

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 31, 1895.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Headquarters Republican state committee, 1221 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 12, 1895. 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. The Scranton Tribune argues that the United States ought to get loose from the British money-lenders and deal with Russia if the opportunity offers. A still better plan would be to manage the country so as not to place it at the mercy of any foreigner—Philadelphia Inquirer.

As to Fourth-Class Postoffices.

Representative Wheeler has introduced a desirable bill to readjust the pay of fourth-class postmasters. It provides that one who opens and closes one mail each week shall receive \$10 each quarter; \$12.50 for two mails, and so on, increasing quarterly \$2.50 for each additional mail opened and closed until the limit of \$250 each quarter is reached. Under the present system the pay of these necessarily faithful employees is often ridiculously inadequate. Some fourth-class offices yield to their masters only \$2.50 and \$5 a piece during an entire year; and it rarely happens that the revenue is sufficient to afford a just compensation for the care and punctuality required of the office's occupants. It is considered what an obligation the small community owes to the competent master of its mails, and what a service he performs as the nearest official representative of the federal government, the usual paltriness of his pay is often humiliating. The limit of fairness and efficiency has well-nigh been reached in urban postal arrangements; but it still remains for the government to develop and more thoroughly systematize and facilitate the rural mail service. The first step in this direction would seem to be to offer adequate compensation to the subordinate who must do this work.

The Philadelphia Times would be a better paper than it is if it would be more careful in its statements.

Lackawanna county is not only not a leader in lawlessness, but it is rapidly reaching the orderly standards of communities that have less than one-tenth of Lackawanna's difficulties to overcome. The Times should make Lackawanna's acquaintance and thus put itself in a position to comment knowingly.

With Reference to Telephone Rates.

A brooding silence seems to have precipitated itself upon the great scheme, which was vociferously exploited some months ago, to supply the cities of this country with telephone service at from \$20 to \$25 per year per phone. It will be remembered that this scheme took local root in the shape of an ordinance authorizing an imaginary local company to erect poles and string wires in Scranton; but when the amendment was insisted upon that the franchise should become void in the event of the company's failure to have its system in practical working operation within six months, the whole matter suddenly and mysteriously collapsed, leaving the present telephone company, with its high rates, in unchallenged possession of the field.

The failure of this local attempt to speculate at the public's expense may not have been the means of deterring honest capitalists from making a genuine effort to establish wholesome competition in Scranton's telephone trade; and again it may have. This point is not clear. But one fact is certain, and that is that the present telephone rates will eventually have to come down. The city of Newark, O., has recently had an instructive experience along this line. A few years ago the Bell company had in that city about seventy-five subscribers at \$40 a year. Then a new company was organized as the Harrison company was known to compete with it. The Harrison company cut to \$20 and today has 300 subscribers at \$15, while the Bell company has 400 at \$15 and both companies are making money in a town of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants.

The Cleveland World has figured it out that if the telephone company in that city would adopt the Newark rate of \$15 instead of charging from \$22 to \$100 a year, it could increase the number of its subscribers from 3,000 to 15,000. This would leave the total income in other cases practically the same, and

the reduction in rates with its quintupled number of subscribers would not add more than 50 per cent. to the operating expenses. The World contends that even on this basis the Cleveland telephone company would earn handsome dividends on its bona fide capitalization; and that it could earn more than 6 per cent. if the price per phone were made uniformly as low as \$10 a year.

These figures may be misleading. The high priced companies will no doubt say so, at any rate, yet they are also suggestive. In nearly all lines of business great reductions in prices have been made within the past ten or fifteen years. The telephone business is the one conspicuous exception. Its prices are still in statu quo. It seems a reasonable conclusion that they cannot remain that way; that they will sooner or later have to obey the general tendency and take a drop.

Readers of this paper are again urged to remember with liberality the carrier boy on the first morning of the new year, when he will offer to them copies of The Tribune Annual and Political Handbook for 1896. Our carriers receive these copies from The Tribune at the cost of manufacture, and the difference between that sum and the retail price of 25 cents per copy represents their remuneration for a year of punctual and exacting work.

Catching Americans Unawares.

There is altogether too much truth for comfort in the picture which Mr. Lodge drew in the senate yesterday of England's enterprise in capturing strategic points wherever they are to be found and of her liberality in fortifying and equipping those points so as to give her every possible advantage in the event of a war with any country. The same line of thought was lucidly carried out, a day or two ago, by Mr. E. Greenough Scott in a two-column contribution to the Wilkes-Barre Times. The burden of Mr. Scott's argument, as of Senator Lodge's, was that while the United States has been seemingly indifferent to these things, England, through her all-encreling merchant marine and her vigilant and not over scrupulous diplomatic establishment, has never missed an opportunity to secure a new cog in her vantage.

Starting with Halifax, "which has a harbor capable of holding the entire British navy and a citadel in a complete state of defence," Mr. Scott takes his readers by imagination around a circuit of England's fortifications in this hemisphere. It is worth our while to follow him, beginning at the Bermudas:

These islands, says Mr. Scott, are not only fortified and garrisoned, but are equipped with dry-docks adequate for the repair or fitting out of large fleets. Every vessel that leaves our coast for Europe or comes thence, as far south as Charleston, must pass between Halifax and Bermuda. These possessions threaten our whole northern coast. In a short step the British fleet lies off Florida and which command the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico. The name of their chief port, Nassau, is enough to recall to the mind the part of our own war their capacity for mischief. How many people in the United States have the name of "Largo"? Very few. Largo is a bank or reef lying midway in the channel between Florida and Cuba. The British flag flies over it, for Great Britain possesses a light house there, and can fortify it at her pleasure. A short sail around the east end of Cuba, and we come to Jamaica, with Kingston harbor and a territory sufficient to supply a large force—a few days' sail from Jamaica lands us at the British Isles, which in the past is in dangerous proximity to the mouths of the Mississippi, and the Bluefields incident is fresh in our recollection.

If, instead of going to Jamaica from the Bahamas, we keep outside, in the Atlantic, and follow the Windward Islands, we shall pass several that are occupied by Great Britain, until we wind up with the Barbados, between which and the coast of South America flows a channel that can be crossed in a day, and from which by a short voyage British Guiana is gained. One of these islands is of very great importance; it is Santa Lucia, and some day our people will wake up to the fact that while they have had their eyes fixed on Gibraltar, another fortress like unto it has been constructed on this spot and under their noses. This place commands the contiguous Atlantic on one side and on the other the Caribbean Sea. It threatens the whole northern and northeastern coast of South America, including the valley of the Orinoco and Venezuela itself. From its capacious harbor the British fleet can sail to it, can return, and in it they can rest and rest in perfect security. Where is our Santa Lucia? The general Grant did his best to catch and keep San Domingo when it was flung at us, but, between his lack of luck and Sumner's self-sufficiency, we are obliged to surrender it today. San Domingo would have broken the British chain. They manage these things better in Downing street.

These stations are all upon open seas; even Halifax having a port that is open to the ocean. The capacity for harboring warships there is limited, and on several of the islands there is a space for entrenched camps on a formidable scale. At Halifax a line of forts extends from the surrounding country, and in Jamaica, a respectable force, to be maintained for reinforcement, could be supplied from the island. If the transports are loaded and the men and material are on board in the Merses, they can be delivered into the fortifications of Halifax in ten days, and those of Bermuda in twelve days. At Halifax effective forces of British troops would be within thirty hours of our border, and the British fleet would be within sixty hours of the Main ports, including Portland and the New Hampshire and Massachusetts ports, one of which, it will be well to bear in mind, is Boston, a city that is not on "a" hill, but on several hills, thus presenting a field of exceptional susceptibility to devastation, and a city which, including one at least of its important suburbs, Charleston, the seat of a navy yard, can be approached until the muzzles of the enemy's guns can touch the wharves. Thus the destructive power of Great Britain can be placed, out of break of war, within sixty hours steaming of New England's eastern front, a line of coast without adequate defence, for today there is not a single high power gun north of New York harbor or south of it.

But this is only part of the account. Returning to Halifax, we observe that it is connected with the St. Lawrence by the Inter-colonial railway, and it is to be noticed, too, that St. John, New Brunswick, is likewise so connected by a railroad, which, ascending the St. John river, and again the Inter-colonial at Riviere du Loup, on the St. Lawrence, about 100 miles below Quebec. In consequence of the "Trent" imbroglio, several thousand British troops marched up the valley of the St. John unhindered, and what has been done once may be done again, particularly since the railroad has increased the facility for doing so.

There is no need of dwelling on Quebec, whose strength is well known. At the outer West Point, we observe that the north channel through which pour the Ontario waters between the main land and Wolfe Island, a large island belonging to Ontario. The most important part played by the fortifications of Kingston is that they command the southern terminus of the Rideau canal, the northern terminus being at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, which city is situated on the Ottawa river. A navigable stream discharging into the St. Lawrence just above Montreal. The Canadians expect that the Rideau will play an important part in the event of war.

Then we have the Canadian Pacific railroad, from Quebec and Montreal clear across British America to a point opposite Vancouver Island, a route recently described in this paper by Mr. J. B. Richmond. The Canadian Pacific is an important potentiality in the opinion of the British government, should there be war. Finally:

At Vancouver another Gibraltar of Santa Lucia is found to be rapidly appearing. The works are extensive and embrace designs in fortification comprising subterranean ways, disappearing and reappearing, and a reader then thoroughly defensive. Its significance to us lies in the fact that, as an army post or as a rendezvous for fleets, it commands effectively the straits of Fuca, through which all our coasting and trans-Pacific commerce of Puget Sound must pass. That is so, the British are on the eve of commanding, if they do not already command, the northwestern part of the United States; one thing is certain, we do not. The world, very sensibly, is not permitted to those who have the matter in hand, to know anything of the work they are doing, no more, in fact, than it knows of Santa Lucia, but, if the rumor be correct, that the Dominion government has lately entered into a contract covering a postal route which has its western terminus on our ground, at Juneau, one of our ports, then it may be that the works at Vancouver are already on the fair way to completion. This "claim of Great Britain is a real one, indeed, for, should it be enforced, it will take from us every inlet and harbor that we have purchased from Russia, as far as the one hundred and forty-degree parallel of longitude, beyond which all harbors are given over to solid ice for eight months in the year. Vancouver is connected with Asia and the south seas by lines of fleet steamships also subsidized on condition that they be used as a contract covering into commerce destroyers. They would prey on our Pacific coasting trade.

Under these circumstances it is well that the scales are beginning to fall from the eyes of our federal senators. It is idle to suppose that England is building these fortifications on every exposed side of us just merely for the pleasure of spending her money. There must be a meaning back of them. If so, what?

The American correspondent of the London Times, Mr. Smalley, has now lost both his patriotism, which seems never to have been very embarrassing, and his temper over the Venezuelan affair, and his latest comments are almost ludicrous in their attack on notes of diatribe, indignation and alarm. The president, in almost so many words, he calls a liar for writing that message; congress is a pack of knaves and fools for indulging it; and the American people, with a few Mugwump exceptions, are not much better, according to Mr. Smalley. This typical old Tory was for a time amusing; but of late it must be confessed that he has become a good deal of a bore. There is probably no use in trying to persuade him to let up on a tired public; but if American journals would refuse to print his stuff while he is in his present angust of mind, it would no doubt prove a welcome relief to their readers, and give him a needed hint as to the wisdom of cooling off.

The Philadelphia Press censures certain excited Republican brethren who lately took the mistaken notion into their heads that the Republican leaders in this state were contemplating a revival of the unit rule at the St. Louis convention. The Press explains that no national delegate can be forced to vote against his own wish; and that the only unit rule to be expected will be the voluntary acquiescence of the whole Pennsylvania delegation in the proper enterprise of honoring a worthy Pennsylvania candidate, like Governor Hastings. The Press, to be sure, did not mention any one name, but it is naturally taken for granted that if any Pennsylvanian shall receive the vote of his state for president it will be the intrepid and popular governor. He ought to be balloted for by the Pennsylvania delegation as long as there remained a particle of hope that he might be the choice of the convention.

Mr. Carlisle tells an interviewer that he "had supposed that very few could be found who believe that our financial difficulties were caused by a deficiency in the ordinary revenues of the government." Of course, the deficiency is not the cause, but simply a result. Yet when we cure the deficiency we are whole present danger; and shall cure the whole trouble just as soon as the next election gives Republicans a free chance to restore protection permanently. Mr. Carlisle didn't hear of deficits and bond sales under Republican rule.

Under the lead of the Manufacturers' club of Philadelphia an active effort is being made to secure a large attendance of Pennsylvania manufacturers at the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers which will be held in Chicago, Jan. 21, 1896. It is hoped to establish that association on a broad and representative basis, so that it may be of commanding benefit to American industry, and to this end all active manufacturers are invited to co-operate.

According to Colonel William Lamb, chairman of the Virginia Republican committee, the Wilson bill's reduction of the duty on bituminous coal from 75 cents to 40 cents per ton has been the means of throwing one of Virginia's leading railroads into a receivership and of largely curtailing the employment of labor in Virginia in West Virginia mines. And yet Professor Wilson wonders why he was not returned to congress!

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Tribune Bureau, No. 515 Fourteenth street, N. W., Washington, Dec. 30. The scramble for delegates-at-large to the Republican national convention from Pennsylvania is becoming absolutely annoying to Senator Quay, to whom all the candidates apply for support. Several days pass that delegations from some section of the state do not call upon him and urge the selection of their respective candidates. As there are only eight delegates-at-large to be chosen and there are at least twenty-eight candidates, one from each congressional district and in some of them more than one candidate, the question is becoming a most serious one to Senator Quay. He has friends throughout the entire state who want preference shown them. Of course, every last one of them professes to have done the senator yeoman service in his recent chairmanship fight and they, therefore, demand recognition.

The latest delegation to present the claims of a candidate was from Luzerne county. Several well-known Republican politicians of the district were here on Saturday last to see Quay in the interest of Hon. Charles A. Miner, Congressman Luzerne, who is a member of the district delegation, piloted the visiting delegation to Senator Quay's committee room, where they waited the afternoon. Senator Quay is too shrewd a politician to have given a positive pledge; but it can be said that he so expressed himself to the visitors that they went away satisfied. There seems to be much probability that Mr. Miner will be chosen one of the delegates-at-large.

Congressman Joe Scranton, having been turned down for district delegates, is a candidate for delegates-at-large, bearing the life of Senator Quay to

let him go. But as Joseph deserted Quay last summer in his hunt for delegates to the state convention, it's dollars to red apples that Quay is not going to lay awake at nights to make Joseph one of the delegates-at-large.

Joe Lewis, who is acting as Mr. Scranton's private secretary until he can collar something better, made a bet with me today on the coming Republican majority nomination in Scranton. He took the bet out of the bet and I put up my dough on Colonel Ripple. Lewis also wagered me that Uncle Joe will be a delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention. Both bets were so easy that I really didn't like to take them. It will be like finding the money.

Secretary Carlisle doesn't like the bond bill the house passed on Saturday and is going to take the bull by the horns himself. From the best authority it is said that the secretary of the treasury will issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000,000 and possibly \$200,000,000 early this week. It will not be a popular loan, but will be negotiated through the Cleveland administration, and that is all he and the president are concerned about. W. R. B.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

Not a Time for Blustering. Chicago Times-Herald: "It is the part of good citizenship to remember that the preservation of the peace of the world is, after all, the greatest good to the greatest number, and that war, so far from being a thing to be undertaken, is a thing to be avoided. It is a mere automatic fulmination by Lord Salisbury will not justify a justification to our national conscience, much less appeal to the considerate judgment of history. We owe it to our own dignity, to our commanding position among nations, to our proud Christian civilization, that the most avert act shall be England's, not ours. To this end the good offices of all who have enlisted in the band of peace, and denunciation and revivification from the field of debate. If we are right, as we believe we are in the essence of our contention, so much the more reason why we should keep our temper. The rise, social, commercial and industrial, between the United States and Great Britain are too close to be endangered by reckless oratory or speech, and the responsibility incurred by the statesman, the diplomatist, the editor or preacher of the Gospel, who thus endangers them is a responsibility terrible in its possibilities. International crises much more acute have resulted in peace with honor to all concerned, for our own sake, for the sake of humanity, let us hope for and strive to bring about such an issue of the present contention. Be ready for war, but strive for peace. Therein lies wisdom."

The Short of It. Chicago Times-Herald: "When Uncle Sam got up out of the Atlantic Ocean and set foot on dry land he was told that, according to international law, all he was entitled to was to be hanged. From that time on Uncle Sam was obliged to make international law to suit his own case. The law of nature is the first law of nations. The law of nature is older, higher, deeper and longer than international law. From the time forth, so far as an American continent is concerned, Uncle Sam purposes to make, not to take, international law. This is the law of nature for this nation. This is the short of it."

A Power for Chance. Philadelphia Record: "Mr. Depeux estimates that a war on account of the Venezuelan boundary dispute would cost the United States exactly a round \$1,000,000,000; and he says that the man who owns most of the Venezuelan swamp in dispute has offered to sell it to the United States for \$25,000,000. According to Mr. Depeux's mathematical system of ethics, a question of principle is nothing in comparison with a question of principal and interest. Probably \$2,500 would have paid for the tea dumped in Boston through the late Mr. Fenwick. It was extravagance to dump the tea?"

Christmas Presents.

HILL & CONNELL, 131 AND 133 N. WASHINGTON AVE.

REYNOLDS BROS., Stationers and Engravers, 317 LACKAWANNA AVE.

Special Sale of OVERCOATS. Fine selection of Ready-Made Clothing; also Clothes made to order at the lowest prices. Perfect fit guaranteed at B. LEHMAN & CO'S, 111 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, Corner Franklin.

CHRISTMAS

Is now over. If you have been well remembered and want to return compliments, buy a New Year's Present. We still have a good selection of goods in CHINA, GLASSWARE, CROCKERY, SILVERWARE. GLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO., (LIMITED), 422 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

Diaries for 1896. BLANK BOOKS. LARGE AND COMPLETE STOCK. Spot Cash. Rock-Bottom Prices. FINE COMMERCIAL, SCHOOL AND SOCIETY STATIONERY. WEBER PIANOS. Call and see these Pianos, and some the best second-hand Pianos we have taken in exchange. GUERNSEY BROTHERS, 204 4th Street, Opp. The Court House.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR.

The Clerk of the Weather

Tells us that we will have extreme cold weather very soon. So lots of heavy garments will be needed. We will make it very interesting to all shrewd buyers now in our Cloak and Fur Departments. The selection is nearly as good now as in the beginning of the season, especially in fine fashionable garments.

- \$ 8.00 Ladies' and Misses' Reefer Jackets reduced to \$ 4.98
10.00 Ladies' Reefer Jackets reduced to 6.98
17.00 Ladies' Silk Lined Jackets reduced to 9.98
12.00 Ladies' Fur Capes, Full sweep, reduced to 6.98
16.00 Ladies' Canada Seal Capes reduced to 9.98
20.00 Ladies' Electric Seal Capes reduced to 12.98
30.00 Ladies' Astrakhan Capes reduced to 17.98
50.00 Ladies' Wool Seal Capes reduced to 29.98

New Year Gifts

Gold Pens and Pencils, Family and Teachers' Bibles, Episcopal Hymnals and Prayer Books, Episcopal Hymnals with Music, Catholic Prayer Books, Fine Presentation Books. DIARIES. DIARIES. DIARIES. REYNOLDS BROS., Stationers and Engravers, 317 LACKAWANNA AVE.

Hold Still!

And get your picture took with one of them er pocket Kodaks from FLOREY'S. They will take the picture of a candidate for a city office, ears and all. So your ears will get in all right, too.

NECKWEAR

IMPERIALS At 50c. CONRAD. OYSTERS. We are Headquarters for Oysters and are handling the Celebrated Duck Rivers, Lynn Havens, Keyports, Mill Ponds; also Shrewsbury, Rockaways, Maurice River Cores, Western Shores and Blue Points. PIERCE'S MARKET, PENNAVE.

WELSBACH LIGHT

Specially Adapted for Reading and Sewing. A Pure White Steady Light and Very Economical. Consumes three (3) feet of gas per hour and gives an efficiency of sixty (60) candles. Saving at least 33% per cent. over the ordinary Tip Burner. Call and See It.

HUNT & CONNELL CO., 434 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, Manufacturers' Agents.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG.

Previous to our inventory we have decided to close out what we have on hand of EDWIN C. BURT & CO'S LADIES' FINE SHOES. Consisting of a well assorted line of hand made and turned in French. The styles that were sold at \$6.00, \$5.50 and \$5.00. Now reduced to \$4.00. These shoes are in perfect condition. Call early if you wish to take advantage of this special sale.

The Lackawanna Store Association (LIMITED), CORNER LACKA. AND JEFFERSON AVES.

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Fine Trunks, Bags and Dress Suit Cases WINDLOW ICE SKATES Pocket Books, Card Cases Bill and Leather Books Purse, Bill Rolls, etc. Finest line in the city of KNIVES, SCISSORS, RAZORS AND RAZOR STROPS TOILET BOXES, DRESSING CASES Collar and Cuff Boxes GLOVE BOXES AND SMOKING SETS Menicure and Shaving Sets MUSIC ROLLS Hair, Tooth and Nail Brushes A Fine Line TRIPPLICATE MIRRORS Sterling Silver Mounted Leather Goods at Bottom Prices UMBRELLAS AND GLOVES IMPORTED BRONZES AND NOVELTIES In Every Variety. HARNES AND HORSE CLOTHING.

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