

The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly, No Sunday Edition. Published at Scranton, Pa. by The Tribune Publishing Company...

E. P. KINGSBURY, Prop. and Gen'l. Man. E. M. RIPPLE, Sec'y and Treas. L. V. S. RICHARDS, Editor.

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SCRANTON, JUNE 22, 1895.

Republican State Convention.

Chairman B. F. Gilkeson, of the Republican State committee, has issued a call for a state convention to meet at Harrisburg Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 11 o'clock a. m. for the nomination of one candidate for state treasurer, six candidates for judges of the Superior court, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

The total number of delegates will be 283, of which the above counties will supply 24. The New Street Commissioner. Probably no other nomination which Mayor Connell could have made would have received such general approval from the people as has been elicited by his appointment of Charles R. Kinsley to be street commissioner.

The best recommendation which this nomination could have was the assertion of an eminent business man to the writer yesterday that Mr. Kinsley, whatever he might do as a voter, would, as street commissioner, give the city his whole time, and proceed to the problem of highway construction and maintenance with the advantage of a thorough and practical understanding of the subject in all its bearings.

A nomination of this high character should receive the compliment of a speedy confirmation. Is it Not a War of Words Only? Speaking without factional prejudice, and voicing, as we believe, the sentiment of the great masses of the Republican party in Pennsylvania, we wish to say that it would be most unfortunate should the thoughtless chatter of supercilious lieutenants be the means of embroiling the leaders of the party in this state in an intestine war.

Coming so soon after the splendid victory of last November, a victory unprecedented in the annals of American politics, and having, so far as laymen can discover, no basis of difference which a few minutes of frank and manly conference ought not to be able to adjust with honor to all concerned, a war of the character of that which is now threatened in the newspaper discussion of current politics would be not only disastrous in its immediate consequences, but would also serve as a warning to the electorate not again, in a gubernatorial election in this commonwealth, to cast an unusual Republican plurality.

For our own part, we have too much confidence in the good judgment of such veteran party captains as Senator Quay, Mr. Magee and Governor Hastings to believe that any one of them is responsible for the present circulation of wild rumors of coming party strife, or that the idle chatter of the inevitable camp follower has their ear or their approval. Senator Quay has for years been the acknowledged commander-in-chief of the regular army of Republican voters and workers in Pennsylvania. In that position he may, at times, have made mistakes; but his leadership, as a whole, has been wise, aggressive and successful.

It is within the knowledge of most persons closely identified with political manipulation that these few instances of illicit practices at elections which are from time to time uncovered in the courts bear but a small proportion to the number of instances which do not get "found out." The majority of politicians, too, regret the existence of electoral frauds, and would breathe a glad sigh of relief if through some sure means the whole nasty business of the dishonest use of money or other inducements at the polls could be eliminated from their campaign plans. It is a mis-

gard to politics. There is no viable reason why, with a due spirit of mutual recognition and concession, there should be any clash between these two gentlemen; and with them harmonious, it is not likely that Mr. Magee would find either wish or provocation to kick up a rumpus on his own account. We must, therefore, upon the evidence presented, decline to believe that the fruits of last year's triumphs are to be gratuitously frittered away in deference to the needs of those political chivaliers—with which all parties are more or less afflicted—to whom factional warfare is meat, drink and raiment. If any leader of consequence is moved to anger, let him pause to ascertain whether his quarrel is so unquestionably just and equitable as to warrant the dire consequences of virulent combat. If it is built on mere assumption, wounded pride or personal vanity, it will be a good quarrel to drop, and that at once.

Four Years Old. Notwithstanding that this is a day largely of impersonal journalism, a certain degree of interest is always manifested by regular readers of a daily newspaper in the men who make their favorite paper. Partly in recognition of this fact, and partly because The Tribune has just rounded out the fourth year of its existence there is presented with each copy of this paper, this morning, a souvenir containing the portraits of most of the workers who contribute to The Tribune's preparation. Nothing will be said as to the aggregate beauty of this galaxy. That the reader can determine for himself. But it is proper for us to say a word in recognition of the faithfulness, the punctuality and the industry uniformly manifested by each of these well-nigh four-score employes. It is believed that no other newspaper in the country can, in these particulars, make a better exhibit.

The past year has been, upon the whole, a trying one for the owners and publishers of newspapers. With business generally diminished, and money scarce, advertising has decreased and many subscriptions have either been discontinued or carried at a loss. Bearing this fact in mind, as true of newspapers generally, it will, we believe, interest our readers to know that The Tribune's experience, during this year of widely diffused depression, has been exactly the reverse. Although its expenditures for labor, materials and contributions of all kinds have, this last year, been nearly double what they were the year preceding, the increased receipts from both advertising and subscriptions have more than kept pace; and as a result, The Tribune begins its fifth year with prospects brighter in every way than they ever were before.

Inside of two months it will occupy a fine new building built exclusively for its own purposes and equipped with every modern convenience for facilitating the work of newspaper production. Arrangements have also been made for a considerable extension of the paper's news and literary features, and for the paper's introduction into new homes representing a largely widened area of circulation.

So much for The Tribune's commercial success. There are, we believe, other and even greater avenues of success for a fearless and conscientious newspaper than simply the accumulation of profits, pleasant as these may be. It has been our hope to succeed in encouraging worthy public enterprises, and in discouraging human hogs and frauds; to have a kind word where kindness is due and a sharp one where there is need of plain speaking; and, in short, to do, for this community, some of the good things which it is within the power of a newspaper to do which is not gagged or padlocked by any clique, faction or selfish interest.

No doubt in the pursuit of this aim we have made many mistakes, done some injustice without so intending and created a few enemies. But the cordial and substantial approval which has come to us in numerous ways from the masses of the people is a more than sufficient compensation, and a token of encouragement which we hope never to forfeit.

The Purity of the Ballot. The disclosures of electoral rottenness made at Tunkhannock this week, in the Sittler-Dunham judicial contest, almost parallel those made in the Indiana county investigation a few months ago, and newly call attention to a condition which demands of honest citizens their serious consideration. For example, "more than twenty witnesses testified to receiving from \$1 to \$5 apiece for their votes," while others were merely treated to whiskey and cigars. Others who had voted at last fall's election were not citizens of the United States, and yet others had never paid their taxes.

It is within the knowledge of most persons closely identified with political manipulation that these few instances of illicit practices at elections which are from time to time uncovered in the courts bear but a small proportion to the number of instances which do not get "found out." The majority of politicians, too, regret the existence of electoral frauds, and would breathe a glad sigh of relief if through some sure means the whole nasty business of the dishonest use of money or other inducements at the polls could be eliminated from their campaign plans. It is a mis-

take of many reformers to swell with indignation at the men whom they suspect of having "debauched the suffrage," as if that debauching were an agreeable practice to those charged with accomplishing it, whereas in nearly every case it is true that the debauchery existed prior to its utilization in the bloodless war of the ballots, and was called into play by the politician for precisely the same reason and in exactly the same spirit that the general of an army employs spies and informers. It is not a high degree of moral courage which induces either the politician or the general to make use, in furtherance of his own purposes, of the weaknesses or the vices of men. But it is politics and it is war; and the way to accomplish results in the direction of real reform is not to waste time declaring against the generalissimo but rather to concentrate energies upon the nourishment of the innate germ of manliness in the individual voter, to the end that we may have an electorate incapable of yielding to corrupt overtures.

Glowing orations at long intervals will not effect the necessary cure. Neither will eloquent sermons preached on one day in seven to congregations which during the six days of each week forget all about sermons. If the purity of the ballot and the safety of the greatest and wisest government known to man are ends worth attaining at all, they are ends justifying incessant work, day in and day out, all along the line—work in the school, at the home, club, room and caucuses, wherever men meet and boys receive instruction. This kind of work must be a work of duty purely, and not a work undertaken in the pursuit of public office or applause. It is a martyr's work, with no rewards save those that come from a sense of duty done, and many discouragements that have to be wrestled with in secret and overcome in silence.

And at the end, it is a work that the public will not appreciate nor ever comprehend. Yet it is a work that must be done, if failure is not to be written upon the experiment of self-government. During the four years of The Tribune's existence it has been the aim of its founders and conductors to give to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania a good, clean, wholesome newspaper, having convictions and the courage to express them, but calling no honest opponent ugly names and bleeding no candidates for office as the price of its support. They are satisfied with the experiment's outcome, and are determined to push steadily ahead. Now is the time to subscribe.

With three men on bases and heavy hitters on deck, Pitcher Quay retains both his curves and his coolness, and appears to be confident he can retire the side without a run. Understanding from the esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record that Luzerne Republicans want a leader, we take great pleasure in proposing the name of Hon. Joseph C. Powell.

We give President Young fair warning that if he robs Scranton of the Hon. Patrick Meaney he need never expect to slide on the Electric City's cellar door. The sad fact has transpired that the Democratic Philadelphia Record is dissatisfied with the Republican National league convention.

The Democratic minority in Pennsylvania seems to lack even energy enough to put a man on the coaching line. Senator Elkins' name will, if present intentions prevail, be presented to the next Republican National convention as a candidate for president, and his friends predict that a large percentage of the southern and western delegations will support Elkins on the first ballot, because of his conservative friendliness for silver.

The Wilkes-Barre Record is assured that, though we have no large river handy, it is natural for Scrantonians to be "in the swim." This is not true of politics than of other affairs. It is simply a circumstance of their progressive environment. Congressman Acheson, of Washington county, a Magee man, is quoted in a Pittsburgh dispatch as having predicted that Senator Quay would emerge a victor from his present little brush with hostile factions.

It is regarded by some as a tolerably good prediction, as things go in politics, that the next chairman of the Republican state executive committee will be a resident of Scranton. Complaint is made by the Wilkes-Barre Record that Luzerne Republicans are leaderless. They have, it says, no one with a pull. This is said, if true. Does it mean that the Rice boom gives up?

Interesting Railway Statistics. From the Philadelphia Press. The annual report of the railway commission of Illinois shows that the revenue of railroads per passenger mile in that state is 2.32 cents and the average cost per passenger mile to railroads is 2.53 cents, so that there is an actual loss of .21 cent per passenger mile. The revenue for freight per ton per mile is 1.32 cents and the cost is 0.92 cents and the profit .40 cents per ton per mile. These figures illustrate the depths to which bad management and antagonistic legislation have brought the railroad business in one of the most populous and wealth states of the Union, which contains several great

railroad centers and every condition calculated to make a railroad investment a good one. The Proper Remedy. From the Lebanon News. The Scranton Tribune properly discounts Sunday base ball playing and denounces it as a violation of the moral and statutory law. If newspapers in all cities having ball teams would oppose Sunday playing as it deserves we would soon hear no more of it.



Hi! Hi! Exchange! Give me the board of trade rooms. Is that you Mr. Atherton? It is I, brother. Are you paying much attention to the weather, now? I am watching indications with eyes that never sleep. What are the prospects? Well, I'll give you one pointer: When my mayorally boom gets fairly started in the North End, it will be a cold day for Wade Finn.

Who wishes to speak to The Tribune? Postmaster Vandling. Ah! yes. How are you, Frank? Have the stolen stamps been recovered? Oh, no. It's another matter. We have just received orders for seeds. Well? I wish you would inform the correspondents through your valuable publication that the street directions on their seed orders are all right, but that the number of the building is wrong.

Police station, please. Hello! Is that the police station? Yes. Can you send an officer up right away. I think I see a shoplifter on the street. All right. There is an officer here, who will come just as soon as he can change his clothes. By-by. Exchange, please connect me with H. E. Paine. Hello! Is that Mr. Paine? It is. Can I speak with you a moment? I am very busy. Something important? Yes, I'm writing a treatise upon the uses of buttermilk as an inspiration to get out the vote. I hope to make it popular in ward politics in Scranton.

Who calls? This is the Traction company. Yes. This is Manager Beeton. Pleased to hear your voice, Mr. Beeton. How can we serve you? I am about to transact some legal business and desire an attorney or two. Well? Can you recommend the proper parties? How would Watson & Zimmerman suit? Z-z-z-ling! Z-z-z-ling! Z-z-z-ling!

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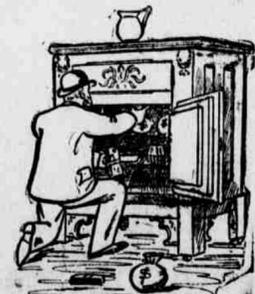
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