

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 26, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1885, 102,000. Registered voters, 20,599. 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 1860, 9,223. Population in 1870, 25,000. Population in 1880, 45,500. Population in 1890, 75,215. Population in 1891 (estimated), 102,000. And the end is not yet.

While the board of health is busy abating the rank nuisances in and about the city, there is nothing to prevent each individual household from pushing the good work along by cleansing his own dank cellar and renovating the premises generally.

Get After the Speak-Easies. Judge Gunster's pointed remarks to the grand jury yesterday ought to have a wholesome effect upon the morals of the community; but it was not the first wise deliberance of its kind from a Lackawanna bench, and may eventuate no better than its predecessors. The law, of course, assumes that the liquor seller who thinks it worth while to apply for a license will think it worth paying for, when granted. But so long as 600 other dealers get along apparently very well without licenses, why should the 500 or more successful applicants mulct themselves for nothing?

It is this glaring discrepancy between the law's theory and the law's practice in this county which knocks the whole bottom out of the high license system. Forcing one man to pay \$500 for the privilege of selling liquor next door to a liquor seller of equal proximity who doesn't pay a cent except to Uncle Sam is the barest and most fraudulent kind of injustice, any way you look at it. The high license system may work admirably where it is enforced admirably; but in this vicinity its workings can be called by no other honest name than a gigantic farce.

We have no doubt that County Detective Leysan will do, as he promises to do, his level best to uproot violations of the Brooks law in this county; but so long as those violations are grounded in the utter inadequacy and unreliability of the present constabulary system, one man's efforts, however earnest, necessarily count for little. We hope that Judge Gunster will fulfill his threat of breaking up the "speak easies"; the task is large enough to command his best energies and most heroic determination.

One-man power, when that man is elected, is the ideal government. People who cannot so regulate the choice of one ruler as to get a good one, can do no better when required to choose three, six, a dozen or fifty rulers.

A Campaign of Education. Interest in the silver problem increases apace. The newspapers are beginning to discuss it. Public speakers are getting ready to take the stump in exposition of it. A national campaign is only a trifle more than one year distant; and in that campaign the silver problem is expected by many to play an important, if not a decisive part. Here, therefore, the majority of persons have been content, in Pennsylvania, at least, to accept their opinions on this question "ready made." Prominent newspapers, of either party classification, have been in the habit of saying that a gold basis was the proper one; and their readers have been in the habit of believing this, whether they knew why or not. There has been very little original inquiry worthy of the name; and such as there has been has received, as its reward, popular derision and sometimes abuse.

It should therefore be a cause for general congratulation that this unsatisfactory state of the public mind is to give way to a campaign of education. We are not of those who hold that it is treason to hear more than one side of an issue of the day. Let that narrow view be discarded. Let us look at the silver issue fully and fairly, hoping, if possible, to derive improvement from the scrutiny. This should be the spirit in which to enter upon the forthcoming discussion of this subject. It will be time enough to become dictatorial and intolerant when we shall really have some grounds for the setting forth of positive convictions based on real knowledge of the principles involved.

It might be well, in the same connection, to bear another thought in mind. It might be well to credit the gentlemen

who hold opinions different from our own with at least a fraction of as much sincerity and honor as we claim for ourselves. This, in addition to being just, will have the tendency to sweeten the atmosphere and to keep back disagreeable clouds. The "argumentum ad epithetum," if that phrase may be pardoned, seldom changes convictions, and often intensifies them. In anticipation of a somewhat spirited rhetorical clash over the future of the white metal in this country, it will do no harm to get in position for a good-natured view of the fray; and to remember, from first to last, that calling the opposition harsh names never once won a convert.

Why should the Scranton Traction company want to put a double track on Franklin avenue when it hasn't enough business to keep the single track on that avenue from being covered with rust? The mayor should veto that double-track grab.

Good Work in the City Solicitorship.

When the present city solicitor assumed that office, there was in existence among its records, no docket of suits against the city; and, in order to prepare one it was necessary for him to go back over all the court records, for from twelve to fifteen years. The result is a complete docket of all suits that found their way into court. By turning to this docket, it can be seen at a glance just where the city "is" and "was" at.

Another difficulty which confronted Mr. Torrey at the beginning of his term was the chaotic condition of the city lien docket. In order to straighten this out, the most painstaking examination and comparison of papers and accounts were required, during which more than 1,000 liens were found which, although not satisfied of record, had actually been paid during preceding years. The records, in the past two years, have been made to agree with the facts. During Mr. Torrey's term the legal requirement that city collections be made at least once every thirty days has been scrupulously complied with, and a collection docket opened as a basis of such reports. The first year of his tenure, although largely occupied with unraveling the tangled records of the office, witnessed the collection, in this manner, of \$36,000; thus far this year about \$55,000 has been collected.

One of the most valuable achievements of Mr. Torrey's term has been his preparation and publication of a thorough digest of the laws and ordinances of the city. Hitherto, the only publication of this character had contained merely the ordinances-at-large; in Mr. Torrey's compilation all these ordinances were digested, making an invaluable reference book for both city officials and individual citizens. In the matter of damage claims, the city is now, unfortunately, paying the penalty of past folly, in the unraveling of ordinances by the same master hand that once framed them subject to easy undoing. Nevertheless, these claims have been resisted vigorously by the present solicitor; and in many cases successfully. In prompt responses to all requests from councils and heads of departments for information, Mr. Torrey has established a new order of things; nor have his responses been equivocal or uncertain. In short, it has been his aim, without blow or bluster, to put the affairs of the city solicitorship strictly and squarely upon a business basis, so that the city might get an honest and thorough return for its expenditures in its maintenance.

We cannot believe that this excellent work on Mr. Torrey's part will fall short of proper appreciation.

The privilege of appeal is one which may often be grossly abused, with a view to thwarting justice instead of promoting it; but it is nevertheless one that few American litigants are willing to surrender. The action of the Tioga bar association in proposing, in place of the contemplated superior court, that common pleas courts be invested with the power of final decision in all cases involving \$300 or less, does not, therefore, coincide with either public opinion or public interest. The size of most common pleas dockets effectually prevents that exhaustive consideration of each case which, in the opinion of a large percentage of litigants, is necessary to inspire cheerful acquiescence in an adverse verdict. Hence the need of an appellate tribunal.

Need of Charter Amendment. The bill of the McKeesport gentleman, to provide for a reconstituting of the lines of government of cities of the second class, will, of course, fail of passage. If introduced seriously in the first place, it has not been seriously received and would, if pushed to an issue, be overwhelmingly defeated. Nor is it likely that the present legislature would view more favorably modifications which are needed in the present scheme of government for cities of the third class. But this negative temper in the legislature is no fair indication that the people themselves are indifferent to the faults of the municipal act of 1859.

In a recent editorial we took the position that a dual council was a drag to efficient city government; and that an act should be passed vesting the legislative function in a single, paid council, of one member to every 1,500 or 2,000 legal voters, such members to be elected at large, irrespective of ward "pulls," scandals or greed. This idea has received much favorable mention. Thus far, nobody has advanced an objection to it. If there are real objections to our proposition, we should feel thankful for their identification, because this is a subject sure sooner or later to occupy a large share of the public's attention.

Along with the discarding of the cumbersome double councils in favor of a compact and efficient paid single council there needs to be an extension of the

powers of the executive. No mayor of a third class city ought to have his official hands tied by councils as they are tied under the act of 1859. The mayor should possess the power of appointment and removal over the departments in the city government save only the departments of auditing and finance. He should name his legal adviser, have sovereign jurisdiction over health boards, street commissioner, police, engineer and the various administrative commissions; and, once clothed in that authority, he should be held rigidly responsible. That would enable citizens to know precisely where to place the praise or the blame. It would do away entirely with misconceptions or evasions.

The change thus proposed is a radical one; but if the mayor of a city, directly elected by its citizens, is not to be trusted, who is?

Governor Morton, who had been credited with opposition to the Troy police bill, denies that he is antagonistic, and declares that he is in thorough sympathy with the cause of municipal reform, in Troy as well as Gotham. If this be true, the top-sided Platt police bill had better have a care.

The people of New York voted for Mayor Strong because they wanted a cleaning out of Tammanyism. They should have it. The Albany legislature takes big risks in assuming to prevent them from having it.

We do not remember another time so near a presidential campaign when there was less discussion as to the personal merits of candidates and less dispute of the Republican party's chances of victory.

It will be a lasting reproach on this session of the Pennsylvania legislature if it do not make a suitable beginning of the necessary work of road reform.

The reduction of the new county movement to an absurdity serves at least to provide momentary mirth, if it doesn't accomplish anything else.

Grover Cleveland does well to take good care of his cuckoo friends while he has the chance. He was not always so mindful of his friends.

The bullet of a crazed assassin can do more mischief in a second than conservative statesmanship of the first order can repair in years.

A dissolution of the reichstag for its uncalculated snub of Bismarck would be no more than it deserves.

Empire state Republicanism needs a leader who can lead. The same is true of Luzerne Republicanism.

The re-election of City Solicitor Torrey is demanded by every consideration of gratitude and fair play.

Some day England will step on the toes of the wrong American at Washington. Then, look out.

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Harrisburg, March 25.—The advocates of Greater Pittsburg are confident of passing the bill. They have been making a careful canvass of the house and already have 115 members pledged to the consolidation measure. They are satisfied they will get 125 votes on final passage. This number will be plenty, as it requires only 101 votes to pass the bill. Representative Tibbuck, of McKeesport, who is making the hard fight against annexation in the house, left Harrisburg last Wednesday and has not been here since. Before going he was confident he had the bills whipped. The Pittsburg members have been very active since the hearing last Tuesday and have been talking with all the members. Their votes, they claim, will come from the solid vote of Philadelphia and eleven votes from Allegheny. After that they have none skimming and assert they will have many grangers with them on the final passage. The farmers are the principal members Mr. Tibbuck has been looking to for support. If the bill does pass the house and go to the governor, that official will soon find there are thousands of people in Allegheny county who have a vote who do not want to become a part of the Greater Pittsburg. Governor Hastings will be valued upon by committees and plenty of good reasons will be shown him why he should not sign the bill. If he decides to make it a law, the supreme court will be called upon to render a decision on the constitutionality of the bill.

For the Judge's Retiring Bill. Speaker Walton and other Philadelphia members are working hard for the Riter bill retiring judges on full pay after they have been on the bench for twenty years and have reached the age of 70. The law would only affect Judges Hare, Finletter and Wilson, of Philadelphia. Some of the country members are opposed to the bill because they think some day they will have worn out justices on their hands. Judge Archbold, of Lackawanna, was here on Friday, promised to support the measure and it is likely the entire delegation from his county will vote for the bill. Most of the Allegheny county members are in favor of the bill. Judge Archbold, by the way, has turned in for E. S. Willard for the superior judgeship and has written a letter of indorsement to the governor. Major Warren was slated for justice advocate general on Monday's staff, but the appointment of Willard would send this office to another district.

Rogers for Judge Advocate General. Colonel John I. Rogers, of Philadelphia, is now looked upon as the probable winner in the judge advocate general race. He is a Democrat, but a warm friend of the governor's. He held the same position on Pattison's staff for a brief period. Three days after the election of Cleveland Colonel Rogers wrote to Pattison asking for his support in securing the office of surveyor of the port at Philadelphia. Pattison replied that he would do all in his power to help the colonel. Rogers then wrote to different members of the assembly asking for their indorsement, saying he had the support of their commander-in-chief. When Pattison heard of this he came out in a newspaper denying that he had offered to aid the Philadelphia. Colonel Rogers printed the letter from Pattison and then resigned from his staff.

The Garb Bill Again. The Junior Order United American Mechanics of the state does not like the amendment to the garb bill by Senator Plinn. It puts the responsibility on the school board employing the teacher wearing a religious garb. Before the blame was on the teacher and that is the way they want the bill to remain. They have secured the aid of the Knights of the Golden Eagle and there are 60,000 of them in the state. There are about 50,000 Junior Mechanics in Pennsylvania. The Senior Order of Mechanics, numbering 50,000 more, and the Patriotic Sons of America, with a membership of 50,000, are also insisting on the passage of the bill in its original shape. The Mechanics have established headquarters in this city and are

prepared to make a hard fight until the senate passes the bill and the governor signs it. They take little stock in the stories that the Monnotites, Dunkaris and Amish folk are opposed to the bill and will leave the Republican party if the measure passes.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaachus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 2.45 a. m. for Tuesday, March 26, 1895.

The girl to whom this day first brought life is prone to manifest, in mature years, fondness for birthday presents, ice cream, mustaches and matinees. She is also predisposed to ask the question, "Is my hat on straight?"

One happy circumstance for the boy born on this day is that should he not become president, he can at least be right. The enterprise of the guileless farmer is shown by the fact that although the frost is still several inches deep in the virgin soil, and the grass not yet sprouting, good dairy butter is already as yellow as a maccaroni.

Ajaachus' Advice. The Scrantonian with a sensitive conscience should keep out of politics and church choirs. Never make the mistake of practicing your own precepts.

Heigh now to accumulate a "pull" with your employer, in anticipation of the all-but-certain crack of the festive bass hit.



Quaker OATS Children who are fed on Quaker Oats enjoy it. They also enjoy good health. Sold only in 1 lb. Packages.

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SPALDING'S BICYCLES ARE THE BEST COASTERS.



Consequently they must run easier than any other wheel. Call and examine them.

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—The secret is out. Not only do they say we do washing for a living, but that we do it well. So keep it going. Tell everybody you see, but tell them not to tell.

EUREKA LAUNDRY, 322 Washington Ave.

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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. A LITTLE WALL PAPER TALK

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- 10c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 6 1/4 c. 15c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 7c. 20c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 10c. 25c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 12c. 30c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 15c. 40c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 20c. 50c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 25c. 75c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 33c.

And all of the other grades of Pressed Papers, correspondingly cheap. Please see our window display, showing what kind of stock we handle.

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DR. HILL & SON ALBANY DENTISTS.

Set teeth, \$5.00; best set, \$8; for gold caps and teeth without plates, called crown and bridge work, call for prices and references. FOSALGIA, for extracting teeth without pain. No gas.

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DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM The symptoms of which are dizziness, lack of confidence, sexual weakness in men and women, hair falling in showers, spots floating before the eyes, loss of memory, unable to concentrate the mind on one subject, easily startled, when suddenly spoken to, and dull distressed mind, which unites them for performing the actual duties of life, making happiness impossible, distressing the action of the heart, causing fits of heat, depression of spirits, evil forebodings, cowardice, fear, dreams, melancholy, the easy company, feeling as if tired in the morning, when rested, lack of energy, nervousness, trembling, confusion of thought, depression, constipation, weakness of the limbs, etc. Those so affected should consult us immediately and be restored to perfect health.

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