

The Scranton Tribune

PUBLISHED DAILY IN SCRANTON, PA., BY THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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NEW YORK OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, FRANKS & GAY, MANAGERS.

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 15, 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, 29,369. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,300. 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 1860, 5,000. Population in 1870, 15,000. Population in 1880, 45,500. Population in 1890, 75,215. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

A dollar contributed to the betterment of the Scranton Young Men's Christian association will be a dollar put out at compound interest for the benefit of the entire community. Now is the time to subscribe.

Lexow Committee Nonsense.

The intimation which comes from Harrisburg that Senator Quay has changed his mind with reference to the appointment of a Lexow committee for Philadelphia and is now strongly in favor of such a committee needs to be verified before it can be implicitly believed. There is little doubt, since the recent disclosures before the councilmanic probing committee in the City of Brotherly Love, that a Lexow committee with extended powers could ascertain many things of interest to the public, in connection with the government of America's third city. In the direction of councils at least there is the promise of interesting results; and we are by no means sure that all of the municipal departments would escape unscathed if the inquiry were to be conducted honestly and thoroughly.

But we are still of the opinion that a legislative committee from Harrisburg has very little right to interfere with the local affairs of the people of Philadelphia. The conditions in this state are not similar to those which existed in New York state at the time of the appointment of the Lexow committee. In the latter state, all the cities were governed under special charter legislation, which gave to the Albany assembly an immediate legal, if not moral, right to inquire into the details of each city's local government. No such excuse can be urged, however, with reference to Philadelphia. The government of Philadelphia is conducted directly by the people of Philadelphia. If that government is unsatisfactory, it is their duty to correct it. If corruption is believed to exist in any branch of that government, the right to make inquiry rests with the people who are directly wronged by such alleged corruption; and if they do not see fit to take steps in the premises, it is proper that they should suffer the consequences.

There is another phase to this subject of superior importance to any yet brought out. We do not believe it was ever intended that the legislature of Pennsylvania should exercise powers of police supervision over the government of Pennsylvania cities, or that it has any constitutional call to constitute itself a detective agency for the unearthing of municipal crimes. The judgment of such sweeping powers in the legislature would place in the hands of the political leaders who dominate that legislature a most dangerous weapon, with which to labor, upon slight pretext, subordinate in the various cities who should chance to incur their superiors' displeasure. The people of New York, after a long interval of such centralized authority during which municipal scandal and crime, often through the direct connivance and encouragement of those in control at Albany, reached unprecedented and intolerable proportions, have just decided to go back to the wholesome, old-fashioned principle of home rule. And the people of Pennsylvania, with this example before them, can hardly be so foolish as to wish to attempt an experiment which in New York has ignominiously failed.

If Scranton is not to have a paid fire department, it might be a good idea to provide for the better enforcement of discipline among the volunteer companies.

Quite a Large Storm.

The meteorological experts tell us that the recent blizzard extended over more than three-fourths of the inhabited portion of the globe, with varying violence. The average snowfall, throughout that portion of the United States lying north of the thirty-fifth parallel, is estimated by the department authorities at Washington at twelve inches; below the thirty-fifth parallel it was considerably less, although frost fell even on the extreme southern boundary. It is probably true, however, that of the 9,308,000 square miles comprising the grand division called North America, 7,420,510 square miles were covered by snow averaging one foot in depth, and at a hazard, judging from the cable reports, we may say that 1,000,000 square miles of European territory were similarly affected. This gives a total of 8,430,510 square miles with snow on it a foot

deep; or 206,871,945,984,000 cubic feet of snow crystals, each cubic foot containing millions upon millions of separate particles, wrought into the most beautiful of fantastic shapes and forms. It is a reasonable estimate to suppose that two cubic feet of snow weigh a pound, and, when melted, measure one pint. At this rate, the recent snowfall was equivalent in weight to 51,717,986,496 tons, or considerably more, in weight, than the present output of all the anthracite coal mines in the world worked at the present capacity for a thousand years. If this snow were melted and placed in a reservoir, it would make 12,229,496,624 gallons of water, or enough to supply one-sixth of the population of the United States for an entire year, without any necessity for economizing. If we could imagine it pumped into a pipe so large that one foot of pipe would hold one gallon of water, this pipe would reach almost 100 times around the earth at the equator. It was quite a large storm.

We must confess, after all its random rhetoric, that we are wholly unable to perceive why the Scranton Truth opposes compulsory education. Slammered down, its position seems to be neither more nor less than one of sticking obstinately to an early mistake.

The Saturday Tribune.

The man who wants to be thoroughly happy will need to read tomorrow's Tribune. Its twelve handsome pages will literally teem with good reading—some of it grave, some gay, some diverting, some instructive. You have probably noticed that this Saturday edition of our's is steadily growing better. You already know, of course, that it is the best Saturday issue of any newspaper in Scranton, which means in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

But that doesn't wholly satisfy us. There is no reason why the best city in the state should not have, at least once a week, the best paper in the state. We have an idea that the intelligent readers of this section will appreciate the opportunity which The Tribune is giving them to obtain, for a Saturday, a paper well worth its cost, and that, for Saturday, they will know how to evince their appreciation of the best number of any newspaper in the entire state.

It costs a double money; but it doesn't cost the purchaser even one extra mill.

The custom, among physicians, of avoiding newspaper publicity often results in the withholding of due credit to skilled members of that profession for services which are of inestimable benefit to the community in which they modestly toil. It is often not until personal illness interrupts their daily ministrations that the community reaches a proper realization of its large indebtedness. We note with extreme regret the illness of such a physician in Pittston, in the person of Dr. J. J. Walsh, a brother of Rev. Richard Walsh, of Moscow. Dr. Walsh's illness, as we chance to know, is the direct result of his martyrdom to professional duty. Rather than disappoint the many families who depended upon his skill, he overtaxed his own vital strength to the point where at last it summarily gave way; and now he lies prostrate, as much a hero, albeit in more modest manner, as was ever a soldier stricken in battle, face front, at the post of duty. We cannot refrain from giving this frank credit where we know it to be due.

For an entire week the people of Pittston have been deprived of street car facilities because of the unwillingness of the Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley Traction company to remove the accumulated snow and ice from its tracks without throwing them into ugly heaps in the wagon way alongside the tracks. Nor does there appear to be the likelihood of an early resumption of passenger traffic on the Pittston line. The situation is a novel one; but it would soon take on a different aspect if the authorities of Pittston borough were to declare forfeited the rights and franchises of the street car company within the borough. There ought somewhere to be a redress for the conduct of a corporation which after obtaining public franchises for a song, upon the plea that its business will accommodate the public, then turns round and says in the expressive language of the late Mr. Vanderbilt, "the public be d—d."

The esteemed Syracuse Post, commenting on Editor Palm's smooth "oleo" trick, draws this moral: "If the makers of fraudulent butter can deceive the very elect, there is all the more reason why their fraudulent product should be so prominently stamped that purchasers will know what they are getting." That is it, precisely. Let every tub stand on its own bottom. But the law in this state doesn't do that. It prohibits absolutely the sale of imitation butter, regardless of the fact that by so doing it imposes hardships on thousands of poor families which cannot afford to pay the high prices charged for dairy butter.

The idea actuating those who advocate a greater Pittsburg appears to be to get a big rating in the census, even if to do so it shall be necessary to acquire the larger part of Allegheny county by forcible conquest. We do not believe that a law of this character would be regarded as constitutional by the courts.

The energy displayed by the Scranton Truth's Harrisburg representative in "writing down" Representative Farr continues, with increase; but it looks very much like energy wasted.

Where two rogues run for council choose the least.

There are a number of men in public life throughout the country who will undoubtedly sympathize with Messrs. Porter and Martin, of Philadelphia, in the embarrassing situation in which these gentlemen now find themselves as an outgrowth of the pertinacity of the man Persch in forcing into their reluctant hands large blocks of telephone company stock, issued while a franchise ordinance was pending in the Philadelphia councils. It was, of course, only

the amiable disposition of the gentlemen in question which restrained them from denouncing Persch on the spot and in assuming, before an applauding public, the attitude of offended innocence. A law to prevent corporation promoters like Persch from taking liberties with men like Porter and Martin should be passed instantly; and we look to Senator Boies Penrose to introduce it.

We suspect that the Honorable Thomas Collier Platt is, at this writing, a badly disappointed man. The appointments made by Mayor Strong have not only ignored his favorite claimants of office but have put in the most influential position a man who is the most inveterate anti-Platt Republican on Manhattan island. William Brookfield was the chairman of the Republican county committee when Mr. Strong was elected mayor; and as a reward for that victory Platt had him ousted. The mayor now makes Brookfield commissioner of public works, a position in which he will have the appointment in all of 1,438 employees, of whom 1,113 are laborers and mechanics and the others superintendents, engineers and clerks at salaries ranging from \$900 to \$7,000 per year. It is said that Platt will be accorded a crumb of comfort in a week or two; but crumbs are not the diet that the "Tiger" lions feed on. However, Platt is not the man to refuse even a crumb, if he cannot get more.

The revelation that Labor Leader Mark Wild accepted a \$600 cash present, through John McBride, from a coal operator who was grateful to Wild for settling a recent strike would seem to indicate that the secrets of this profession are at last beginning to leak out. It is a profitable business, this one of the labor agitator; as many a fortune will attest. And the poor, hoodwinked day laborer, as usual, "pays the freight."

It will be a mistake to "Lexow" Philadelphia by a walk of Harrisburg. Philadelphia should be governed, inspected and renovated, when necessary, by Philadelphians.

The statement that low temperature weakens the intellect suggests the propriety of providing a few extra radiators for the common council room.

The Wilkes-Barre Record during one year graciously favors a new county and then the next year bitterly opposes it. Thus it keeps things balanced.

If capital punishment can deterrently prevent the commission of homicides, it is a long time doing it.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

A Poor Stock in Trade. Lebanon Report: The Scranton Tribune rightly characterizes the bill to "guarantee workmen the right to join labor unions" as "playing to the galleries." A more ridiculous bit of legislation could hardly be enacted and yet the committee has favorably reported the bill proposing it. It is no doubt destined to be enacted and pigeon-holed among the many such legislative proposals which are now on the deal-table list. The object of such legislation is branded on the face of it to be a bid for the labor vote, and it is one of the wonders that the labor element should be so easily hood-winked by this kind of legislation as to attempt the proper bounds of legislation. It is one of those things which are done for the sake of doing them. Anyone with a remnant of common sense must realize that such an act out-steps the proper bounds of legislation. It is especially, must know only too well the thousand and one pretenses, which can, at any time and without warning, serve as a ground for dismissal from which there is no appeal. In this case the employer can simply deny that he is violating the act and what is the workman going to do about it? It is by the enactment of such silly statutes as these that our legislatures bring discredit upon the commonwealth and the law. But it is their stock in trade and to deprive them of the privilege is to rob them of a living.

Vote for Ignorance and Avarice.

Philadelphia Press: The Pennsylvania State is refusing to grant the constitutional majority to the bill extending the school term to seven months. The rural schools of this state to the same disgraceful condition in which they are now left by a law which is below that of any state in wealth or population comparable with Pennsylvania. Senator Haines, of York, and Senator Green, of Berks, with assistance from Senator Critchfield, united in defending the ignorance which a short school term breeds and the avarice which keeps children playing in the field and dairy when they ought to be on the school benches. It is not the cost of the schools which leads counties holding 100,000 children to limit their term to six months; it is child labor, worked for gain when the child should be studying, which the constituents of these senators refuse to give up. Unfortunately all the state suffers from the policy of these counties which are careless of the brighter future of their children as long as a little can be saved in farm labor by working for another month children of the spelling book age. Since the rural counties utterly refuse to improve their schools the increased appropriation proposed by a redistribution of state money should be fought by every exponent.

To Regulate Charitable Institutions.

Representative Fow, of Philadelphia, at the request of Talcott Williams, of the Philadelphia Press, has introduced a bill to diminish the number of charitable institutions in this state. It provides that the courts shall not grant any articles of incorporation to any number of persons who may desire to form a corporation for the purpose of erecting, establishing, maintaining and operating a hospital, infirmary or home for the reception, aid and treatment to persons afflicted with maladies or deformities, or homes for aged and indigent persons, or for the aid of children or fallen women, or free dispensaries, without first being furnished with affidavits taken before a judge of the court of common pleas, in which shall be stated the name of the corporation and the object for which the same is formed, the names of the incorporators and the name of the county in which it is to be erected, but the certificate shall not be received by the courts unless accompanied by a certificate from the state board of health approving the institution.

Pass the Forestry Bill.

Philadelphia Inquirer: The forestry bill, one of the best measures before the legislature, has passed the house and should receive similar treatment in the senate. Some of the forestry bills have been introduced, one of the most important of them providing for the establishment of three forest reservations of 40,000 acres each. It has been demonstrated beyond all need for further proof that the future welfare of the state, the saving of lives and property and the preservation of the water supplies call for such action on the part of the commonwealth as is contemplated in the bill.

Electrocution Is a Go.

Electrocution as a substitute for hanging seems to be a go in Pennsylvania, according to information received from Harrisburg. Cotton's bill providing for electrocution will be reported affirmatively. It is practically the same as the New York law.

GRANT'S SAY "WENT."

From the Washington Capital. An incident is related by an old friend of Mr. Lincoln, who was witness to the occurrence. One morning after President Lincoln's assassination General Grant was carelessly riding down Pennsylvania avenue, when he saw a group of gentlemen, all of whom he knew. He stopped his horse, and found these gentlemen excitedly discussing something that they heard Andrew Johnson was just about to do at the white house. A spokesman told General Grant that Andrew Johnson had determined to revoke the parole of certain Confederate officers. Grant listened quietly, slowly smoking his cigar. When his informant finished Grant remounted his horse, rode rapidly toward the white house, and went straight in to interview Andrew Johnson. He asked: "Mr. President, I understand you are determined to revoke the parole of certain of the Confederate leaders who surrendered to me at Appomattox." "I am considering the matter," replied the president. "By whose authority," asked General Grant, "do you revoke a parole signed by me?" "By the authority of the United States," replied Andrew Johnson, with some asperity. Grant quietly replied: "By the authority of the commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States that parole shall not be revoked," and turned on his heel and quietly left the white house. Johnson knew Grant. He knew the man of the United States take home. Nothing more was heard of the matter.

TO MY DAUGHTER.

A Valentine. [For The Tribune.] One morn not many years ago, In soft October's golden glow, I came unto our humble place, A babe of dainty form and grace. So frail and wee, this tiny thing, We thought at first it must take wing; For surely earth was not a home, Where cherub forms like this might roam. But to our joys this wee, wee thing Just nestled down and folded wing; And then, ah, met this little elf, Who first crept in as if by stealth, 'Twas now by many cunning arts, Would her tennis round our hearts. Since then a few short years have flown, Our babe has to a maiden grown, With all her childhood's budding grace, Revealed upon her smiling face. And strange to say as years roll round Our hearts are closer, and closer bound, 'Till now in slavery most complete This maid has brought us to her feet. God grant as onward time may glide Dear friends and true with her abide, Not only through life's summer sweet, But down the winter's frost and sleet. Be she through life wherever she roam, The center of some happy home. —Mrs. Y. —

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