

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 28, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1885, 103,000. Registered voters, 25,528. 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 1820, 9,233. Population in 1870, 35,400. Population in 1880, 45,450. Population in 1890, 75,215. Population in 1894 (estimated), 103,000. And the end is not yet.

There is no sadder thing than the spectacle of a great people in the unconscious throes of decline.

Re-elect Mr. Torrey.

It is a well-established rule in the successful conduct of private business enterprises that the employee who has been faithful and efficient in a position of trust will not be discharged without cause or reason, but will rather be invested with new proofs of his employer's esteem and consideration. This is business.

The management of a city is also business—a business conducted in the behalf of a large number of contributing partners, who, as profits, want good government. If, therefore, one official in that management displays, under trying circumstances, uncommon fitness for his place, and an opportunity arises for complimenting him by means of a cordial re-election, is it unfair for us to expect that this opportunity will be improved?

We have already printed the record of James H. Torrey as city solicitor. The record is a clean one and a good one. It exhibits many evidences of careful and honest work. It shows him to be an eminently safe and trustworthy legal counsellor for the city—an official who has relied upon results achieved to speak his eulogy. Not to re-elect Mr. Torrey would be both ungrateful to him and unfortunate for the city.

If "some good western man" will put in an appearance about fourteen months from date, we have good authority for saying he will receive something worth having.

Calling a Halt.

It is probably just as well that the Legislature should, even at a late day, have set the example of refusing to raise salaries indiscriminately. It has drawn the line at the superintendent of public printing, by declining to advance his pay from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per annum, and while we do not know about the duties of this particular office under the proposed readjustment, yet if Governor Hastings shall find a lack of candidates for the position at \$2,000 a year, it will be doubtless the first time since the organization of the Commonwealth that a \$2,000 office will have gone begging.

At a time when the revenues of the state and of its citizens are low beyond recent precedent, and when the legitimate demands of state institutions aggregate more than ever before in time of peace, the house of representatives is to be commended for going slow in the matter of voting unearned public funds to individuals out of personal complicity. Such gratuities ought to be the last things thought of, and not the first and chief ones.

A good way for the superintendent of printing to get his salary raised would be to accept the job at \$2,000 a year—which is more by several dollars than the average professional man is earning these days—weather along for a time as best he may, giving the Commonwealth a materially improved service; and then, when the clouds have rolled by, show by facts and figures that not only is he worth more, but that it would be good business economy on the state's part to give him more.

That kind of policy, ten to one, would knock the permission.

Our Salt Lake namesake, commenting upon the Noyes-Dana libel suit, truthfully observes that "Washington is where most of the scamps that need public exposure are at some time to be found. The extension of the law of libel to the point that any editor who offends them can be forced there for trial, would mean the most serious blow to the liberty of the press that was ever delivered; it would mean that the press would be fettered in its most useful and necessary work, and would give rise to the District of Columbia a ready revenge upon any newspaper that might expose them, no matter how

truly nor in what good faith. A principle that would permit such an enormously disadvantageous blow as this at the public interests and newspaper rights can hardly be engraved upon the jurisprudence of this country." Mr. Noyes ought to do his fighting man-fashion if he hopes to retain the sympathy of his craft.

The trouble probably is that Germany's present reichstag is staggering under a surplus of leaders.

Gold is the money of the few; silver, the money of the many. If the few should prevail, the many would suffer. If the many should prevail, the few would suffer. Both must yield. We shall have honest bimetalism.

There is this much to be said in favor of Allison of Iowa. He doesn't appear to be worrying.

The American Protective Association.

We recently proposed to give attention to the declaration of principles of the American Protective Association. These "principles" number thirteen.

The first is "loyalty to true Americanism, which knows neither birthplace, race, creed nor party" yet aims a proscriptionist blow at one creed, and that the most numerous worshipped creed on this continent. The second enjoins political activity along civic rather than partisan lines. The eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth relate chiefly to immigration and naturalization and embody generally accepted ideas, as to which there is no room for discussion. Those principles, on the contrary, wherein its seeds of discord are these:

Third—Subjection to and support of any ecclesiastical power not created and controlled by American citizens, and which claims equal, if not greater, sovereignty than the government of the United States of America, is irreconcilable with American citizenship. We are therefore opposed to the holding of offices in national, state or municipal government by any subject or supporter of such ecclesiastical power.

Fourth—We uphold the constitution of the United States of America, and no portion of it more than its guaranty of religious liberty, but we hold this religious liberty to be guaranteed to the individual, and not to mean that under its protection any un-American ecclesiastical power can claim absolute control over the education of children growing up under the Stars and Stripes.

Fifth—We consider the non-sectarian free public school the bulwark of American institutions, the best place for the education of American children. To keep them such we protest against the employment of the subjects of any un-American ecclesiastical power as officers or teachers in our public schools.

Sixth—We condemn the support out of the public treasury by direct appropriation, or by contract, of any sectarian school, reformatory, or other institution not owned and controlled by public authority.

Seventh—Believing that exemption from taxation equal to a grant of public funds, we demand that no real or personal property be exempt from taxation the title to which is not vested in the national or state governments or in any of their subdivisions.

It is a sufficient answer to the first of these five declarations that no "ecclesiastical power" on this continent does claim either equal or greater sovereignty from its membership than does the government of the United States, hence the present needlessness of raising a passion-provoking hue-and-cry. As to the second, while we regard with unbounded favor the free public schools, it must not be forgotten that the right of the parent to choose his school is as sacred as is his right to choose his church. In relation to the next declaration, we will go a step further than it, and protest against the employment of any sectarian, "un-American" or otherwise, as a proselyter in the public school room. The sixth declaration is already in force in Pennsylvania, and the seventh, while in our opinion wise, is so generally opposed as to be far from realization.

But it is not in these curiously mixed and ill-assorted principles that we find our greatest condemnation for the American Protective Association. We find it, instead, in the impertinent and insulting notion that American patriotism is something which needs to be kept alive by the taking of oaths, by secret assemblage and by mysterious signs and symbols. American patriotism of the genuine sort, far from hiding in dark corners, openly courts the clearest light; and rises to its noblest achievements in the full view of real emergency. To invent it with secrecy is to stifle its spirit and clownishly pervert its grandest meanings.

The meaning of Governor Morton's pointed message to the New York legislature is that he thinks it has wasted time enough in pausing to pay its respects to the memory of the late Thomas C. Platt.

It bodes no good for New York Republicanism that the people of New York city have to get up mass meetings of protest in order to spur the Albany legislature onward to its duty.

Probably the best revenge that Minister Thurston could have would be to wait until 1897 and see how quickly the people will undo Grover's and Gresham's bungling work.

There is yet sufficient time for the present Harrisburg assembly to make suitable modification of the Baker ballot law; and if it be wise, it will do this.

Is the esteemed Philadelphia Record sure that the only "honest money" men are the men who want to hold the country to an insufficient gold basis?

While there is nothing dishonorable in wanting to be president, most persons prefer to have their favorites appear unchosen.

The proposition of Senator Penrose that passenger railway examining boards be created in first-class cities, to inspect the fitness of street car conductors and motormen. If it be worth anything ought to be made applicable to all cities. How would it do to require the establishment, in cities of schools for the training of street car

employees, with special courses of instruction for traction officials charged with the duty of buying common councilmen?

Another anti-Quay combination has just been formed which leaves our distinguished junior senator far and high "outside the breastworks." Superfluous to add, it exists—on paper.

There are a number of people in this great Commonwealth who would welcome any disposition of the Quay county bill if only to give something else a chance.

It is worth bearing in mind, as we go along, that no Republican national convention has yet dared to turn its back to bimetalism.

If Superintendent Byrnes is continued in office "for a purpose," it is to be hoped that that purpose will soon be achieved.

The killing at Harrisburg of the Moore civil service bill is not a fact to which Pennsylvania will point with pride.

The alleged remark of Mrs. Reed that her husband would not accept the presidency may be safely consigned to doubt.

Even Mr. Fassett has pronounced Mr. Platt's influence "destructive." This clearly isn't Mr. Platt's year.

THE PROPOSED NEW COURT.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Of the several schemes brought forward at the present session of the legislature to relieve the pressure of business upon the supreme court of the state, that for the creation of an appellate court appears to have developed the greater popularity and support. It has, in fact, practically taken the place of the other proposals and is now being urged forward in a way that will doubtless make it successful.

The senate bill to establish this intermediate bench gives it the name of superior court, but the designation of appellate court is rather more appropriate for the purpose, and it is altogether probable that that is the name which will ultimately be given it. It has received the larger share of favor. Another feature of the measure likely to be changed is that fixing the number of judges. Five were originally provided for, and it is now proposed that the number shall be seven. There are several very convincing reasons for this, a leading one being the fact that the new court will have quite as much, if not a little more, business on its hands than the supreme court. A calculation running back for a year or thereabouts shows that the number of cases has been about equal in that time had the proposed new court been in existence. For this reason, and for the dignity and consequence of the new court, it is proposed that the number of its judges shall be the same as that of the supreme court.

Now that this matter has been put in its present encouraging shape, and seems to be fairly satisfactory to all concerned, there should be no question about the success of the measure and no unusual delay in it. No more necessary legislation has been proposed at the present session. For a number of years the supreme court has been overburdened at the rate of \$90 or \$100 a year. It has been only by the most persistent effort that the work has been kept along at all, and the judges themselves realize that, doing it under pressure and in necessary haste to prevent burdensome and injurious delays, it has not always been done with all the care that should characterize it. It is not necessarily a reflection upon the ability of the supreme court to say, what is well understood, that the opinions of this court are not rated as high as they were some years ago, but it is believed that having too much to do is largely, if not altogether, responsible for this.

It is obvious, of course, that the supreme court could not continue to work indefinitely under the pressure put upon it by the hundreds of cases which it has been compelled to handle every year. If it does not wish to do both itself and the public which it serves a great wrong, it will have to abandon such an effort sooner or later, and should, therefore, in preparation to secure relief prove a failure no one would have any reason for surprise if the supreme court abandon all further attempts to keep up with the business brought before it in favor of more thorough and satisfactory work. If such should be the result—and hardly any other result could be expected—it would mean such a gorge of business in the court as would compel litigants to wait many years and suffer much injustice in some instances before they could get judgment. There is but one side to this question, and among intelligent people familiar with the facts there is but one opinion. All know the urgent need of doing something to relieve the higher courts, and after a full consideration of the matter in its every phase there seems no better way than by the creation of an intermediate tribunal.

Slightly off in Its Dates.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. The honors of the movement for a new county to be created out of parts of Wayne, Susquehanna and Lackawanna, with the county seat at Carbondale, seem to be shaky in their foundations. The American history. The Carbondale Anthracite in double column head lines declares that the proposed county may be called "Merced," after the late secretary of the treasury of 1849, whose grave is near by. The secretary of the treasury of 1849 was William M. Meredith, who lived and died in Philadelphia. The only Meredith of national reputation buried in northeastern Pennsylvania was Samuel Meredith, who was born in Philadelphia, a brigadier general during the Revolutionary War, who gave \$10,000 in silver to carry on the war and who became the first treasurer of the United States, from 1781 to 1801, and who advanced \$100,000 to the new government, which he never got back. No doubt this is the Meredith after whom it is suggested the proposed county should be named.

Hastings is Not Worrying.

Harrisburg Special to the Inquirer. There has been considerable gossip regarding the political ambitions of the governor, but he is apparently less concerned about the presidency or a seat in the United States senate than the gentlemen who are so industriously planning his future political movements. Governor Hastings has a laudable ambition to give the people a good administration as governor, and doesn't propose to enter at once upon a campaign for anything higher. He is elected next July. No doubt this is the marriage of convenience between Quay and Cameron, and isn't engaged in building up a machine of his own.

Let Love Be Unconfined.

From the New York Sun. The law proposed for Illinois to tax bachelors between 25 and 65, who cannot prove that they have proposed unsuccessfully to three separate women, is as wrong as wrong can be. If either division of the unmarried is to be taxed, it should be the women. Say that each man refuses the marriage offers of five men, not a very unreasonable supposition; it follows that taxation to promote marriage should be first laid upon women. The clause requiring bachelors to show three sweethearts is a gross outrage on sentiment. Love, to be supreme, or of the sort to be consistently advocated, can come but once. It can be bestowed by a man upon but one woman, and by woman can be left for only one man. We are down on this Illinois policy of cultivating second-rate grades of affection, and of trying to turn the divine light which should shine straight from heaven, into every unworthy and unnatural canopy. Up to date, love

has made the world go around. Let it roll on the old track.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Jacobus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological cast for 2:30 a. m. for Thursday, March 28, 1895.

No time should be lost in encouraging the cigarette habit in a male child born this day. He will acquire the practice anyhow, but by teaching him while young he will die sooner and shrewd parents will thus save the cost of several years' board and clothing.

The woman to whom this day serves as a birthday anniversary will make no mistake if she puts her "for rent" advertisements in The Tribune cent-a-word column and thus saves shoe leather.

Too much care cannot be taken to uproot from the minds of the rising generation the too common opinion that the world could not revolve without them. If necessary, show by history that it has done this.

A Jacobus' Advice. Do not, in the exuberance of thy vanity, boast of thy immunity from the grip. The grip is just aching to grip thy deflers.

The one sure kind of prophecy is to do your predicting after the fact. Keep your ear close to the ground, hold your breath and mentally count a thousand. At the end of that time may be Billy Craig's official head will drop into Collector Herring's waste basket. P. S.—and may be it will not.



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A LITTLE WALL PAPER TALK

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- 15c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 7c.
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- 25c. Wall Paper, per double roll, 12c.
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