

The Scranton Tribune

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E. P. KINGSBURY, Pres. and Gen'l. Man. E. W. RUPPEL, Sec'y and Treas.

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 27, 1895.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Headquarters Republican state committee, 1231 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 12, 1885. To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:

The Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in state convention, Thursday, April 23, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the Opera House, city of Harrisburg, for the purpose of nominating two candidates for representatives at large in congress and thirty-two candidates for presidential electors, selecting eight delegates at large to the Republican national convention, and transacting such other business as may be presented.

By order of the state committee, M. S. QUAY, Chairman. Jere B. Rex, W. R. Andrews, Secretaries.

Representation in this convention will be the same as in the last state convention.

Several gentlemen of the press are again in great perturbation over the fact that Senator Quay on Tuesday, at Harrisburg, called on Governor Hastings and was not thrown out. His escape doubtless was marvelous.

An Ideal Candidate.

Mr. Daniel Williams, the Republican candidate for city treasurer, and running mate of Colonel Rippe, has been a resident of the West Side for thirty-five years. For this length of time Mr. Williams has been one of the leading contractors of the city but is now largely interested in the development of coal. Many years ago he represented the Fourth ward in the common council and is now one of the leading members of the board of the Scranton poor district. His term on the poor board has been marked by strict attention to his duty, regularity in being found in his seat and an alertness to labor for the public good. The reputation he holds in the business world represents the energy and assiduity typical of the thorough business man and stamps him as one well fitted to grasp the complete details so peculiar to the office for which he is a candidate. On the West Side he is held in particularly high esteem, and through his integrity, public spiritedness and popularity has won for himself an enviable position. No one fact so forcibly establishes a man's reputation as his position in the community in which he lives, and if this evidence alone were applied to Mr. Williams it would be sufficient to invest his canvass with the assurance of success. His friends claim him to be stalwart, honest and popular enough to win, and they ought to know.

Whatever is thought of C. L. Magee as a politician—and it is somehow a fact that those who admire him in that capacity and those who do not are both enthusiasts in their respective beliefs—it cannot be denied that in business he is a generous employer and an unselfish friend. His Christmas gift—for practically it is his gift, although made in the name of a street railway corporation—of \$100,000 to the city of Pittsburg for the purpose of establishing a zoological garden is characteristic. Pittsburg may have done a deal for Magee; but it is equally true that Magee has reciprocated. Such instances of reciprocity are none too frequent among traction company magnates.

A Chance for Reform.

In connection with the reforms to the achievement of which the Republican party in the last state convention pledged itself it might be well to include a law revising the salaries of the common pleas judges of Pennsylvania so as to make it unnecessary for them to augment their regular incomes by swapping benches under the law which allows visiting judges \$10 a day apiece and expenses, in addition to the regular home salary, which goes right on.

There is no objection to the exchange of wooolsacks, for, like the exchange of pulpits in churches, it often does good. There are few judges who are not broadened by travel and few courts which do not benefit from the coming of trial judges from afar. The judge who sits always upon one bench is liable to become rusty; if not that, his weak points are studied by the lawyers before him, and advantage is frequently taken of his inevitable prejudices. In addition to all this stands the principle embodied in the adage that familiarity breeds contempt—novelty is always a sharpening of the finer instincts. So that on no account ought the practice of occasionally trading benches to fall into disuse.

self-evident abuse ought not to be neglected by the next legislature. The Syracuse Post is responding nobly to the demands of civilization. It has promised to give a souvenir spoon to every baby born in its city between Christmas and New Year's, and six months' free subscription to every couple wedded during that time.

A Blooming Fair.

The course of the Democratic minority in the house in interposing oratorical obstructions to the speedy passage of bills which are concededly needed to save the government from financial embarrassment affords a pretty good example of Democracy's natural caliber. It recalls attention to the fact that that party is fundamentally and pre-eminently a party of obstruction, and that it is never so happy as when trying to pull progress back. The Democratic objectors in the house knew full well that the Wilson bill has built up nothing but debts and deficits. They knew equally well that if something were not soon done to increase its inadequate revenue the government would have to provide funds for the payment of current expenses by a new sale of bonds, which simply means the costly accumulation of more deficits and debts. They knew that even their own president had frantically pleaded with congress, publicly and in private interviews with its leading members, to do something in the way of relief before the situation got desperate.

And yet, knowing all these things, and knowing, too, that so far as the ultimate effect of their orations went they might just as well have sat still and said nothing, the few surviving captains of the little Democratic band now sitting under Tom Reed's eagle eye vainly strutted their brief time upon the stage of discussion and pretended to have no knowledge that Uncle Sam's finances were in a hole. This, in good truth, is supremely ridiculous and altitudinously asinine, but it nevertheless is characteristically Democratic. That incapable party, having in the legislative branch at least, washed its hands of power, must now proceed to howl and kick and pose and sputter, else it would have no remaining warrant for continued existence.

Americans will hope the report is true that General Gomez, the commander-in-chief of the Cuban insurgent forces, has eluded the Spanish army and begun a march direct for Havana. What is more, they will hope that he may capture Havana, and, for that matter, everything else which smacks of Spanish tyranny and oppression.

That South Side Fire.

The tragic fire at Irving avenue and Hemlock street yesterday morning calls attention to the need of an additional number of fire hydrants on the South Side. This is the fourth or fifth recent fire in that section of the city which might have been prevented or at least easily checked had there been as generous a distribution of hydrants as is to be found in many other portions of Scranton. In one instance that occurred not long ago a stable was consumed in a populous district because the nearest hydrant was six blocks away. Such facts as that will never do in a city assuming to be metropolitan. The taxpayer on the South Side is just as much entitled to protection against fire as the taxpayer in Hyde Park or the central city and councils should regulate its appropriations accordingly.

In view of the probability of an early adoption of a paid regular fire service, it would seem to be a fit time to suggest a thorough overhauling of present arrangements and equipments to the end that when the forward step is once taken, it may be taken intelligently and be effective. There should no stinting of needed appropriations and no more of the hitherto too prevalent custom of playing one section of the city against another section, regardless of the real needs of both. This strikes us as a good time for urging forward the growing disposition to regard Scranton in all its parts as one integral city, with common requirements, common purposes and a common destiny.

The Wilkes-Barre Record a few days ago thought that Governor Hastings would be just the man for president, but now it pronounces his candidacy inadvisable. This is a world of change.

Of Interest to Shippers.

A subject of vital interest to shippers has been touched upon by Representative Hardy of Indiana in his bill recently introduced in congress, to repeal sections 2005 and 2007 of the revised statutes, and the amendments thereto. These two sections form parts of the interstate commerce law which provides that goods imported into the United States can be placed in sealed cars and transported over our railroads to the Dominion of Canada, thence carried on the dominion railways across the continent and thence sent to any part of the United States, the movement of freight to be subject to the regulations of the treasury department. These provisions are based upon section 29 of the treaty of Washington, which relates to the transportation of merchandise in bond from one part of the United States to another part therein over the territory of the Dominion of Canada by railroad routes or partly by railroads and partly by water route. Mr. Hardy will follow up his first bill with another declaring the treaty section annulled and calling upon the president to issue a proclamation to that effect.

The real purpose in Mr. Hardy's two measures is to prevent those Canadian railroads, notably the Grand Trunk, which run in part through United States territory, from gaining an undue traffic because of freight rate concessions which competing American roads, under the long and short haul clause of the interstate commerce act, cannot parallel. Representative Hepburn, who was solicitor of the treasury under President Harrison, is a warm supporter of the Indiana member's purpose. While in the treasury department Mr. Hepburn made an inquiry which resulted in the discovery that in one year the Canadian roads received from the United States \$80,000,000, worth to the Canadian systems \$20,000,000. "This," he says, "was business that naturally belonged to our own roads, and which,

if controlled by them, would enable them to give as low rates as their competitors. The Canadian roads not being subject to the long and short haul clause of the interstate commerce law possess an unconquerable advantage over roads on this side of the line."

In an interview upon the subject Colonel Hardy recently said:

The United States has now invested in one line of railway from Omaha to San Francisco considerably over \$100,000,000, besides which there are three American lines of railway across the continent from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast. Why should the United States permit goods transported between different sections of its own territory to be carried over foreign railways when we have railways of our own, altogether within our own country, which are fully capable of doing the work? I believe that the United States brought into this country from foreign ports the ultimate destination of which is an American port or city should be transported exclusively over American railroads. As Americans have to pay the freight, I believe American railroads should receive the freight charges. The more money that is paid American railways in transporting merchandise from the east to the west the lower rates they can afford to take for freighting the farmers' crops and cattle from the west to the eastern seaboard. What the farmers and shippers of the middle and western states demand is a cheaper freight rate from the west to the east, but how can they hope for lower rates when the law and regulations of the treasury department grant special privileges, even advantages, to a foreign railway like the Canadian Pacific. This view may appear selfish, but I trust it embraces the true American spirit. It certainly does.

The attention of our readers is called to the detailed review, on another page, of The Tribune Annual and Political Hand-book for 1896, which will be ready for distribution next Wednesday. It has been compiled with great care and is believed to embody a more comprehensive and accurate collection of information vital to Northeastern Pennsylvania than has yet been presented in any similar publication. The preparation and supervision of this work are the work of Colonel J. D. Laclair, whose life-long identification with political movements in this quarter of the commonwealth, coupled with his high standing as a journalist, affords a sufficient guaranty of its authenticity and value. In succeeding years it will doubtless be improved and amplified, yet this first number in a contemplated series of political hand-books will unquestionably prove an indispensable reference book and office guide; and it will without doubt specially commend itself to the politicians of this and of the proximate counties because of its intelligent grouping of election figures.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Tribune Bureau, Washington, Dec. 26. There was more drunkenness in Washington yesterday than there has been on Christmas for many years. The streets were filled with intoxicated boys and not a few females took advantage of the occasion and made merry. Most of the law were slain by the police and were of the swinging take-up-all-the-street variety. A good deal of the drunkenness was due to the fact that nearly every saloon in town kept "open house," and the boys took advantage of this rare hospitality on part of the rum sellers and loaded up. Very few arrests were made, considering the large number of fellows who fell by the wayside. If "Rising Sun Stove Polish" Morse, who represents a Puritan district in Massachusetts, and who has introduced a bill in the house prohibiting the sale of liquor in the District of Columbia, had been here today he could have gathered some valuable data which he might use in favor of his measure. It is needless to say that such a bill will never pass as long there are so many fellows in congress who like a pull at the bottle themselves.

Senator Squire, of the state of Washington, is not the brightest man in the upper branch of congress, but nobody ever suspected him of being so far behind the times as the following story will show him to be. A short time before the congress convened Squire met a fellow senator at one of the hotels in this city and this conversation took place between them: "I think it is a shame that congress does not admit Utah into the Union," said Senator Squire. "My dear senator," said his colleague, "Utah was admitted as a state by the last congress."

Senator Squire must be suffering from a lapse of the memory, as he was a member of the senate when the Utah bill passed.

Joe Lewis is still here. He will likely be appointed clerk to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Scranton is chairman, unless Uncle Sam secures a "bone" with more meat on it. The salary of the clerk to Mr. Scranton's committee is \$5 per day during the sessions.

Colonel Clayton McMichael, editor of the Philadelphia North American, is slated for the secretaryship of the senate when the Republicans reorganize that body. Colonel McMichael was a member of the senate in the District of Columbia during President Arthur's administration, and was a very popular official.

Colonel William A. Stone, who represents the Twenty-third Pennsylvania district, and who had the distinction of being a "honest" man under the Combine, has collapsed from the strain he has been under since the house organized, and he is now taking a rest at White Sulphur Springs, Va. It is said that he hasn't averaged three hours a sleep a day in the past three weeks. The "bone" hunters have been on his trail day and night, and he has had too much for even a man of the Colonel's colossal stature.

"Bertie" Adams, ex-Minister to Brazil, and the successor of "Father" O'Neil in the house from a Philadelphia district, is one of the maddest men in Washington. He was a member of the famous Combine and was promised a good fat office for one of his constituents. He had his partnership of the house, a place which pays the neighborhood of \$20,000 per year, and had his man picked out. But Representative Brumm, of Schuylkill county, stepped in and got the "bone." That is why "Bertie" is mad, and he is real mad, too.

Senator Quay declines to be interviewed on the subject of his alleged reconciliation with Governor Hastings. It is believed, however, that he and the governor have kissed and made up. The senator has some legislation which he wants to get through the next legislature, and without a friend in the executive chair he might as well not attempt it. Governor Hastings has many things in his favor if he decides to enter the senatorial contest. Quay cannot afford to fight him, and he has no good politics for Quay to help him. Quay's friend Lyon would be made governor and there would be no question about securing the executive's approval of any legislation that he might have passed. Governor Hastings certainly occupies an enviable position in the senatorial race. He has the best of the fight in to date. Another "Wanamaker" has been elected. Brumm has placed him outside the brackets, and as for the other candidates they are sent twenty to thirty miles to make it seem a hard road at any price. "Bertie" has a burglarious idea of making his initial bow to the public here this week. It

made a great hit and is drawing crowded houses. Postmaster General Wilson, never possessed of robust constitution, is showing the wear and tear of the hard work imposed upon him since he entered the cabinet. I met him yesterday for the first time since he became a member of President Cleveland's official family. He has changed wonderfully since he left congress, and it wouldn't surprise me if he were compelled to resign on account of ill health before the end of the Cleveland administration.

Russia's offer to loan the United States \$100,000,000 in gold has caused considerable talk in executive and legislative circles. It is not a fresh offer. Shortly after President Cleveland's second inauguration, when the treasury surplus first began to offer was duly acknowledged by the administration, but was not taken because the money lenders of the world showed an enormous interest in President Cleveland's offer now it would only tend to complicate the already strained relations with this country and England, and it is doubtful if President Cleveland cares to further involve matters. War talk is cheap, but enters into a real conflict with England or any other powerful nation is a question which is worth caring to discuss, and there will be no war with England—not for a day or two at least.

The members of the Spanish legation in this city are not losing any sleep over the reported insurgent victories near Havana. Neither are they spending any cash on cable dispatches between Washington and Madrid in a most endeavor to verify or discredit the wild rumors. Their appetites are also good, and their thirst for wine is just as great as it was before Cuba revolted. W. R. B.

FIVE MINUTES FOR FUN.

Too Bad. "I've called full twenty times," said he. "Your stony heart to soften." "I'm asked to hear," responded she. "That you've been full so often." Kansas City Journal.

Reason in All Things. "I want to know why, Mrs. McCorkle, you give me hash for breakfast this morning when you know that yesterday at breakfast I did not touch it." "That's just why. When you have eaten that I shall provide something else." Harper's Bazaar.

Comprehensive. Papa—Well, Tommy, what do you want Santa Claus to bring you this Christmas? "I want to know if the United States has everything he can think of."—Harper's Round Table.

A Terrible Ordeal. She saw a mouse, but did not swerve. Although it must have shocked her. She had to make a show of nerve.—Chicago Record.

An Invitation. Dolly—If you kiss me the second time, I will scream. Dick—I haven't kissed you the first time yet. Dolly—I know it.—Town Topics.

Sometimes So. "Is it really true," said the little boy, "that politicians are sometimes not strictly honest?" "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum, sadly. "I am sorry to say that it is. I have known politicians who got votes years ago and have not paid for them yet."—Washington Star.

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