager a pipkin that it will let itself down by equally ingenious and diverting stages. The Truth does not dodge; oh, no!

**Publish the Laws.**  
The bill of Representative Hicks, of Philadelphia, providing for the publication, under direction of the secretary of the commonwealth, of all laws in at least three newspapers in each county follows out the custom successfully in vogue in New York state. It will probably be objected to on account of the expense involved. We should imagine, at a rough guess, that the biennial cost of such a law would probably be as much as \$900,000, or about \$1,500 per year for each county in the state. A cost of this magnitude would be fatal to the bill. But we have in mind a plan which would apparently obviate this objection and yet perform a useful service. Let the legislature create a commission on new laws, with power to order published, in at least three newspapers in each county, of general circulation, such newly enacted statutes as in its judgment would be of real news value to the great mass of citizens. Laws governing appropriations or having reference to purely technical subjects might be omitted altogether, and the probabilities are that for an annual cost of not to exceed \$100,000 a year every law of vital interest could thus be put conspicuously before the eyes of the people. Such a plan would, in our judgment, prove decidedly beneficial.

The Chicago Daily News almanac for 1895 contains the best summaries of the year's doings that we have seen. It is an accurate compilation of facts and figures of live interest to every intelligent American citizen, and it deserves the great success that it has won.

Chicago's "home saloon" is now in full blast, although the word "full" does not, in this case, have a disreputable meaning since all intoxicants are barred. Three kinds of beer are kept on tap, but none is alcoholic. Cigars are given free to every patron. Their quality is not stated. A good meal may be had for from 10 to 15 cents, and

steaks, mutton chops, pork and beans and pork chops are each sold for 10 cents. Billiard and pool tables will be provided; and all the characteristics of a regular "free and easy" will appear except inebriation and foul language, which are both prohibited. It remains to be seen what will come of the experiment.

"What is to prevent the successful establishment of great electrical plants in the anthracite coal regions where there are almost incalculable amounts of excellent fuel to be had for the mere handling, converting it into potential energy in the shape of electricity and conveying it to the neighboring cities, or even more distant ones like Philadelphia and New York, by wire, there to be utilized for light, power or heating purposes?" The question is asked by the Lancaster New Era, and the answer to it is that there is nothing to prevent it except the slowness with which capital moves during panic times. Give a normal business conditions, and we will wager that the cum problem will reach a practical solution in short order; and Scranton gain a second lease of marvelous life and progress.

There is a good deal of truth in the observation of Christopher L. Magee's Pittsburg Times that "failing to keep specific pledges made to the people in order to gain a few more offices has never yet, in the long run, proved a paying business for any party that ever attempted it, and never will." This remark is addressed to Senator Lexow and those other New York Republicans who are now trying to appropriate the fruits of last autumn's reform victory in Gotham. The name of Thomas C. Platt is not mentioned by our contemporary; but as the chief "villain" in the play, he should take the words to himself.

The first issue of the Brockton Times, owned by W. L. Douglas, the shoe man, contains no advertisement of the \$3 shoe and accompanying portrait. This seems to be another case of the doctor who refuses to take his own medicine.

The allegation that Dr. Parkhurst talks too much would not count such an amount of annoyance in certain quarters were it not for the fact that the law-abiding public listens too much.

The project to connect Montrose and Tunkhannock by telephone will probably be abandoned. The rival towns, it is said, are not on speaking terms.

Mr. Farr triumphed over misrepresentations and all else. The more desperate the opposition, the bigger his victory.

### LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

**Virtually Local Option.**  
Representative Penness, of Philadelphia, has called up the Brooks law, which it was understood was not to be touched this session, by proposing an amendatory bill quasi-prohibitory in its character. The amending clause provides that the county of Luzerne, county shall, at the time appointed for hearing petitions for and remonstrances against the granting of licenses for the sale of vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, first hear all general remonstrances against the granting of any license, and, if it shall, upon hearing any such general remonstrance, appear that a majority of the residents of lawful age, or of the property holders, or of the holders of property of largest aggregate value of said city, ward, borough, township, county or part thereof specified in such remonstrance, have united therein, the said court shall refuse all applications for license to sell vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixture thereof, within said city, ward, borough, township, county or part thereof. With reference to this bill the Philadelphia Press says: "It ought to commend itself to the legislature. The principle of local option is sound and just. In 1880 twenty-nine counties of the state, having an aggregate population of over 1,300,000, voted for the prohibition amendment. They failed to impose prohibition upon the whole state, but there is no good reason why they should not enjoy its benefits themselves, since the granting of local option establish and enforce its own rule in a matter of this kind. It is a natural right, and it is in harmony with the accepted and sound principle of local self-government, and it ought to be granted."

**Protection for Coal Miners.**  
Philadelphia Press: The measure introduced by Representative Wyatt, of Schuylkill, requiring that automatic safety controllers be placed on all engines hoisting men from shafts, slopes, strippings or quarries, is a measure of the utmost consequence to employer and employee in the anthracite coal region. Its object is to prevent the mine engineer from losing control of his engine, with its consequent over-heat. There are many thousands of men who are hoisted daily from our mines that are entirely dependent on the skill and presence of mind of the one in charge of the engine. It happens often that the engine is so hoisted that the engineer loses control of his engine while hoisting men from the mine. Lives have been lost and limbs injured and property damaged by this kind of accident. Thousands of dollars. Last year our readers will remember an accident that occurred in a Michigan mine, where nine men were hoisted up to the shafts when, while hoisting men, the engine containing the men, and the mangled bodies dropped back to a depth of hundreds of feet. The Wyatt bill proposes to place the safety of the miners or employees in the immediate vicinity beyond the chance of the one in charge of the engine losing control of it. It is a measure of some part of the complicated machinery to refuse to respond to the hand in control of the lever. There are numerous safety catches to prevent the cage from dropping to the bottom, but as yet there have been few automatic appliances used. This Wyatt measure insuring additional safeguards for many thousands of tollers in mines and quarries of this state ought to be speedily enacted.

**What Ought to Be the Test.**  
Philadelphia Record: A Lebanon county saloon has introduced a bill in the legislature to prevent the employment of aliens as attendants in the care of the indigent insane at the Wernersville state hospital. Compensatory ought to be the test of nativity. But we have to use strange times. The old idea that all men were created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights is evidently getting stale and out of date.

**To Regulate the Undertaking Business.**  
A bill has been introduced by Representative Hales providing for the creation of a board of undertakers in cities of the first, second and third classes, whose members are to be registered and licensed after an examination for the business of burying the dead. The board is to consist of five persons who are to serve from one to three years. They shall receive no salary, except the secretary, who shall get \$50 a year. The actual expenses of the board are to be paid. The bill makes it the duty of every undertaker to be registered under a penalty of \$10, after examination by the board. Applications must have good moral character, be possessed of knowledge of the business of undertak-

ing, preservation of the dead, disinfecting bodies, apartments, clothing or bedding in cases of death from contagious diseases. The license fee is \$25. The license may be revoked at any time on proper cause by the board after a hearing. Violation of the act is made punishable by a penalty of not less than \$50 or more than \$500, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both. The fees and fines collected are for the use of the board, which is required to make report annually to the governor.

**Another State Board.**  
Another state board will have to be appointed if a bill introduced at Harrisburg Wednesday becomes a law. That bill provides for what is to be known as "The College and University Council." It is to have supervision over and determine what institutions in the state, denominational and otherwise, shall have power to confer degrees. The board is to consist of the governor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, three persons selected from the presidents of denominational colleges or universities, three persons selected from among the presidents of denominational colleges and three persons sustaining official relationship to the common schools of the state.

**Newspaper Publishers Organize.**  
The newspaper publishers of the home state have organized to consider legislative matters of interest to the newspaper fraternity. A Nevin Pomeroy has been elected chairman and John H. Farr, secretary. There are about twenty newspaper publishers in the legislature.

**Wise Minorities Rule.**  
From Dr. Parkhurst's Address.  
The influences that shape national or municipal destiny are not arithmetic. It has always been the case that the largest results have been achieved in the first instance by small minorities. "One man shall chase a thousand," is just as true here as it was in the days of Israel. If I knew that there were ten men in all this city with good heads, honest hearts, indomitable pluck and thoroughly appreciative of the situation, that were prepared to lay themselves upon the municipal altar, with the same steady eye and reserve with which Savonarola gave himself to the world, there is nothing on earth or in hell that could defeat you. That is the principle upon which history has always been administered, and in all likelihood always will be.

**HIS FATE.**  
"The snow, the snow, the beautiful snow!"  
"This gleefully caroled the bard."  
"Enough!" was the sufferer's agonized cry.  
As he lifted a club with a gleam in his eye, and his face became pallid and hard. The club did its work. By an unerring blow the poet was sent where the warm fires glow.  
In a way that would melt all the beautiful snow.

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- LADIES' DESKS, CABINETS, BOOKCASES, LADIES' DRESSING TABLES, TEA TABLES AND LIBRARY TABLES, BRASS AND ONYX TABLES AND CABINETS (OF A GUARANTEED QUALITY), AN ELEGANT STOCK OF PICTURES AT MODERATE COST, FANCY BASKETS AND LAMPS, CALL EARLY AND MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS WHILE OUR ASSORTMENT IS COMPLETE.

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The above garments are only the best of New Winter Styles.

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