

Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 13, 1895.

THE SCRANTON TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 29,392. 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. See how we grow: Population in 1880, 82,223. Population in 1870, 75,909. Population in 1860, 65,519. Population in 1850, 55,215. Population in 1840, 45,000. And the end is not yet.

As the municipal campaign draws to a close it is interesting to notice the strong current in the Eighth ward in favor of W. S. Millar for alderman. This popular candidate is not only sure of the solid support of the party which he has long served so efficiently and faithfully in its local battles, but is rapidly winning over personal friends of the Democratic persuasion. As alderman, Mr. Millar will abundantly realize the high expectations of his many supporters.

Personal Habits and Morals.

There appears to be somewhat of a disposition in Pittston just now to indulge in invidious personal comparisons among the various candidates for city office. While the personal character of a candidate for responsible local office is by no means a matter of indifference to the voters of any community, it may fairly be questioned whether anything is ever gained for public morals by the puffing holding up to scorn of purely personal weaknesses, as distinguished from defects of a public character.

For example, a man can chew tobacco, to such an extent as to render his presence distasteful to many persons; but it would hardly do, in a political campaign, to pillory him for that shortcoming if it was the only objection that could be brought against his fitness for public office. Or, again, another candidate might, at rare times, succumb to a weakness for liquor without necessarily sacrificing either his integrity as a citizen or his usefulness in a public trust. To illustrate this point, it may be said that rumor, for several months, has in a quiet way pointed to alleged indiscretions of this kind on the part of a number of officials in high public position at Washington, one of them, in fact, occupying the very highest office in the gift of the people. Yet no one has yet, in a public manner, turned these asserted personal failings into a weapon of attack. By common consent, these vague and indefinite stories have been dismissed as of a kind too unimportant, in a public sense, whether true or false, to receive dignified attention.

The criticism that counts, before intelligent taxpayers, is that which points out elements of unfitness in candidates for office that would, in the event of their election, cause or threaten a depreciation in their public services. It is pertinent, upon sufficient grounds, to question a candidate's honesty and his loyalty to the law. The man who hopes to be put into a position where it will be his duty to handle public funds or to execute laws should be, by habit, a law breaker. But to raise questions as to the food that he eats, the liquor that he drinks, the clothing that he wears or the habits that pertain exclusively to his individual private life, in the majority of cases, to embark upon a crusade that will excite misinterpretation and cause needless animosities and resentments. The voter may pass on these points in the privacy of the election booth with better grace than the newspapers may, in the "white light of garish publicity."

Journalists generally will cordially approve the action of the Philadelphia Pen and Pencil club in re-electing Louis N. Megargee to the presidency of that popular organization for the ensuing year. President Megargee will preside during the forthcoming visit of the International League of Press Clubs to Philadelphia, and will do the honors on that occasion with expert urbanity and courtly grace.

Neatly Hoaxed.

Journalist Palm, of Meadville, is one of the growing number of intelligent men who cannot see why the sale of oleomargarine, as such, should be prohibited in this state, merely in order that the dairy interests may keep up their high prices on indifferent butter.

In order to add practical force to his contention that artificial butter, when properly made, is chemically as pure and quite as palatable as the yellow product of the udder, he lately secured from a Chicago "oleo" factory sample packages, which he then entered, as butter, in a prize competition held recently at Meadville by the Pennsylvania State Dairyman's association. This association had, by resolution, branded oleomargarine as nothing less than "axle grease" and "hoof juice" but the

association experts showed that they did not know what they had been talking about, inasmuch as they awarded second and third prizes to the two "oleo" samples. To get square with the venturesome editor for thus exhibiting their ignorance, the association now threatens to have Mr. Palm arrested; but the chances are that its suit, if ever brought, would be promptly and deservedly laughed out of court.

The Quay bill to establish a new federal court district in Pennsylvania, with Scranton as the center, has been introduced in the house by Representative Scranton. We have already pointed out its numerous and pressing claims to the favorable consideration of this congress. The bill would entail comparatively little new expense, and this would be more than counterbalanced by the saving it would occasion among those who, when having litigation before the federal courts, are now forced to make the long and tedious journey to Pittsburg. The twenty counties included in the proposed Northern district will easily supply enough business to warrant the creation of a third court; and these citizens have a right to expect cheap and convenient court facilities.

A Call for Volunteers.

On page five of this issue appears the details of a plan whereby it is hoped to raise a Finishing and Furnishing fund of \$10,000 with which to complete the equipment of the Scranton Young Men's Christian association. In brief, it is proposed to acknowledge, in this paper, contributions from every reader who feels sufficiently interested in the good work of this splendid home institution to give, for its enlargement, a sum of money ranging anywhere from 1 cent to \$100. To start the ball rolling, The Tribune itself gives \$100.

All amounts, whether large or small, received by this paper up to 6 o'clock at night will be acknowledged the following morning, and deposited in bank the following day, subject to the check of the treasurer of the Young Men's Christian association. The pennies of the poor will receive just as hearty a welcome and be acknowledged with exactly the same care as will the dollars of the rich. No reader of these lines is too poor to send something. Send it now, while you think of it; and thus win the satisfaction of being among the first to respond to one of the most deserving calls ever issued in the history of practical beneficence in northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is almost unnecessary to add, although, to correct any possible misapprehension, we shall add it, that the only purpose which The Tribune has in the premises is to help along a worthy cause. To this end, it has given freely of its space and money; and it has done this the more willingly for the reason that it recognizes in the Scranton Young Men's Christian association an institution which opens its doors upon equal terms to Protestant and Catholic, Jew and Gentile, Mohammedan and Agnostic, American, German, Irishman, Frenchman, any man at all. The community which has for years enjoyed the beneficial fruits of this all-comprehensive liberality in good ministrations will not, we take it, begrudge the slight repayment that is now sought.

We Call for Volunteers.

Who will be the first to respond? Candidate for Common Council Hickey, of the Nineteenth ward, professes to be sure of reelection; but that little display of braggadocio will not deceive anybody. The next councilman from the Nineteenth will be a Republican, and a clean one at that.

A Short Study in Crime.

In the last five years, according to figures compiled by Warden Wright, of the Riverside penitentiary, there has been an increase of 50 per cent. in the number of convicts received, at that penal institution, 50 per cent. of which occurred in the past two years. During that time the increase in population in this state has been less than 5 per cent. per annum. The average sentence today is nearly double what it was five years ago, a fact due, not to the increased severity of the courts, but to the greater enormity of the offenses. A minor fact of some interest is that the bulk of this crime is committed, not by foreigners, nor by persons of foreign parentage, but by Americans. In the past two years 874 prisoners were received at the penitentiary. Of these, about 51 per cent. were born in Pennsylvania, 28 per cent. were born in other states, and only 21 per cent. were of foreign birth. Coupled with the fact that there are, before the legislature at this time, propositions asking for enlarged appropriations for five different kinds of lunatic asylums, the demand for which is increasing even faster than is the demand for new jail room, the foregoing statement, compiled from an official report, is not only interesting but also important.

Side by side with the newspaper article of which the foregoing is a brief summary appears the following paragraph, under the heading "Religious Topics": "Some one has estimated that we have spent nearly \$475,000,000 in building churches in this land and \$90,000,000 in building jails; and that it costs \$50,000,000 a year to run the churches and \$100,000,000 to run the jails." Inasmuch as public sentiment will not permit a slighting of the jails, it would seem from this that a large increase in the money contributed to the support of the churches would be in order, if the jails are ever to be relieved of the present strain upon them. Either that, or else the churches must become more practical. Probably a combination of both would be in order, with larger sums of money to the schools and compulsory education thrown in.

The Lancaster New Era, in the course of a vicious onslaught upon Captain John C. Delaney, takes occasion to praise Senator Gobin for his "manly but fruitless fight" against the bill to establish the office of custodian of public buildings and grounds. We presume that the New Era, on the same principle, will censure Senator Gobin for

championing the measures to raise the salary of the head of the state bank inspection department as soon as it learns that he advocated that increase. It is a poor rule which will not work both ways.

The casting of "Broad upon the waters" does not always involve as long an interval before its return as it has involved in the case of Dr. Allen Norton Leete, of this city, who, in reciprocity for a loan of \$500, made more than a score of years ago to a friend in need, now receives \$50,000 in the form of a bequest. But it is in all cases a profitable practice, which ought to gain in vogue as a consequence of this latest "windfall." We congratulate Dr. Leete and wish him happiness in the realization of his good fortune.

It is seemingly rather late in the day for the citizens of Sullivan county to discover that they do not care to stand the expense of a costly judicial election contest. But it is not too late for them to remember that the man whose persistency in questioning the election of Judge Danham has precipitated this expense is none other than the defeated Democratic candidate, backed up by the Democratic bosses of the district. This fact would appear to be a good thing to file away for future reference.

The merry card of Homer Greene to the Republicans of Wayne county who vainly tried to secure his nomination for congress in the Fifteenth district will add to the friendliness generally felt for this gifted citizen of Honesdale. Mr. Greene accepts defeat in a manly spirit, wastes no time in vain regrets and is, if we mistake not, in direct line for future promotion. The Republican party can well afford to keep a favorable eye on Homer Greene.

No one should now accuse Bill Cook of cowardice. The man who can unflinchingly receive a sentence enforcing a residence of fifty years in Albany is no chicken.

If Mrs. Baldwin had only foretold Dr. Leete's good luck, possibly the doctor would now be less skeptical as to the merits of the so-called science of "somnancy."

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Not Lobbying This Year.

Philadelphia Times: The indifference which railway managers are manifesting toward legislative bodies this winter as to what action they might take adverse to railway interests, is causing much comment. One official said it meant that the railroad companies have no money to waste in lobbying to prevent unfavorable legislation. "The fact is," he said, "if legislative bodies wish to enact laws which will cripple the roads the traveling public and the shippers will be the losers in the end, as the highly satisfactory service of the railways at present and the rates at which business is carried cannot be continued under further adverse legislation. At any rate, there will be no money expended to prevent the carrying out of unfavorable legislation toward the railroads. In every legislative body there are men with hobbies and cranky ideas, and usually they are hostile to railways and ignorant of the expense attached to operating them. Rates are now so low and transportation facilities so far in advance of former years that to operate eight out of ten roads in this country costs 75 to 80 per cent. of the gross earnings, which practically means that this 80 per cent. of gross earnings is distributed largely among the laboring classes, and when railroads are subjected to unjust legislation the employes lose it as directly as does the holder of the securities."

The Truth's Unavailing Opposition.

Harrisburg correspondence of the Arch-bishop Citizen: In the house Mr. Farr's compulsory education bill was reported from the committee on education with a favorable recommendation. The vote was unanimous on the committee and the bill will pass the house and senate with but few votes against it. Marked copies of the Scranton Truth were received here last week containing an account of the terrible death of a man in England, who was imprisoned for not sending his child to school. This article was the subject of much comment among the members, but has not influenced the friends of Mr. Farr's bill. In fact when the provisions of the bill are generally known there can be no opposition to it in any quarter. * * * Senator Vaughan has made arrangements to have "Congressman Curtis, of New York, come here and deliver an address on behalf of his bill to abolish capital punishment. Congressman Curtis is the leader of the movement to abolish capital punishment and his bill to that effect has passed the house of representatives at Washington.

Bigger Salaries in Hard Times.

Colonel Sam Hutton in the Philadelphia Bulletin: The officials of the big rural counties have revived the salary grab of two years ago, which gave Governor Pattison an opportunity to write a "cringer." The bill has been introduced by Senator Kline, and it applies to the populous counties—those having 120,000 inhabitants and upwards. The salaries of the county officials are raised all around. The commissioners, whose office is popularly supposed to be a fat one, through the peculiar methods which apply to them, get a raise from \$1,500 to \$3,500; the coroner, from \$1,200 to \$2,000; the controller, from \$2,000 to \$4,000; treasurer, from \$1,500 to \$3,000; clerk of the courts, from \$2,000 to \$3,000; the salary of the first assistant district attorney is fixed at \$4,000 and that of second assistant at \$1,500. It is probable, however, that this bill has a rocky road before it. In view of the fact that wages of all kinds of employment are falling and the drop in the price of everything there is to buy, it would seem to be hardly the time to increase the salaries of politicians. The bill will be bitterly fought in the house.

Pass the Forestry Bills.

Philadelphia Record: The forestry bills, each distinct and yet all co-related, are today before the legislature of this commonwealth. Their common aim is to provide the state with an efficient forestry commission and inspection and a public knowledge of the forestry needs. Professor J. T. Rothrock has estimated that under forest care and protection Pennsylvania in fifty years should have standing white pine worth, at present prices, one and a half billion dollars. "The timber," as he suggests, "should be produced on ground capable of producing no other crop advantageously. Its growth would leave the soil in a fertile condition. Failure to produce this would mean large impoverished areas which would not only produce nothing, but would be a menace to the rest of the commonwealth in periods of large, sudden rainfall." The fire warden system proposed for the state would thus save, potentially, \$9,000,000 annually to the commonwealth and insure, as well, immunity from many disasters.

Ballot Defects to be Corrected.

Harrisburg Patriot: The defects in the ballot law are to be corrected. Senator Baker, the framer of the act, is collecting copies of the proposed changes and suggestions that he has been offered; he has also received the changes recommended by the Ballot Reform association, but will press no definite measure until agreement has been reached with the members of the Ballot Reform association. These proposed changes will likely combine into one bill for which a special order will be asked in both bodies. As to the constitutionality

of the act in regard to voting upon questions of municipal indebtedness the title will be amended so as to cover this matter. The senator will also endeavor to amend the twenty-sixth section by requiring every voter who declares that he is a disability and requires assistance to make his statement under oath upon printed form as now required by residence and on age. He courts criticism of the act and he is open to any suggestions that can be made that would increase its efficiency.

Pass the Forestry Bills. Harrisburg Herald: The bill to create a forestry commission which has been discussed this week at Harrisburg, is a highly meritorious measure. Its object is to stay the ravages which are annually made by fires and thus protect what still remains of the forests. Under present laws these duties must be performed by individual owners if they are attended at all. In such haste they are notoriously apt to be neglected, and the failure of a small owner to employ the necessary means for extinguishing forest fires may result in the ruin of thousands of acres. A spark from a locomotive may kindle flames which, if suffered to spread unchecked, may cause damage amounting to millions. The destruction of its forests is an almost irreparable loss to the state, and measures for preventing and extinguishing forest fires should be promptly taken.

Improve the Rural Schools. Philadelphia Press: Larger state appropriations for rural schools will be an advantage if coupled with the improvement of these schools. If it is not the increased appropriation will simply pauperize the schools and committees which are added. The schools in the rural districts of this state are steadily deteriorating, and if the members from the rural counties have their way Pennsylvania will sink into a slough of rural ignorance.

YE SLEIGHRIDE PARTIE.

Ye posie sleighride starts with merric din, Echo gentill maybe ben well y' tucken in, And oftenwhyles illnatured archus shy Ye festive snowballe swift as they pass bye; Ye bashfulle wayne hymn thinks, tho' yet afraid, To haply hugge some comely simple mayde, And ever and anon a voice commands, Betwixt ye trompets peales: "Hold uppe your hands!"

Whenas returns eche manne and mayden false, Nonne sound brasts out uponne ye frostie dill, Save when perchance in shawle-enveloped blisse, A blundering yokel gives too load a kisse; Or when some uniformed, foolish wight, Well meaning, hugges ye tender mayde too tight, Nonne word is spoke, for in ye mone-light dimme, Echo fellow kens ye reste ben onto hyme, —Jack Stevens in Life.

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