

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 2, 1895.

That Telephone Ordinance.

Representatives of the Interstate Telephone company, who are seeking a free franchise from the city of Scranton, object to the assertion that their company is not a bona fide one. This was to be expected. If they are confident that a franchise, once granted, would within a certain period, be operated for telephone rather than speculative purposes, they need not hesitate to give to the city an ample guaranty of their good faith. This is all that is sought; and it is a condition which ought never to be waived.

We do not question the veracity of any of the incorporators of this new telephone company. We do not object to competition in the telephone business. We simply submit for the consideration of council that before an other public franchise of any kind be issued by their honorable bodies, the city should be adequately protected against possible jugglery with its granted privileges. If the Interstate Telephone company, or any other company, be willing to give bond that within three, six, nine or twelve months after the signing of the agreement, it will do what it agrees to do, then we have nothing further to say. Any honest seeker after public privileges ought to be perfectly willing to do this. Manifestation of unwillingness is presumptive evidence of dishonest intentions, and should inspire caution.

If this subject shall come up at tonight's meeting of common council, we will expect the members of that body to remember that they are under public scrutiny in this matter; and to act accordingly.

No Need for Alarm.

Senator Smith, of New Jersey, takes a philosophical view of the free silver agitation. He is opposed to it, but he nevertheless admits that "if the country should go to free silver, you can trust the American people to immediately undo their action if they suffer from its consequences. There is intelligence in the masses, and they will not unnecessarily prolong any hurtful conditions. They may try the experiment, and if it fails, as I think it will, we will soon get back again to the firm basis. Of course, in the meantime, we may suffer some, but the wisdom learned by experience is the best wisdom of all."

This view ought to calm the fears of those who appear to entertain the belief that this nation is on the verge of a great upheaval. Even though the "free silver craze" concerning which so many eastern persons are unnecessarily perturbed should pass the next congress, it would surely encounter an executive veto. At least three years, therefore, separate us from any decided departure from our present currency system; and how can this interval be better improved than in discussing the subject of proposed changes in all its bearings?

One thing is certain. The American people are not going to deliberately hurt themselves. When they decide upon a financial policy, it will succeed; and the financial credit of the government will not be permanently lowered in any foreign capital, whether we have gold monometallism, bimetalism by international agreement or free silver coinage on an independent basis.

One Duty of Victory.

Now that Quay county has been beaten at Harrisburg by a slender margin, it would seem to behoove the authorities of Luzerne county to bestir themselves in an effort to remove one of the principal arguments in behalf of a division. Since influences at the county seat have been potent enough once more to stay the dividing knife, the same influences, it would seem, are in honor bound to give to the lower end as clear an administration of justice and as thorough an enforcement of law as it could have had if erected into a separate county.

Since Easter it is claimed that twelve homicides have occurred within the area which it was proposed to disconnect from Luzerne. We have not kept a record of the minor crimes, but it does not need a presentation of statistics to establish that the administration of justice in this region in recent years has been little better than farcical. It may be that in the thick of Eastern civilization and culture, and not far from the center of the second wealthiest American state, it is impossible to approximate to a thorough en-

forcement of law; but if this be the fact, the public is entitled to know it. If not, those whose dereliction paves the way to this rampant aggressiveness of the criminal element should be brought to book.

We submit that the fight of our Wilkes-Barre friends against the new county movement carries with it the moral duty of affording to the people of Hazleton and its vicinity so good a government that sensible ones among them will not want another. Otherwise, it will be in order to send missionaries unto those life-taking home heathens.

Questions That Need Answering.

Advocates of the gold single standard make much of the fact that \$600,000,000 worth of silver in round numbers is today in use in this country as money. They seem to regard the present existence of this money as all that is needed to constitute honest bimetalism; yet in the next breath they proceed to discredit these \$600,000,000 silver dollars by calling them depreciated dollars, 50-cent dollars, dishonest dollars, and the like, as if it were a pleasure to them to see silver less popular than gold; and to have one-half our money branded as a fraud. Honest bimetalism sanctions no such preference as this, and condemns any effort to cry down one moiety of the money-wealth of the nation, in order that the other half may experience a fictitious appreciation.

Under the Sherman silver purchase act, we added about as much silver to our currency as was needed to keep up a per capita circulation of \$25. The annual gold production of the United States (about \$25,000,000) does not suffice to accommodate the natural increase in population for the reason that scarcely an ounce of it reaches the mints. Roughly speaking, the whole of our present gold production is utilized in the arts. If, therefore, the United States, while gaining in population to the extent of a million a year, wishes to have an elastic currency that will keep pace with this growth in population, it must each year issue something more than \$25,000,000 in new money—enough more than \$25,000,000 to cover the loss from fire, wear and tear, abrasion, etc., and issue it in some other form than gold eagles or gold certificates. The Sherman law, we repeat, provided for this natural increase, and could safely have continued to make provision for it for years to come had not an unjustifiable hue and cry been raised against it.

But now that it has been repealed, what are we to do? Dares this growing country try the hazardous experiment of endeavoring to transact its increasing business with a stationary and inflexible currency—with the \$600,000,000 worth of gold and the \$600,000,000 worth of silver now in use, but subject the one to exportation by speculative money brokers, and the other to the ponderous abuse of our gold-loving president? Even a school boy could perceive that this would be suicidal. Yet if silver is henceforth to be put under the ban, where are we to get money to take its place? We cannot get gold enough; that is certain. Must we, then, fall back on wildcat state notes, or unsecured federal promises-to-pay? Those persons who are vociferously heading the hue and cry against silver should take time to answer these questions.

The American people have no mind to make another jump from the frying pan into the fire!

Views of Compulsory Education.

It is interesting to contrast the views of the Philadelphia Record relative to compulsory education with the opinion of Superintendent Brooks. The Record says:

Schools where the children are overcrowded for room and fresh air to breathe; where the teachers are overcrowded with work; where light is bad; where the desks and seats are so arranged as to insure physical discomfort; where there is no adequate provision for the care of wraps, and where often the play grounds are restricted, dark and in proximity to closets giving forth foul odors, are, indeed, schools of pestilence as well as of instruction. They are the ready disseminators of contagious diseases. Would it not be a matter of prudence to remedy those evils before we appoint an army of truancy hunters to chase the children into dangerous and unhealthy confinement? Or, if we must have compulsory education, should not the areas of compulsion be limited to the area in which proper provision shall have been made for the physical well-being as well as the mental improvement of pupils? There are eight or ten thousand children of school age in Philadelphia for whom there is no place in the schoolhouses. What are the truancy drivers to do with them?

Dr. Brooks said he was formerly somewhat opposed to the principle of compulsory education, but since he has seen the vast number of children who swarm the streets during school hours, especially in the southeastern part of Philadelphia, where the foreign population is quartered, his views have somewhat changed. "The public schools," said Dr. Brooks, "are adapted to take these people with foreign instincts and foreign ideas and mold them into American citizens with an appreciation of and a love for free government. In a few years all these children will have a vote and their votes will count as much as those of the most intelligent citizens, hence they should be cast in favor of good government. It will be an education to these children to come in touch with the refinement and culture of the teachers of our schools and really will be a revelation to them because they have not been accustomed to the influences of refinement that are found in our public schools. In the main I think that the children can be cared for. It is the duty of the city to provide for them, and I think that the city will rise to the needs of the situation."

Even a more emphatic expression of opinion has been made by Avery D. Harrington, member of the board of

education for the Second school district of Philadelphia:

In Philadelphia we would at first, if the law goes into effect, be confronted with a difficult problem because of the lack of school accommodations. But such an evil is never remedied by postponement and inaction. Moreover, every child of school age has the same right to an education as every other child, and when the parent, either as an owner or renter, pays taxes for the education of his child, and the purchase of books for their use, he has a right to demand that they shall be given school accommodations. When such advantages are denied to even a small portion of the community it means the taxing of that part of the population which is rendering a just and proper equivalent for the taxes levied and collected for school purposes. The fact that twelve or fifteen thousand children in this city are now denied school advantages has not appealed successfully to the community at large, and it is a cruel and bitter thought to father and mother who are forced to see their children upon the streets from day to day and growing up in ignorance of even the rudiments of the education which they are unable to provide by sending them to private schools and for which they are taxed in common with others. If the present bill should be approved by the governor it would certainly be a great stimulus to the present effort to provide the proper and necessary school facilities.

The plea of insufficient accommodations is no argument at all. If it is the community's duty to educate a part of its young at public expense, it is its duty to educate all of them. A compulsory education law would simply force the community to do this duty.

If President Cleveland and his few Wall street Republican admirers should succeed in driving silver out of use as money, we would have left just about \$600,000,000 worth of gold as a money basis for the business transaction of 50,000,000 people; or, in other words, a per capita, coin-backed circulation of \$10 against \$25 at present. That would make it two and a half times harder than now for the workman to earn a dollar, or for the debtor to obtain a dollar with which to cancel his debt. It would, therefore, multiply the wealth of the creditor classes by two and then add a half. And yet this absurd proposition dignifies itself by the name of "honest money." We need not warn bimetalists, even of the international kind, that they can have nothing in common with such a policy; nor will the Republican party ever dare lend its aid to that policy's advocacy.

Archbishop Ireland, lecturing in Boston on the duties of citizenship, declares boldly that "the liquor power must be totally eliminated from politics if we respect the institutions of American democracy and desire their permanence." It is interesting to notice that many shrewd magnates in the liquor trade likewise deplore the disposition of persons engaged in that trade to meddle with politics. They argue that had it not been for this disposition, much of the present political antagonism to the saloon business would not now exist. If the saloon power shall ever be overthrown, there is little doubt that it will have only itself to blame.

How would this ticket do for 1896:

For President—Daniel H. Hastings, of Pennsylvania.
For Vice President—Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota.
For secretary of state in the next cabinet, Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana; and secretary of the treasury, William B. Allison, of Iowa.

With Tom Reed in the speaker's chair and Major McKinley leading the administration forces in the senate, who says it would not be a strong combination?

Secretary Hoke Smith says he has no doubt the next president of the United States "will be opposed to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1." We have no doubt that he will be, what Cleveland is not, an honest bimetalist.

We would esteem it a marked favor if those who assert that the recent repeal of the Sherman silver-purchase law saved the nation from utter ruin would explain how they reach such a conclusion.

There is no denying the ubiquity of American journalism when space is used in a thousand newspapers to chronicle the highly important fact that Clara Morris, the actress, has joined church.

It is observed that Mr. Cleveland's repugnance to the "pernicious activity" of federal office holders is aroused chiefly when that activity is enlisted on the wrong side.

It is becoming increasingly evident that Empire State Republicanism will never reach a healthy condition until it utterly purges itself of Thomas C. Platt.

It is probable that the Rev. J. C. Hogan's wise decision to retire from the ministry will avert a good deal of unnecessary embarrassment.

Having just consummated the theft of a governorship, the Tennessee Democracy, we assume, will now endeavor to steal a wink of sleep.

The Quay county people will pardon us for inquiring, What's in a name?

SOME OTHER DAY.

There are wonderful things we are going to do.
Some other day;
And harbors we hope to drift into
Some other day;
With folded hands and ears that trail,
We watch and wait for a favoring gale
To fill the folds of an idle sail
Some other day.

THE FLINN ROAD BILL.

From the Pittsburgh Times.
The problem of how we shall get good driving and hauling roads is an urgent one to the whole commonwealth, and this bill offers the fairest and most practical solution of it which has yet been devised. You cannot make a main highway good without money, and there are just three possible sources of money for this purpose which are worth considering, to wit, the township, the county and the state. The township proposition has the virtue of close local oversight and control, but it is not likely to be successful. The county proposition has the virtue of being a more direct and more certain source of money, but it is not likely to be successful. The state proposition has the virtue of being a more certain source of money, but it is not likely to be successful. The state is forbidden to issue bonds for such a purpose and it can hardly raise enough tax now to meet the demands upon it for educational and charitable purposes. Besides, the tendency is more and more toward putting the total expense of the public schools upon the state, and any increase in the state revenues will be devoted to school purposes for years to come. If we are to have good roads, and they are the best investment any people can make, the counties must take the lead in making them.

Senator Flinn's bill is a general bill, as it must be, but it is a local option bill in its application. It provides that the county commissioners of any county may, if they decide it to be desirable, and the court of common pleas of the county approve, take any road as a county road, to be made and maintained thereafter as such free of charge and cost to the township through which it runs. For this purpose they are empowered to levy a special county road tax of not less than 1 mill. The purpose is that such counties as see fit to do so, shall take charge of the main roads, leaving all others to the township supervisors as now. The act will become applicable to any county only when and to the extent which its own county and the court of common pleas elect that it shall do so. The probabilities are that less than half a dozen counties would take advantage of it at once, but the profitable results shown by them would soon extend its operations. There has not been an objection to the bill from any of the large tax-paying cities and boroughs. The farmer would have main roads good at all seasons of the year at less expense to himself, and every acre of farm land would be brought closer to its market by doubling the load that a team could haul, and shortening the time of a trip.

AN EXCELLENT SOUVENIR.

Altoona, Pa., April 23.
The Tribune Publishing Company, Scranton, Pa.

Gentlemen—The souvenir, "The City of Scranton and Vicinity," which you sent us, we consider the most beautiful illustration of a city that we have ever seen. It shows to perfection the caliber and tone of your enterprising citizens. Your illustrations and portraits are "par excellence." We will with pleasure place it upon our reading table and thank you very much for the compliment. We are Respectfully yours,
Hotel Allen.

Will Be Well Handled.
From the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer.
We congratulate the Scranton Tribune on having added to its staff that well-known writer, Colonel J. D. Lachar. Mr. Lachar will have charge of the new Wilkes-Barre department and we can safely prophesy that it will be well handled.

Beetroot Cakes a Joke.
From the Reading Times.
Free silver, according to the Sibley idea, would make Denver the center of population. Wonder what would happen to Altoona if free peanuts were the currency.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

FANCIES IN RHYME:
Full many a rose is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.
While in these dollar-a-blossom days, I ween,
Must make the florist glad and tear his hair.
—Town Topics.

She could not sing the old songs—
Now that was well and good;
Nor could she sing the new ones,
But, alas! she thought she could.
—Tid-Bits.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
And I try my best my nerve to keep,
For all may die ere dawn, "tis said,
Who go against the folding bed.
—Tid-Bits.

No one can hold a candle to her,
The proud dame freely declares;
No one would care to, that's very sure,
With all of the powder she wears.

Said the land to the lake: "How can you lie
In the gleam of the sun all day
And whisper about in the full moonlight
While you sing like a child at play?"

The lake cried back, and his answer fell
On the land with a sickening thud:
"I can do such things and say such things
Because I'm not made of mud."
—Chicago Dispatch.

SYMPATHY:
Friend—Got a little, I see.
Jinks—Yes, a little one.
"You ought to be mighty careful. That cough needs attention."
—Tid-Bits.

"It has a regular graveyard sound."
"Good gracious!"
"Awful dangerous time for people with colds—croup, pneumonia and quick consumption everywhere."
—Tid-Bits.

"Yes."
"A friend of mine took a cold, not half so bad as yours, last week, and in three days he was dead."
"My stars!"

"Fact. The doctor said my friend might have pulled through if he hadn't worried so much. Take my advice and try not to think about it."—New York Weekly.

MINOR GLINTS:
Marrying a woman for her beauty is like eating a nightingale for its singing.—Ex.

You never know how fond you are of a boy until you become engaged to his sister.

Ethel—Who is your favorite painter of the human face?
Jack—You.—Town Topics.

Customer—Do you know anything that is good for baldness?
Barber—Did you ever try a wig, sir?—Ex.

A nervous organist in a suburban church caused a bridal party to march out after the ceremony to the air, "What shall the harvest be?"—Ex.

Miss Sears—I have just been elected a Daughter of the Revolution.
Ethel Knox—I didn't know you were a participant.

"I wonder," said the burglar, slipping the contents of the safe into a sack, "if I oughtn't honestly to pay income-tax on this."—Tid-Bits.

Lady (engaging nurse)—Have you any experience with children?
Irishwoman—Oh, yes, mum. Oi used to be a child myself and was a good one too.
Ethel—You remind me of a horse we used to have.
Stalate—How so?
Ethel—Nothing could induce him to run away.—Town Topics.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.
Astrolabe cast: 1.48 a. m. for Thursday, May 2, 1895.

A child born on this day will wonder why some of the gold standard essayists do not explain the real meaning of the Monroe doctrine, instead of wasting their time in reproducing self-worn financial arguments in the interest of English money lenders.

It seems much easier for the argus-eyed government detectives to spot postmen in uniform than to discover stamp robbers. By the way, it would be interesting to know the political complexion of the Scranton letter carriers who have been tripped by allegations of Lord Wilson's sleuths.

Ajacchus' Advice.
Keep thyself quiet.
Reflect on the past and future.
Seek the shady side of the street after 1 p. m.

Be not alarmed at the manner in which the editor of the Anthracite would pronounce the name of the base ball enthusiast of the Republican. Such blood-stains as these are easily erased from the moon.

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Sold only in 2 lb. Packages.

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1 " 100 " "	78 40
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Statement March 5, 1895, called for by the Comptroller of the Currency.

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