

The Scranton Tribune

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

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SCRANTON, MARCH 4, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 710 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 103,000. Registered voters, 25,329. Value of school property, \$200,000. 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 1860, 9,222. Population in 1870, 25,000. Population in 1880, 45,850. Population in 1890, 75,715. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

If Reed's was a billion dollar concern, Crisp's went it nearly \$30,000,000 more, not to say a word of its panic.

For This Relief, Infinite Thanks.

Coming into power in time of peace and plenty, the first full-handed Democratic administration since the war will go out of power at high noon today having wrecked the revenues of the nation, shaken the foundations of business confidence, enacted but one law of consequence—which the Democratic president himself declared saved of "perjury and dishonor"—and met its running expenses only by the repeated selling of government bonds. The new debt thus created by it, it will deliver over to Republican statesmanship for payment, and will probably not even have the common decency to shut its mouth of criticism while Republican statesmen are manfully preparing to pay it. As for the panic which its blundering inefficiency inspired and intensified, it will be less than two years before it will, with habitual effrontery and gall, be actually charging that to the workmanship of the Republican minority; and denouncing that minority with all the fervor of restive gull.

The Fifty-third congress has been, for two years, in unlimited control of the legislative functions of the federal government, with an executive of its own choosing seated firmly in the presidential chair. It has had every opportunity to impress its character upon the legislation of the nation; and every incentive arising from a great popular indorsement to make that impression deep and strong. The history of government by the people does not afford, outside of war times, a more striking instance of free handed instructions from the people to their representatives in the congress. Every circumstance was auspicious for the enactment of Democratic policies, and for the determination, by a thorough test, of their suitability to the needs of our republic.

It is not simply in the failure of these policies that the Democracy stands condemned; for this was clearly foreseen far in advance of the fact. The culminating culpability and reproach of the Fifty-third congress, we repeat, is not that it failed—since that failure, when it might have been pathetic or even heroic, with the characteristics of a monumental farce, the gross blundering, maudlin ignorance and ignominious ineptitude of which have dragged the theory of free government into the dust and then picked the pockets of the citizens of that government by way of farewell insult.

The death of such a congress should be the theme of national rejoicing.

And now the Delaware legislature has imposed penalties for flying foreign flags upon any public building in the state. The sentiment of patriotism is commendable, but there seems no reason why the various emblems should not occasionally be allowed to float in subordination to the Stars and Stripes, so long as the officials in control of the public buildings have been naturalized.

As to Mr. Reed.

The most conspicuous article in the New York Sun of yesterday is a six-column review of the first half of the second Cleveland administration by that competent observer and critic, T. C. Crawford. For the most part it is a luminous summary of already familiar facts. It accurately portrays the rise and fall of the Cleveland myth and sheds some interesting light upon the inner conditions of this remarkable anomaly in our politics; but its most striking sentences are those which point to the uncommon fact that in a congress, two-thirds of which are made up of Democrats, having for the first time in our generation unchecked control of the entire federal government, no single man in that majority had risen above the level of almost pitiable disqualification for aggressive party leadership.

"It is," says Mr. Crawford, "a characteristic congress; one that will leave a record behind it of imbecility and ignorance hard to be equalled or sur-

passed. Out of the overwhelming majority which took possession of the house two years ago, there has not been developed a single new man of force, character, or talent. Out of the rack of men and things swept up by the Populist and other movements of popular disfavor, there has risen above the surface of house proceedings only one man who can command more than languid attention when he rises to address the house. This man is Bryan, of Nebraska. Judged by the poor sticks who surround him, he is an orator, but the trash printed from him in the Congressional Record makes most melancholy reading."

It is a favorite accusation of the few persons in the north who yet have the hardihood to acknowledge partisan kinship to this mongrel Democracy that the deterioration so noticeable in congress is not confined to the administration's nominal friends. They especially single out Thomas B. Reed for criticism because of what they characterize as his altered aspect under the influence of presidential aspirations. Mr. Crawford, however, assigns another cause. He claims that whatever modification Mr. Reed's leadership may have undergone has been due to the "dreary atmosphere of incompetence and imbecility" in the Fifty-third congress. In this depressing air, Mr. Reed "has grown mild" and lost his familiar tones of sarcasm and satire because "in the face of the leaderless gang of imbeciles that swarm aimlessly over the house, seeking inanely and vaguely a purpose and a policy, satire or invective would be worse than cruelty to animals."

Tom Reed will be heard from, in due season; and his remarks will be well worth waiting for.

The Smith bill to prevent the wearing of a religious garb by any teacher in the public schools is in line with the spirit of the constitution of Pennsylvania, which wisely divorces church from state in the school system of the state. The teacher who tries to wear, while in the public school room, the distinguishing badge of any religious denomination consciously or unconsciously does hurt to the plain intent of the commonwealth's organic law. This type of instructor is limited to only a few localities; and there is no present reason for any excitement because of the practice. Nevertheless, it is proper that the legislature should incorporate into law its disapproval of the custom, so as to prevent future misconceptions of the function of our public schools.

Civil Service Reform.

The proposition at Harrisburg to classify certain employees of the commonwealth under civil service rules suggests a few reflections upon a topic of growing interest. There have been few subjects not directly grounded in morals which exhibit the striking increase in popular acceptance that characterizes the agitation for civil service reform. Thirty years ago, the preacher of the doctrine of a merit qualification for public office would have received a scant welcome in every large city in the nation; while in the smaller towns and villages the advent of such an evangel of good government was almost an unknown circumstance. Today, the leading men in our large cities and in many of our smaller municipalities—those who truly lead in the arts, the liberal trades and the learned professions—are enthusiastic civil service reformers, while of those who countenance the Jacksonian doctrine at all, only one class of persons openly advocate it, and this the class to whom the mass of tax-payers owe the least; that is to say, the men who make public office-getting a permanent and more or less continuous profession.

The Jacksonian system rests upon a truism which has been systematically misinterpreted. "To the victors," it declares, "belong the spoils." To the victors, yes; but, pray, who are the victors? Are they the handful of self-assertive men in every community who, by reason of their studious attention to the details of caucus manipulation or vote-polling, approach gradually to the front in the necessary organizations of party sentiment; or are they not, more properly, the great masses of the people, in whose behalf—at least theoretically—the battles of politics are planned and ended? If answer be made that the true victors are rightly the politicians, then it follows that the masses of the people are to be excused for taking comparatively little interest in the mere scrambles for personal preferment by "statesmen" in search of jobs into which this answer, by a sure course of logic, transforms the now high-sounding national and state contests between the political parties. Whatever the nominal issue at stake in a given appeal to the electorate, if the real issue be nothing more important to the average American citizen than the determination of the question (trivial to him) whether party worker John Doe, the Republican, or party worker Richard Roe, the Democrat, shall get the revenues from a berth in the postoffice, the custom house or the federal department, can this citizen be justly blamed for not taking the time from his business or his pleasure to go to the polls to vote?

Upon the other hand, if it be replied that the people are the victors who, even under Andrew Jackson's theory, may fairly claim the spoils of battle, then it remains to ask of our long-triumphant spoliemen why they do not proceed to turn over the booty? If, in a government by and for the people, the people are the real beneficiaries, why are they treated to the constantly recurring spectacle of competent and experienced men, among their public servants, suddenly replaced by incompetent and inexperienced men—not simply in the high places of responsible leadership, but down through all the minor ranks to the lowest subordinates?

Relative to School Boards. Senator Kennedy, just before adjournment last week, introduced a bill that makes all county, city and borough officers ineligible to serve as school directors. It knocks out all persons employed in any of the city departments, such as policemen, firemen, market clerks, heads of bureaus, etc. The bill is aimed to correct abuses which have become very prominent in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

In that service? This is not a condition of affairs which would be tolerated in the army or the navy. No one would venture to claim that the substitution of a Republican for a Democratic commander-in-chief of the armies and navies of the United States would make desirable the replacement by a "good Democrat," of every Republican in the ranks; yet in the nation's civil service, which nine years out of every ten in the nation's life is infinitely superior in importance, we have, for whole decades, gone along recklessly upon the principle that skill and fitness are literally of no consequence whatever, in comparison with a party name and a party label.

It is time the common sense of the people awakened to the insecurity, as well as to the intrinsic injustice and unfairness, of this evil notion.

A recent duel fought by Frenchmen terminated fatally. Unless some precaution is taken to prevent accidents of this kind, duelling is likely soon to become unpopular in France.

A New Boom in Town.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Archbold Citizen, is urging the selection of Hon. Joseph A. Scranton for the United States senatorship at the expiration of the term of Hon. J. Donald Cameron. It feels, so it says, that "there is no time to be wasted" should the people of this portion of the state want Mr. Scranton for senator.

We do not know upon what basis the Citizen proposes to run Mr. Scranton for senator. The Republicans of this section have already, in convention assembled, declared for Hon. L. A. Watros for senator, with the apparently cordial approval, at that time, of Mr. Scranton's newspaper. It is scarcely likely, therefore, that our Archbold contemporary will have the temerity to run its candidate on a Republican basis.

Under the management of B. J. Mooney, the Carbonate Anthracite has been snappy, virile and aggressive. Mr. Mooney's retirement will take from that sprightly journal a capable pilot. To Richard J. Beamish, who succeeds Mr. Mooney, Scrantonians will extend their best wishes, trusting that he will fully realize all expectations save in the one detail of a disreputable county.

The Hawley Times has passed from the control of N. E. Hauss to that of Stewart M. Dreher, of Stroudsburg. Mr. Hauss will soon assume a position of political importance at Harrisburg. The Times under his management has been a clean, able and considerate weekly journal, reflecting credit upon its editor. His successor has our best wishes.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Senator Quay Will Take a Hand in the Delaney Matter. Harrisburg, March 3.—The charge of General Gobin and some others who are opposed to the creation of the position of custodian of public buildings and grounds because of personal objection to Captain John C. Delaney that it involves an extravagance is no longer valid, if it ever had any justification in fact. The bill in its present shape actually saves \$1,900 to the state, while at the same time reorganizing the control of the public buildings and grounds upon a basis of efficiency hitherto impossible under the methods now in vogue. The administration has prevailed upon Captain Delaney to reconsider his determination to enter the service of the Southern Extension society, and will install him as custodian as soon as the custodianship bill shall pass the house. It is the understanding here that Senator Quay has been largely instrumental in persuading Captain Delaney to continue in Pennsylvania politics; and that he will, this week, take an aggressive hand against the effort of certain influences in the house to oppose the Delaney bill on religious grounds. The Republican leaders here are determined that, so far as they can prevent it, the element of religious prejudice shall not be injected into state legislation.

Mr. Fow's Inconsistency. It is an interesting circumstance that Representative Fow, who fought the Farr bill on second reading, because he claimed it was an act of tyranny over parents, has recently introduced a bill that out-tyrannizes all the so-called tyrannies in the Farr bill ten times over. Upon complaint of passenger railway officials in Philadelphia who suspect that there is a class of people who encourage their children to climb on railway cars, so that the companies may be meted in heavy damages when accidents occur to their offspring, Mr. Fow, to prevent this practice, has framed a bill which provides that no minor child, not a passenger, shall be allowed on the platform or steps of any railroad or railway car or omnibus, and, when caught, the parents or guardians of such child shall be punished by a fine from \$5 to \$10. It is made the duty of policemen and constables to arrest any child or children so offending, and they are also subject to a fine not exceeding \$5. This threatened mauling of parents for the actions of children who are permitted to roam the streets, instead of being sent to school, goes beyond anything ever suggested in the affirmative discussion of compulsory education.

The Grangers' Grab. The governor will in all probability sign the bill to establish a state cabinet department of agriculture. This measure adds about \$40,000 a year to the state's expense account; but inasmuch as its enactment will still the clamor of the granger element for recognition, it may not be a bad bargain at that price. There is no particular reason why agriculture should have a cabinet secretary instead of railroads, manufacturing, commerce, or the learned professions; but the farmers have votes, and hence the bill has gone through both houses with celerity. The signing of the bill will enable the governor to appoint some one to a \$2,500 office, one deputy, at \$2,000, and three chiefs of bureaus at \$2,500 each.

Druggists on the Warpath. Much opposition is manifest, from the druggists of the state, against the drug section of the Carothers pure food bill, which requires all medicinal preparations to have their contents printed in plain English on the labels. The druggists contend that the act of 1887 is sufficient to prevent the adulteration of drugs. The enforcement of the law is in the hands of a competent pharmaceutical committee. At the present time thirty-five suits for alleged adulteration of drugs are now pending in western Pennsylvania. The druggists think well enough should be left alone, and they want the drug feature eliminated.

Relative to School Boards. Senator Kennedy, just before adjournment last week, introduced a bill that makes all county, city and borough officers ineligible to serve as school directors. It knocks out all persons employed in any of the city departments, such as policemen, firemen, market clerks, heads of bureaus, etc. The bill is aimed to correct abuses which have become very prominent in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

An Ignorant Opposition. From the Williamsport Times. The Farr compulsory education bill has passed second reading. The opposition to it is as ignorant as bitter. For instance, Mr. Herzog said that it could not be enforced and that Massachusetts had had a similar law for 20 years that was practically a dead letter. Mr. Herzog doesn't know what he is talking about. Massachusetts has not had a compulsory education law for one-sixth that number of years, and since it has had one has secured the highest average attendance of school children of all the states in the Union, according to recent reports. Mr. Herzog should study a question more thoroughly before he makes such assertions; at any rate, he should support his arguments by fact.

Mr. Magee Nails a Lie. From a Pittsburg Telegram. Hon. C. L. Magee returned from Harrisburg Friday. When asked about a reported conference at which he, Dave Martin and Governor Hastings are supposed to have been present, the object being to combine against Senator Quay, Mr. Magee said: "There is no truth whatever in the story. I did not see Governor Hastings or Mr. Martin on Thursday."

Do You Hear Any Objections? From the Wilkes-Barre Record. If the people of upper Lackawanna want a new county and are willing to pay for it, why should they not have it? And why, above all things ridiculous, should any resident of Scranton get up on his hind legs and object?

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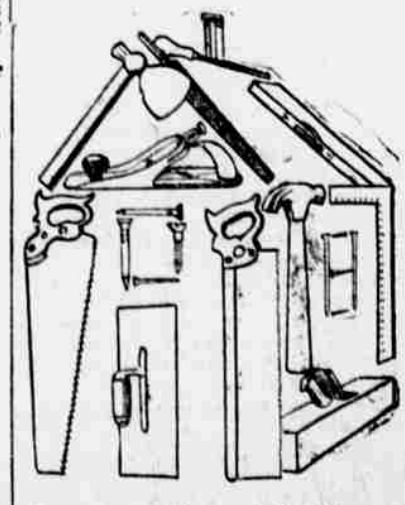
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