

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 20, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 105,000. Registered voters, 20,259. Value of school property, \$800,000. 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 1890, 9,223. Population in 1870, 35,609. Population in 1850, 45,579. Population in 1830, 72,215. Population in 1810 (estimated), 102,000. And the end is not yet.

The election of Charles F. Warwick as mayor of Philadelphia by the decisive plurality of 49,000 shows that the Pennsylvanians, in the language of Senator Quay, "never knive the ticket." It also shows that Robert E. Pattison is too much of a Harry Democracy to make a further success of the "reform" dodge. Now let Mayor Warwick show that he is no man's man.

Some After-Thoughts.

Looking backward, in any relation in life, is useful mainly inasmuch as it supplies instruction for the determination of future conduct. A fact once established cannot be undone; but it may, upon occasions, serve to prevent the repetition of a past mistake. We have already noticed how the adoption by a thoughtful body of councilmen in this city, once upon a time, of a petty policy of retaliation against a prominent property owner who had merely exercised his civic privilege of objecting to a certain prescribed kind of street paving, has been the means of diverting from this community a vast sum of money accumulated chiefly within its borders. That fact is fixed, unalterably. The consequences of it are inevitable, and it profits no one to complain.

Yet there is a certain grim consolation in reflecting how Judge Handley's millions might have been employed, had the city of Scranton been governed, during the now celebrated haymarket incident, by councilmen of broad views and liberal character. Suppose, for instance, the recent will, concerning which there is still so much talk, had bequeathed \$1,000,000 or even a fraction of that sum, not for vague purposes to a remote southern city, but for the endowment of a fine free college in this city, or for the establishment, in Scranton, of a Handley Institute for industrial training, or for the equipment of a series of first-class public parks wherein the little children of the local poor could, in midsummer, breathe pure, cool air and indulge, to their heart's content, in innocent, healthful play—would it not have been a very desirable consummation? and would it not have carried John Handley's memory down, with sincere gratitude, to future generations?

In the particular case under consideration, these questions, of course, are vain. But there are other wealthy men in this city who must some day, also, make their wills, and prepare to take the same mysterious journey that the soul of John Handley has just taken. It becomes proper to ask, concerning these men, whether conscientious peevishness or any other cause of like rivalry shall be permitted to come between them and the welfare of their city. Is there not, indeed, in the present experience, one of the soundest of possible arguments in the deliberations of our public servants should be broad-gauged and generous; and why the type of official who finds in his office warrant for grotesque jesting should be effectually repressed? One other thought compels notice in this connection. Why should the wealthy Scrantonian under any circumstances deprive himself of the pleasure of seeing, with his own eyes, the good effects of a generous application of his abundance to the needs of his fellow citizens?

The selection of W. S. Millar for alderman in the Eighth ward will insure for that position a capable and efficient official. His opponent, Alderman Fitzsimmons, will retire carrying with him the good will of the community and solaced by the reflection that his defeat was merely one of the fortunes of war.

A Habit to Be Abolished.

It is possible that, from this time onward, no less a personage than the weather clerk will rid the city of the nuisance of salted snow alongside the street car tracks. With the coming of warm weather, there will be no further use for salt on these tracks, and the nuisance will be remembered only as a trial of the past. Nevertheless, the board of trade is to be commended for calling conspicuous attention to this disagreeable practice of the Traction company, and for taking steps to have it discontinued.

There does not seem to be any sufficient reason why, in the much-travelled portions of the city, this method of conquering snow drifts should not give way to the shovel and the cart.

The city itself pays for the cleaning of the street crossings; but these are seldom more than cleaned before the Traction company's salt car and snow sweeper are fixing matters so that a second cleaning becomes necessary. If the snow at busy street intersections were shoveled into box cars or carts and hauled outside the business limits, the whole problem would be solved at comparatively little extra expense. The Democratic papers profess to be very sympathetic these days because Thomas B. Reed has "lost all his chances of ever becoming president." Their mock sorrow may turn into genuine grief about March 4, 1897.

Bloodshed Not Probable.

It is easy to understand why the pioneer residents of Scranton, who came here when what is now the third largest community in the state was merely a bunch of straggling villages, should find it convenient, even after the consolidation of most of these villages into a single city, to continue the early differentiation by calling the West Side "Hyde Park," the North End "Providence" and "Green Ridge," and by alluding to the chief industrial district as the "South Side." The habit of a lifetime is not easily changed, even where there is a desire to change them, which is in many cases apparently absent from the present problem.

But are the sons and daughters of these pioneers, who have been reared to ages of intelligence since the legal combination of these villages into the single city of Scranton, to be encouraged in perpetuating the old-time distinctions of division? Are they to be silently permitted to conceive of Scranton as still a nest of rival sections, calling for inter-sectional jealousies in politics, in social life and in the general conduct of municipal affairs? In other words, is the tendency to be, from this time onward, toward or away from the primitive idea, with its necessary waste of prestige, its sacrifice of harmony and its deteriorating influence upon local government?

It took a gigantic war to teach certain American states what was meant by the word "Union." We, however, anticipate no bloodshed in the discussion of the need of a greater Scranton; for we credit the inhabitants of this community with sufficient penetration to perceive that their own best interests point to a speedy discarding of the sectional idea, and the adoption of an intelligent spirit of communism with reference to the welfare and destiny of an undivided Scranton.

People who applauded the action of the council some time ago in creating a haymarket in front of the Wyoming house, are now bewailing the loss of the mystical millions that Scranton, perhaps, might have had, and are ready to heap abuse upon the parties who were responsible for the Wyoming haymarket. Such, alas! is the ingratitude that councilmanlike statesmen ever encounter in the Electric City.

John McBride complains that his Columbus vindication was considerably less than twenty-four carats fine. But, then, it is probably in keeping with its subject. It is thought that a combine of divorce lawyers may be back of the movement to revive the roller-skating craze.

From all accounts more wind than cash was expended at the polls in some of the central wards yesterday.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Send the Children to School. Allentown Leader: It will be a great pity if the present legislature shall adjourn without the enactment of a compulsory education law. The Four measure, now before the house, is by no means free from objection, but as between this and nothing, the Farr bill is surely the lesser of two evils. Its main purpose is excellent and many of its provisions are beyond reproach. The most eloquent opposition to the measure seems to come from the Scranton Truth, which, ordinarily a most conservative and reticent journal, is ultra-courageous in its denunciation of this educational measure. But its arguments are weak. It fights against the bill because of the paternalism it would involve. It denounces it because it says the state has no business to pry into the home. It chafes because of the inquisitorial character of the proposed law. Nobody wants a system of paternalism in Pennsylvania. That is patent. The sanctity of the home and the undisturbed way of the parent must be preserved above all things. But if a parent is manifestly unfit to wield authority or if he abuses and maltreats his offspring, injuring them physically or morally, if he beats them mercilessly or deliberately teaches them to steal or pillage—the state has a right to step in and prevent it. The state must take the parent's place. And this is paternalism in the most admirable and beneficent type. If a parent is so grossly negligent of his child's mental culture as to have no thought for its education, but to permit it to grow up in utter illiteracy and ignorance, it is high time for the state to introduce a little of its paternalism into that household. If father and mother forsake their child intellectually and leave it to grow up in rank illiteracy, it is high time for the state to take it up.

Discerns the Need of High Schools. Philadelphia Press: Secondary schools are the weakest part of the weak system of public education introduced in this state, and the lack of high schools in many parts of the state is little short of scandalous. Pennsylvania in its high schools is behind every other state north of Mason and Dixon's line, with possibly one exception. No increase of appropriations for primary and grammar school will improve our public schools unless the higher branches are taught, because in the absence of high schools—as the desire for improved schools grows—parents will turn to private schools if the public schools stop short with primary studies. The practical result is that although our school appropriation has risen from \$300,000 to \$5,500,000, in many rural districts the schools have retrograded because the absence of public high schools weeds out the children of the more intelligent and well-to-do, who turn to other schools giving the higher branches.

Oleo Recal is Possible. Harrisburg correspondence of the Pittsburg Dispatch: The fight for relief from the oppressive oleo law is becoming very interesting. The struggle is no longer a unit for the present act, and of the friends of oleo can succeed in widening the breach some of the bills now before the legislature, for a modification of the law may be passed. A recent poll of the house shows that the bill permitting the sale of oleo as such will have 85 votes to 55 in the negative. The number needed to pass any measure is 102, so that 13 more are required. It is believed these votes can be obtained. Grangers like A. L. Martin, of Lawrence, are willing to support such a bill. Mr. Martin, too, favors giving the fine to the state or county, and thus prevent any possibility of unscrupulous persons levying tribute.

A Plea for More Vetoes. Philadelphia Record: The bill to create a state department of agriculture has not reached second reading in the senate. Governor Hastings has already been besieged by applicants for positions there-

foreign syndicate, at 104½, of government bonds worth 120 in the open market, virtually robbed them of \$16,000,000. They have chosen that kind of a president; now let them dance to his fiddling.

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in; and the scandal is intensified by the fact that Chairman Moore, of the agricultural committee, who has charge of the bill in the house, is himself an aspirant for the position of dairy and food commissioner. There is but one way in which Governor Hastings can scatter and discredit all such besieging parties of place-hunting Goths and Vandals, and that is turn his veto battery squarely upon their compact ranks. In no other way lie peace and safety.

Making the New Revenue Bill. Mr. Ritter, of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee on ways and means, intends to give the interests affected by the proposed new revenue bill an ample opportunity to be heard. He has addressed a circular to each member of the house requesting that they communicate with their constituents or those who desire to appear before the committee. The boards of trade of the various cities will be asked to send representatives to go before the committee and state their desires. Heretofore there have been loud complaints from important interests that they have been ignored in the framing of the revenue bills and that they have been injured by not having had the opportunity of being heard.

Spotting Sunday Picnics. Representative Kephart, of Fayette county, has introduced a bill prohibiting brewers from holding a bottlers' license and limiting the size of packages sold to a quarter, instead of an eighth of a barrel. The object is to give the bottlers a wider field of operation, and to make it harder for Sunday picnic parties to secure beer.

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