

The Scranton Tribune

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"Printers' Ink," the recognized journal for advertisers, rates THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE as the best advertising medium in Northeastern Pennsylvania. "Printers' Ink" knows.



SCRANTON, MARCH 2, 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, 31,529. Value of school property, \$300,000. 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, 9,223. Population in 1885, 25,000. Population in 1890, 45,830. Population in 1894, 103,000. And the end is not yet.

The esteemed Truth appears to be very much perturbed at the passage, on second reading, of the "drastic," "un-American," "meddlesome," "intolerant," "narrow-minded," "mischievous," "ridiculous," "deformed," "silly," "arrogant," "bigoted," "upstart" and "infernal" Farr bill, which has been advocated by "shallow-pated zealots." The Truth is funny, very.

Ireland on Patriotism.

Upon another page we reprint, substantially in full, the admirable oration on American patriotism delivered on Washington's birthday, before the Union League, Chicago, by Archbishop John Ireland, of St. Paul. We counsel every friend of good government to read it with uncommon deliberation and care. It deserves such perusal, as a piece of finished literature; but much more than that, it deserves it because it is the truthful utterance of a wise, liberal-minded and courageous man, who has contributed of his valor as well as of his substance and mind to the cause of good government in the United States.

The discerning man must admit that republican government on this continent is just now undergoing an epoch of unusual gravity and importance. It is, fortunately, an epoch far separated from thoughts of civil strife. It is rather a crisis of intelligence than of armed forces meeting upon fields of battle. The leaven of inquiry at this moment is uncommonly active. Men are asking themselves whether, in the light of the revealed rascality in our large cities and of the perhaps unequalled incapacity evinced in the expiring congress, something is not radically afoot in our boasted free institutions. Perhaps to a further degree than most of us realize, the mighty engine called public opinion is moving toward the conclusion that reforming will be necessary in these institutions if there is not to be, on this continent, a parallel of the failures achieved in other lands where men have tried to ordain government by the people.

All those who have felt, at times, like yielding to these audacious doubts should read John Ireland's oration. They will find in it firm faith and virile and refreshment and new civic inspiration. He tells us, crisply and eloquently, what the celebrated Englishman, Professor Bryce, has told us at greater length, that our institutions are all right if we but take the trouble to do our duty toward them. He points out to us that failure in the experiment of self-government can only come through the failure of the governed to choose, from among themselves, servants fitted to govern. And the direct blows that he deals out to influences now hostile to such wise selection are as timely as they are terse, fearless and epigrammatic.

The Carbonate Anthracite wants to hear from the spring poets. We take neighborly pleasure in requesting all such contributors forthwith to address their effusions to our Carbonate contemporary.

Genuine Jury Reform.

The bill at Harrisburg proposing to exempt citizens of Pennsylvania from jury service often than once in ten years will probably fall of enactment. There is no particular demand for it. There is a demand for the service of good and clean men on juries, but this bill does not supply it. It aims to prevent the service on juries of professional hangers-on; but as an alternative to this vicious practice it proposes to equip the jury box with men totally inexperienced in jury service. Of the two evils, we believe we would prefer the former.

A bill to make a three-fourths majority verdict binding, in civil cases, would be more to the point. This would rob the ubiquitous crank of his opportunity to hold up the processes of justice through sheer perversity. We question whether it would jeopard the right of any citizen or interest. It certainly would more nearly conform to the admittedly wise practice in vogue

in congress, in the case of an executive veto; a practice which has not worked hardship, and which is a useful check upon that veto power, the first cousin of which is often exercised, in jury rooms, by the single obstinate juror who forces the wishes of his eleven companions.

There is apparently no way to correct, by law, the average ignorance of the modern jury. Public sentiment may, indeed, ameliorate it to some extent by shaming the courts into pressing into its service a higher grade of talesmen, but at this time the law will not easily force ignorance from its traditional field. There is, consequently, all the more reason why the legislature should by replacing the unanimity requirement, which is the stupid juror's great opportunity for mischief, by the competency of a majority verdict, divest that unpleasant citizen of his present unpleasant power.

According to Senator Hill, "the Democratic party is the party of the people, the party of the constitution, the party which believes in equal rights and equal privileges, in honest elections and in fair play. That party, though now temporarily in the minority, will certainly rise again." When it becomes such a party it will certainly deserve to rise; for it will be where Republicans are now.

Improved City Government.

The arena of the battle for more efficient municipal government is likely soon to be transferred from New York and Albany to Chicago and Springfield, if present plans prevail. The Civic Federation of Chicago has prepared five bills relating to cleaner methods of public administration, which they will push resolutely. If passed and enforced, these bills will revolutionize the present corrupt political condition of Cook county and do much for the cause of good government everywhere. One of these bills we analyzed on Tuesday. It is known as the corrupt practices bill. Another, which we shall herewith summarize, is known as the city charter bill; and the other three, which affect the collecting of city revenues, arbitration and primary elections, we shall discuss at some future time.

The main objects aimed at in the proposed city charter bill are of general interest. The bill covers these four points: First, a single council, independent of the mayor, and the election of aldermen (salary \$2,500 a year each) on the municipality representation plan. Second, the mayor's term of office (salary, \$3,000) is lengthened to four years, and he is made ineligible as his own successor. He has a seat in the council, with the right to debate, but no vote. He appoints the heads of departments without the consent of the council. In case of vacancy in the office of mayor the council does not fill it, but the office devolves on the heads of the executive departments in a designated order of succession until the next municipal election. Third, the administration is vested in five great executive departments, whose heads are appointed and are removable by the mayor. These are: Department of accounts and collections under the city comptroller, department of finance under the city treasurer, department of public works under the commissioners of public works, department of law under the corporation counsel, department of public safety under the commissioner of public safety. This department includes the police, fire and health departments, and also sanitary and safety inspection. And fourth, in all cases where special privileges, commonly called franchises, are granted, if competition is impossible, advertisement must be made for proposals; the proposed ordinance must be adopted by the board of control, composed of the heads of department, and contain the terms and conditions on which such grant can be made; and after passage by the city council the mayor still retains an absolute veto of the ordinance. All materials and structures in, over, upon or under the streets must belong to the city upon being put in place, and the grantee obtains the privilege of use during the limited period for which the license is given and which is thirty years in case of elevated railroads, twenty years for surface street car lines, and ten years for heat or power plants, electric lights, private switch tracks, etc., for which rental as the ordinance provides and on which the cost of construction is to be credited.

This charter marks a great advance in the popular conception of the rightful functions of municipal government in American cities. But why should it not prove practicable? The Philadelphia Record thinks that "President Cleveland could hardly have made a more popular selection for the vacant place in his cabinet than the choice of Hon. William L. Wilson." Professor Wilson's popularity was shown, we believe, at last fall's elections.

Ridiculous Untruths.

The Philadelphia Record thinks that "President Cleveland could hardly have made a more popular selection for the vacant place in his cabinet than the choice of Hon. William L. Wilson." Professor Wilson's popularity was shown, we believe, at last fall's elections.

This is not only an untruth; it is one of those kind of falsehoods which are so ingeniously worded as to do double the injury of an ordinary lie. To begin with, the Farr bill has been indorsed right in this city by the Scranton Free Press, the Scranton Record and, partially, by the Scranton Republican. In Philadelphia it has been indorsed by the Press and the Evening

Telegraph and the Evening Bulletin; in Pottsville by the Democratic Evening Chronicle; in Williamsport by the Times; in Allentown, by the Leader; in Altoona by the influential Tribune and also by the Gazette; in Lebanon by the Daily News; in Pittsburg by Christopher L. Magee's Times, and also by the Commercial-Gazette; in Wilkes-Barre, by the Record; and by a number of papers in smaller places.

Lastly, the Truth correspondent's roundabout effort to convey the impression that the American Protective association is back of the Farr bill and that much of the support accorded to that bill is due to that organization's influence is little less than dastardly. The American Protective association is anti-Catholic. The Farr bill is favored as much by Catholics as by Protestants, as such. It recognizes the parochial school on equal terms with the private and the public school. Why, then, raise the "American Protective association" cry? What excuse can the Truth give for this species of religious demagogism?

The Scranton Truth has our sympathy.

The attorneys of Harry Hayward, the Minneapolis murderer, are not up to date. To be strictly in fashion they should enter the plea of hypnotic irresponsibility.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Senator Quay's Visit and Some Speculations Concerning Its Effects.

Harrisburg, March 1.—There is an element of extreme uncertainty connected with the visit of Senator Quay to this city, announced for next week. It is known, for instance, that Governor Hastings wants to see the breach between him and David Martin harmonized, and that "Chris" Magee is doing his utmost to bring about consummation about Martin, too, is understood to be ready to "explain things" in a way which his friends declare will be satisfactory to the Beaver and the Owl. On the other hand, it is also known that Senator Quay, for once in his life, is emphatically mad, and that to inform tenants he has contended the fact that he intends to carry this war of his upon the recalcitrant Philadelphians to a finish. Can he be persuaded to forego that vengeance? And upon what basis can a compromise be effected? These are the questions that puzzle the politicians exceedingly. In this connection, there is an inspired paragraph in this morning's Inquirer, the Quay paper of Philadelphia, which is regarded here as significant. It follows: "There has been considerable talk about a new deal in the Republican politics of the state, but if any such purpose Governor Hastings is going to set up a machine on his own account he may as well discontinue his mind on this point. The governor is not establishing political dynasties this year, but he is engaged in an earnest patriotic effort to fulfill his pledges to the people of the whole state."

For State Employment Bureaus.

Much favorable comment is expressed among the members of the "Labor combine" for the bill of Representative Martin, of Mercer, to create public employment offices under the care of the bureau of industrial statistics. The measure provides that it shall be the duty of the chief of the bureau to establish a public employment office in each congressional district and employ a superintendent for each of these offices. The superintendents shall post in front of their offices the words "public employment office," and shall receive applications for labor and make a careful record of each. They may employ clerical assistance and are prohibited from receiving compensation or fee from persons seeking employment. The superintendents are required to make report every Tuesday to the commissioner of all applicants and persons securing employment through their office. A list of applicants and the character of the employment desired by them is to be printed weekly by the superintendents and mailed every Saturday to the chief of the bureau. They are to be placed in their respective offices for public inspection. The superintendents shall also collect such labor statistics as the commission may direct. The commissioner is to receive a salary of \$2,000 a year, the superintendents \$1,500 each and the clerks not more than \$20 a month. The greatest objection to the bill is its cost.

The State College's Good Luck.

The state treasurer has prepared a statement showing that since its establishment the Pennsylvania State college has received, in all, from the state and nation \$1,202,129. The total appropriations from the state foot up \$77,125. The college received from the sale of public lands, \$49,000. This money was loaned to the state at 6 per cent, and makes a most excellent endowment investment. Under the United States act of 1890, the college has gotten \$8,000 from Uncle Sam, and the income from this source will soon be \$25,000 per year. Many legislators are asking what the institution has done in return for this liberal treatment.

The New Circuit Court Bill.

Members of the State Bar association and of the house judiciary general committee have agreed upon an appellate court bill. It provides for five appellate judges. They are to be elected for ten years' terms and will sit at Harrisburg. They will have jurisdiction in all cases in law, equity and the orphan's court, involving \$1,000 or under; cases of appeal and certiorari by right, except felonious homicide, which go to the supreme court; appeals from sentences or indictment on special allowance; and in quarter session cases, except where the attorney general personally appears. These are the main provisions.

Antagonism to the Normal Schools.

The cost of maintaining the state normal schools with kindred information has been furnished by the auditor general in compliance with a senate resolution. His report shows the appropriations for buildings to have been \$767,500; for education of teachers, \$348,900; and general appropriations, \$620,000. The feeling among many legislators is that these schools cost more than they are worth; and it would not be surprising if there were a big slashing in this year's appropriations for them.

Another Coyle Bill Hearing.

There will be another hearing next Wednesday on the bill to treat the office of commissioner of mining. The opposition to this measure is growing rapidly, and it is strengthened by the fact that the chief of the attorney general's department would be to form a new and fat office for some labor chieftain.

Relating to Armories.

Senator Upperman has introduced a bill conferring upon municipalities the right of eminent domain to condemn public property for armories for the National guard. Public property could be used for the purpose, but often, through donation, dedication, appropriation or otherwise, it is tied up. The bill is intended to obviate these difficulties.

The New Era of the Town Hall.

A bill has passed the state senate authorizing the township supervisors or road commissioners in each township of the state to cause to be erected a suitable building in which to hold elections, store road machinery and transact township business. In short, this act, if it becomes a law, is generally regarded as being every township a public hall in which elections and political and other public

gatherings can be held and all business transacted which requires publicity or the presence of several officials or private citizens. Pennsylvania has conspicuously lacked the town meeting plan of local government, which in other states has proved the best source of an intelligent citizenship. The school houses have generally been utilized for elections and public meetings, for neither of which are they well adapted, even when centrally located. Suitable halls designed for public purposes would be a standing invitation to the people of the townships to hold frequent conferences for the consideration of local affairs and the discussion of questions of a public nature. No more important step toward the creation of an intelligent interest in local affairs could be taken than by the erection of a public hall in every township.

As to Sunday Opening.

London Letter in the Sun. Apropos of the proposal to open New York saloons on Sunday afternoons, there are some significant points in the returns of convictions for drunkenness in England last year, bars in this country being open during certain hours on Sunday afternoon and evening. The number of convictions were 12,725, of which 11,178 were offenses committed between noon and midnight on Sundays. In Wales the proportion of Sunday convictions was still more numerous, being 77 in a total of 10,247. Compared with this return for Wales there is significance in the fact that in the border county of Monmouth, to which the Sunday closing act does not apply, there were 110 convictions for drunkenness on Sunday against 896 on other days.

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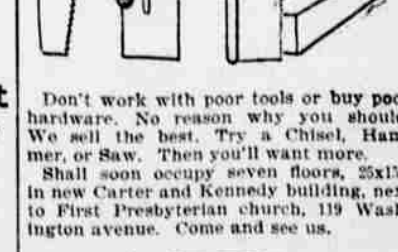
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