

The Scranton Tribune

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THE TRIBUNE IS IN THE FIELD DAILY AT THE D. L. AND W. STATION AT SCRANTON.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 4, 1895.

In view of the deliberate failure of the Scranton Republican to join this paper in a pledge to support the nominees of the next Republican city convention, regardless of individual preferences, is not The Tribune thoroughly justified in calling it "the only Republican daily in Lackawanna county?"

The President's Message.

The feature of Mr. Cleveland's message, as had been copiously predicted, is its treatment of foreign affairs; the remainder of it is merely a tame re-echoing of theories already well exploited. In three respects the message in its references to diplomatic questions will receive popular approval: in a fourth, it will not. The executive reveals a firm and manly stand in relation to the Waller case, the Armenian massacres and the dispute concerning Venezuela. In each of these instances he shows that every due step has been taken in the maintenance of American rights and privileges. In the last instance, which is perhaps the most important, it is stated that in July last a dispatch was addressed to the American ambassador at London instructing him to communicate to the British government that the United States is "firmly opposed to a forcible increase by any European power of its territorial possessions on the North American continent" and that it desires to have a definite answer to its question whether Great Britain will or will not submit the dispute in point, in its entirety, to impartial arbitration. Although four months have since elapsed, no reply has yet been received, but one "is expected shortly," in which event there can be nothing to do but to wait.

Had the president pursued this new dispensation of Americanism to a logical conclusion, he would probably not have written what he did write concerning Cuba. In this portion of his message he is singularly infelicitous. Retold in plainer words, he warns his countrymen not to give public expression to their sympathy with the Cuban insurgents lest it embarrass this government in its efforts to "observe in good faith the recognized obligations of international relationship." Just what this means is left to conjecture, but the president not deigning to justify the details, wherein the voicing of American sympathy for a people suffering, as our forefathers suffered, under the yoke of tyranny and struggling, as our fathers before us struggled, to throw off that yoke, can in any wise infringe upon our treaty obligations. Under no treaty has the right of the American people to give peaceable expression to their opinions been restricted; and if their exercise of such rights embarrass the executive officers of their government, it may well be supposed that those officers have lost touch with the people, their employers, and consequently need to be embarrassed.

The only other features of the message worthy of note are its blind and dumb adherence to the president's impracticable theory of "tariff reform," and its demand for the retention of the greenbacks from circulation compelled by the substitution of an amplified bank note currency secured by deposited government bonds. Not a word is said as to the need of immediate revenue replenishment. No specific recommendation is presented to congress in relation to this grave crisis save the suggestion that long-term bonds be issued in redemption of the greenbacks and the treasury notes authorized by the act of 1890, and that there would to no appreciable extent relieve the immediate tension in the treasury department. In his attitude toward this palpable fruit of Democratic incapacity the president is stupidly obstinate and perverse. Ready enough to help on the mischief, he doggedly declines to recognize his party's authorship of it, now that it has reached formidable proportions, and instead branches off into dreary disquisitions upon subjects foreign to the main point. In this respect the message, while characteristically Clevelandian, is grossly incomplete and falls so far short of its opportunity as to stamp its author as simply a conceited and obtuse theorist.

Mr. Cleveland's declaration that the McKinley bill was "inefficient for revenue" suggests that he must momentarily have confused it with the Wilson bill.

A Question of Veracity. In a sermon preached last Thanksgiving Day, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Robinson, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of this city, made a charge referring upon the Mississippi police force. The substance of it was that a certain officer belonging to that force had, to the doctor's personal knowledge, led young men into the arms of an infamy. When this accusation came to the notice of Mayor Conover, he addressed a courteous note to the pastor, suggesting him to give

the name of the officer to the end that proper discipline might be administered. This letter and the reply to it are printed on another page.

By signed resolutions and by individual affidavits every member of the Scranton police force, excepting two patrolmen who are temporarily absent from the city on vacation, has denied this charge in the most explicit and positive language. Similar affidavits and denials will doubtless be made by these two members of the force, upon their return. By resolution the force also "demand of Dr. Robinson, for the protection of their own good names and the names of their families, that he shall produce in public the names of the persons whom he states gave him the said information." In a letter to The Tribune, received this night and published elsewhere, Dr. Robinson announces that he is now prepared to do this. The outcome will be awaited with interest, as it threatens to bring about a direct conflict of testimony.

We believe that the police force of Scranton is innocent of the charge made against it.

Mr. Cleveland's deepest concern seems to be for Spain. His countrymen, however, we are happy to say, is for Cuba. Nothing in our treaty with Spain binds us to approve of the horrors of tyranny; and if there were such obligation in the treaty, it would be high time to have it cancelled.

Still Pursuing Smith.

The Philadelphia Press yesterday takes its final fling at Judge Smith and once more emphasizes the charge that his title to a seat on the Superior court bench is clouded, because he received some thousands more votes than any of his colleagues on the Democratic ticket. The Press, like a number of other journals (principally Democratic), persistently refuses to accept the well-established fact that Judge Smith was elected by a class of voters who cast a ballot only for him and cut all the other Democratic candidates. This does not constitute fraud; does not even reflect on the integrity of the men who cast such ballots. There is scarcely an election officer in Lackawanna county who does not know that when his board came to examine and count the votes they found vast numbers of ballots on which the only mark was opposite the name of Smith. These were legal ballots and had to be counted for Smith alone. These voters may not have been up to the regulation standard as partisan Democrats, but they in no sense exceeded their constitutional rights as electors.

Judge Rice ran as many thousands of votes ahead of Judge Orady as Judge Smith did of Judge Yorkes, yet what intense folly it would be to allege that Judge Rice's title is "clouded." The Press is all wrong in this matter, and we sincerely regret to see it taking a position on a level with such Democratic organs as the Harrisburg Patriot and the Philadelphia Times. There is no doubt that among the Democratic supporters of Judge Smith there was a wide-spread understanding to run him ahead of his colleagues by voting for him alone. Here in Scranton at least two Democratic newspapers urged their party openly to this system of voting, and their advice was followed in almost every election district. The result could not have been other than it was; but it does not imply fraud, nor does it in the slightest degree "cloud" Judge Smith's title to the office.

No one having instituted proceedings in contest it follows that the verdict rendered at the ballot box must stand. To demand, as the Press does, that Judge Smith himself should inaugurate proceedings with a view to an examination of the ballot boxes is too ridiculous to receive serious consideration. Judge Smith, in common with every other intelligent man in these counties, knows how his election was effected. He knows, too, that the election was in every way legal and the returns honest. Nothing further remains to be said or done in the premises.

The president who undid our revenues must have a good deal of nerve to ask the country to saddle the cost of his uncorrected mistake upon the future by the issuing of long-term bonds, when the mischief can be cured in a jiffy by simply restoring protection.

The Doom of the Horse.

The outcome of the Chicago Times-Herald's motorcycle contest for a cash prize of \$5,000, run Thanksgiving Day, seems to point unerringly to the speedy arrival of the horseless carriage. The race—from Jackson Park to Evanston and return, a distance of fifty-four miles—was run under peculiarly disadvantageous circumstances, the road-way being covered to a depth of twelve inches with snow, slush and mud; yet one vehicle, known as the Duryea gasoline motorcycle, made the entire distance without accident in ten hours and twenty-three minutes, a time which would have done credit to any team of roadsters. Two other vehicles, using electricity for power, were part of the run successfully and then stopped because of the wretched condition of the road.

The vehicle which finished the race was an old type, the inventor of which, since it was first built, has achieved several important improvements which were not brought into requisition on Thursday. He claims that one of his newer contrivances would achieve even better results, which is certainly plausible. We have not yet read the awards of the judges nor seen the figures of the cost of operating the "motorcycles," hence it is impossible to draw comparisons with horse-power transportation, but in the case of the gasoline wagon one would imagine the running expense to be slight.

In any event, the contest will have a stimulative effect upon American inventive genius, and it will not be long before the electric or gas-propelled carriage will have superseded entirely the vehicle in present vogue. What this means from an economic and sociological standpoint was cleverly hinted at, long ago, by James Brisbane Walker, in an article in the Cosmopolitan, in which he said that it would turn the human tide backward from the city to the country, solve the difficulties appertaining to the massing of population in sterile, treeless and foul-odored cities and ameliorate to a great extent the

aspirations now existing between capital and labor, founded largely on marked differences in opportunities for enjoyment.

While it might do to follow the president's suggestion about increasing the circulation of national banks, the problem that has proved the worst puzzle is how to provide a ready circulation for communities that lack the conveniences of national banks.

New Plan of Representation.

The proposition which will come before the Republican national committee on December 10 to change the basis of representation in the national convention is deservedly receiving widespread consideration. As outlined in yesterday's Tribune it is proposed to give each state, territory and the District of Columbia two instead of four delegates-at-large, and each congressional district one instead of two delegates, with one additional delegate for each 7,000 votes cast for the Republican electoral ticket in the preceding presidential campaign. This plan, if adopted, would increase the number of delegates in the convention from 902 to 1,165, a difference of 263, and the strong Republican states would enjoy a decided gain at the expense of the South. The exact changes it would make are shown in the following table:

Table with columns: State, Old Plan, New Plan, Gain, Loss. Lists states from Alabama to New Mexico with corresponding delegate counts.

There is good reason to expect that this change will be made. It is obviously fair. It puts the power of making the nominations into the hands of delegates from the states which have to do the electing. It cuts down the opportunity of mushroom Southern delegates having no party behind them to turn their ballots into a commodity at the command of the highest bidder. The change would not affect the representation from this congressional district.

The Harrisburg Patriot, being a Democratic paper, is not expected to favor the nomination and election of Governor Hastings as president. But to Pennsylvania Republicans such a proposition would be most welcome; and we shall need better evidence than the Patriot's word to convince us that Senator Quay would not be glad to work for the governor's nomination in the national convention so long as it shall seem within the possibilities.

Inasmuch as he couldn't have Wheeler Peckham, the president has kept the Supreme court judgeship in the Peckham family by naming brother Rufus. There is one thing to be said in Cleveland's favor, at least; he is a persistent man.

Disappointed southern congressmen may threaten to retaliate on McKinley because the Ohio congressional delegation chose its own alliances, but it will take more than this to convince the American people that McKinley is unfit to be president.

If any more bonds have to be issued by this government on account of Democratic incapacity they should be issued and sold to the American people and not expensively peddled out among foreign syndicates.

The Democratic organs which accuse Speaker Reed of cowardice only a little while ago denounced his czar-like boldness. They are evidently determined not to be pleased under any circumstances.

Mr. Cleveland will be several years older than he is now when the American people surrender at a presidential hint their right to sympathize with a neighboring people who war for freedom.

Ex-Senator Ingalls evidently believes, with Sherman and most others, that General Garfield, in 1880, long trembled betwixt ambition and duty. But one could not blame him for it.

Senator Cameron's reported desire to seek rest from public cares in foreign travel is a wish which the people of Pennsylvania are too generous to oppose.

The present session of congress will fulfill expectations if it shall repair the revenues by the restoration of protection, pass the necessary appropriation bills and adjourn.

It is true in one sense, as Grover says, that protection "curtailed our trade relations." It kept the activity on this side.

Suppose England refuses to arbitrate the Venezuela matter. What would Grover suggest then?

POLITICAL POINTS.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the leading Republican paper of Missouri, expresses the opinion that a state like Pennsylvania, that polls about half a million Republican votes, ought to be able among that number to find at least one man to succeed Cameron, who will represent Republican principles in the United States senate. The trouble is not the finding of a man fit to fill the position, but of a man against the powerful machinery that Cameron has heretofore been able to control. Even if the Republican masses keep up the fire on the senator he will have to go this time.

After the first of January Governor McKinley will be a private citizen, and will have plenty of time to look after his private affairs. If his prospects for a presidential nomination were less promising than they are the Republicans of Ohio would probably before this have made a movement in his behalf for a seat in the United States senate. As it is, ex-Governor Foraker would have the call for the senatorship and McKinley will either become president or remain a private citizen for some years.

The Harrisburg Patriot, Democratic, disavows the allegations recently made that the Democratic organ of Senator Cameron, if it is not the Patriot should frankly state upon whose authority it made the declaration that a candidate for election. It is published within sight of the senator's Harrisburg residence, and it would not be an assurance from somebody in the subject of his purposes.

The announcement that Senator Quay will turn down Congressman Dazell in his ambition to become chairman of the house ways and means committee is probably premature. Pennsylvania should not lose that important position through a Pennsylvania senator, and we think Col. Quay will not tolerate such a position being damaged as he would if he turned down Mr. Dazell.

The Reading Herald expresses the opinion that Senator Cameron will be re-elected, not because the people want him, but because those who make senators are for him. The Herald adds, however, that the senator will have to reach deeper than ever before into his pockets if he is to be re-elected, and that the Reading temporary is of the Democratic persuasion.

The Pittsburg Dispatch is convinced that Senator Quay intends to stand loyally by the Republican party in the election of its chairman. Carter, of the national committee, seems to favor San Francisco and Chicago second in preference. An anti-Protection party in this stronghold of Protection will not have a chance to raise its head again in the next decade, possibly not in a generation.

There Will Now Be Backbone. Syracuse Post: "Every incoming train to Philadelphia is met by the greatest godsend that could happen to the battered old hulk of a party in this state would be the abandonment of the tariff issue by the leaders at Washington. But until they do so, or until Mr. Harris, or whoever may be pitched upon as his successor, shall strike out on a new program, the Republican party will continue to be the abnormally swollen majority that it is today. An anti-Protection party in this stronghold of Protection will not have a chance to raise its head again in the next decade, possibly not in a generation."

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Be sure you are right, and then go ahead—if no one will precede you. To apostles of reform—First study city government.

CONGRESS AND ITS WORK.

Not a Time for Bluster. Cleveland World: "The aim of the present congress should be to inspire confidence in business and financial circles and to provide revenues to run the greatest government in the world decently. It is doubtful if the present temper of the people will view with satisfaction any attempt at legislation for political or party purposes. The government should be with a view to help the government in its present predicament. No matter how great the temptation, even though it be criminal, that has brought us to this condition, the government is the government of the United States and must be sustained and placed in condition to meet expenses and sustain its credit, no matter what the cost. The present therefore is not the time for the kind of legislative action of the past administration."

An End to Nonsense! Washington Post: "We have been brought low by the academicians and the doctrinaires. A condition now confronts us, and the people have invoked the Republican party to its analysis and solution. The duty of this congress is clear. The Republicans who now control that body are bound by every obligation of patriotism and good faith to offer a plan for the amelioration of our difficulties. Upon them rests the solemn responsibility of providing a sufficient revenue of re-establishing commercial and financial confidence and of reversing the present arrangement under which, as an in day, drifting toward insolvency, they cannot begin to work too soon. It were folly of the most short-sighted and ill-considered kind to delay for so much as a single moment. The American people have not installed them in order that they may devise campaign expedients and the opportunity for strutting and spouting. The Republican majority in congress must do their duty. The people expect it."

An Excellent Motto. Rochester Post-Express: "A good motto for the new congress would be this, 'The government must get out of the borrowing business.'"

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

Revises Resolutions. Chicago Times-Herald: "There are two classes of goods which we can send to the South American countries. First, those we produce cheaply and in great abundance, chiefly breadstuffs, meats, furniture, wooden ware, tools and implements. In the second class belong woolen and

linen products, iron and many miscellaneous manufactured articles. Hitherto our main and even these freights have been carried by way of England to South American ports. The result of our efforts thus far to establish relations with these countries whose trade naturally belongs to us, is that we buy from them three times as much as we sell to them. It may be that a practicable reciprocity proposal acceptable especially to the South American countries may not be reached this session. But with those countries appealing to the United States, especially for enforcement of the Monroe doctrine as their sole hope against European aggression, it would appear that reciprocity ought to be more distinctly within practical politics than it was when last debated, and for the time being, determined by the United States."

Manners in Congress. Chicago Times-Herald: "Thomas Brackett Reed announces that as speaker of the Fifty-fourth congress, he proposes giving a little attention to his manners. Mr. Reed will not tolerate smoking within the house of representatives. Neither will he permit members to place their feet on their desks, or to read the minutes of the house of representatives or the minutes of the country maintains that institution. It ought to be distinctly a place for considering legislation, and the members of the house of representatives are thoughtless, to use no harsher word, is that it is not the chamber of personal business offices, and its corridors, at times even its floor, a social lounging place. Instead of concentrating their interest on public business members devote the business hours to private correspondence, to office brokerage, to commercial interests, to the cultivation of personal relations, to gossip."

The Pennsylvania Democrat. Philadelphia Bulletin: "The greatest godsend that could happen to the battered old hulk of a party in this state would be the abandonment of the tariff issue by the leaders at Washington. But until they do so, or until Mr. Harris, or whoever may be pitched upon as his successor, shall strike out on a new program, the Republican party will continue to be the abnormally swollen majority that it is today. An anti-Protection party in this stronghold of Protection will not have a chance to raise its head again in the next decade, possibly not in a generation."

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LEATHER COATS AND MACKINTOSHES LOOK AT CONRAD'S, 305 Lacka Avenue

OVER 8,000 THAT WONDERFUL WEBER PIANOS. This is the number of daily papers we sold in November. During that month (our first month in business) we sold less than 1,000. These figures are eloquent, and speak for themselves. On Monday, Dec. 2nd, the 15th CONGRESS will convene. It will be an unusually interesting session. Keep posted. All the local and metropolitan dailies served by us. Day, week or month. Publisher's rates. H. HOWARD BIDDLEMAN, The Bookman 67 Spruce St. Opp. the Commonwealth

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