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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, JANUARY 2, 1896.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Headquarters Republican state committee, 1231 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.

Attest:
Jere B. Rex,
W. R. Andrews,
Secretaries.

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

The president is to be commended for taking his time in selecting the Venezuelan commisssion. Its work is important enough to warrant conservatism and fine judgment in the creation of it. No other commisssion in American history ever had before it a more delicate task.

"Downing" Tom Reed.

Secretary Carlisle has not emerged from his recent occupation with the expected eclat. It is common talk in Washington that he and the president, or, more accurately, the president and he, have determined to down Tom Reed. The president thought he had put a nail into the speaker's coffin when, in the wake of his popular Venezuelan message, he launched another message to congress asking it to forego its holiday vacation and pass bills for the relief of the nation's finances. It was argued in the white house that if Reed adjourned congress without action, he would call down upon his head the indignant censure of the country, whereas if he kept the house in session, there would be a hopeless split on the free silver issue and nothing would be done.

Mr. Reed's answer to this challenge was characteristic. Within two days the adjournment resolution was pigeonholed and a tariff bill passed providing $40,000,000 more revenue—the most expeditious response which the lower house of congress has ever made to a presidential appeal. In three days more a bond bill was ready for the senate, authorizing the issue of 3 per cent. bonds in place of the 4 and 5 per cents. provided for by the present law. The president was beaten at his own game, and beaten so badly that the best he could do in reprisal was to get Secretary Carlisle to come to the front with an interview declaring that the government had all the revenue it needed—which was so transparent a falsehood that it everywhere provoked derision—and that the only thing needed of congress was a law authorizing the retirement of the greenbacks, which would mean a $500,000,000 contraction in our currency.

But now another chapter is added to this bit of history, in the discovery that all arrangements for a new issue of bonds under the old law had been perfected weeks before the present congress assembled, and that consequently Cleveland's message and Carlisle's interview were neither of them written in good faith, but were simply put out at this time with a view partly to embarrass Mr. Reed and partly to give the administration a pretext for adding another $100,000,000 to the nation's bonded indebtedness. The figure cut by the president and his secretary of the treasury in the light of this information is one to which they are certainly welcome. If they can stand it Tom Reed certainly can, for it is making him daily stronger as a presidential candidate.

When the time comes, it is a safe guess that the Luzerne national delegates will be chosen, one from Upper Lehigh and the other from West Pittston.

The Trodden Worm Turns.

Mayor Swift, of Chicago, was lately invited to be present at a banquet given by the Civic Federation, Chicago's leading reform organization. He not only accepted, but also prepared a speech explaining in detail the city's municipal needs. When he got through, other speakers, belonging to the federation, fololwed with scathing denunciations of the mayor's administration, attacking with especial virulence the police and fire departments. This unexpected fusilade quickly brought the mayor to his feet; and the impromptu remarks which he made in reply have not yet ceased to echo in the ears of his auditors.

It was easy, he said in substance, for well-fed burghers to gather in swell clubs and over their coffee and cigars murmur at the growing costs of city government and to propound sapient theories for the betterment of things in general. But he had noted that whenever an honest servant of the people tried to rally this "better element" to his support at the polls in practical methods of reform, it generally pleaded another engagement or, when the primary came round, forgot to go out and vote. It was no secret, added the mayor, why Chicago was misgoverned. It was misgoverned because those who have the ability and the character to govern it well shirk their duty and abandon the field to the possession of the ignoramuses and the knaves. But when a crooked franchise or a shady "job" was to be "worked" through council by the purchasable votes of the members to whom the better element have abdicated political authority, he had never heard of a well-dressed critic of municipal government whose scruples prevented him from buying stock in the steal or pocketing the resultant profits. For his part, the mayor said, he had determined hereafter to decline to sit patient under criticism which should rather be aimed at the careless electorate behind him, or to take the pummeling of professional reformers whom he knew to be eager panderers to the appetite of dishonest councilmen for illicit spoils, or abject suppliants for exoneration from honestly incurred taxation.

It is needless to say that this speech created a sensation; but it is significant that the mayor is almost universally sustained. His language was caustic, but it is conceded that the provocation warranted it. Municipal reform is too often academic and rhetorical, rather than practical, sincere and real. The idea that a citizen's duty to the city begins and ends with the reading of a quarterly essay at the club on "Good Government," while all the rest of the time he is at liberty to make false property returns, dodge the assessor, shirk the primaries and set up schemes for mulcting the city through fake franchises or rotten contracts needs just some sharp, detonating explosion as was given to it by Chicago's mayor. There are two sides to every question. Let those who would reform the city by preamble and resolution be sure that their daily walk and work are in accord with their public profession.

If their performance kept pace with their promises, there are some men in the "Independent Republican" camp in this city who would be great politicians.

Concerning Political Advertising.

A question of journalistic ethics has been raised in Lancaster county by the confession of Senator Kauffman that he has recently offered several Republican weekly papers money to insert articles booming John Wanamaker for the United States senatorship. Says the senator, in reply to criticisms of his action: "I believe in printers' ink. Upon my own responsibility and without the knowledge or consent of Mr. Wanamaker I met some representatives of the county press and showed them articles which I wanted them to print in their papers, and for which I paid them, as I would for any other political matter, and just as I have paid city and country papers for like services in the past. It was an open business transaction, with nothing mysterious or secret about it."

Apart from the surprising interest taken by Mr. Kauffman in Mr. Wanamaker's candidacy this circumstance apparently presents no point of novelty. If the senator from Lancaster wishes to buy newspaper space for the exploitation of Mr. Wanamaker's political wares, we can see no reason why the proposition should not be regarded as resting upon a basis identical with that of Mr. Wanamaker himself when the latter advertises the wares for sale in his celebrated bargain store, provided, of course, that there is no deception. It would not be fair to palm such paid political advertising off as original news or comment; but in its proper classification among the advertisements it is as legitimate a feature of the newspapers as is the baking powder announcements or the patent medicine cuts.

The incident, however, suggests another thought; and it is economic rather than ethical. It occurs to us that Senator Kauffman is wasting his money. We do not know anything about his financial circumstances and cannot therefore say whether his present patronage of the newspapers is dictated by promiscuous philanthropy or by shrewd self-interest. But if it be the latter, we make bold to suggest that a safer plan of investment would be to expend money on a journey to Washington followed by a personal visit to Senator Quay. It is possible that the newspapers of Lancaster county may have something to do with choosing Mr. Cameron's successor, but we suspect that Senator Quay will have even more to do with it. Hence we advise our senatorial friend not to dissipate his resources on non-essentials, but rather to present his case at headquarters. Under the present system of politics in Pennsylvania that would be a very much more practical method than to try to appeal to public sentiment. Public sentiment is a good thing; but it sometimes is not to be mentioned beside a "pull."

Mr. Smalley warns Americans that if they don't look out the Rothschilds will refuse to buy their bonds. Brother Smalley must have forgotten what happened during the civil war. The American people, if necessary, can take care of their own bonds.

The newspaper publishers of Chicago have decided to drop the chromo premium and the fake guessing contest, and expend their energies on printing better newspapers. We have heard of no one ready to deny that their decision is wise.

We judge from the Record that Wilkes-Barre is to have a Sunday observance crusade on the basis of being holier than Scranton. Why not leave Scranton entirely out of the problem?

A few days ago a woman in a Southern town was burned to death by a mob of representative citizens who were dissatisfied with her matrimonial inclinations. If this had happened in Turkey or China what a strong argument it would have been in the interest of extra missionary recruits!

Senator Quay's resolution looking to the building of six instead of two new battleships is a wise one. Every time we add a battleship to our navy we increase by so much our prestige as a nation and decrease by so much the chances of war. It is yet a fact that might conserves right.

It is probable that there will be a very tired man in the white house before the job of downing Tom Reed is completed.

A commission to ascertain the true war news in Cuba would be a popular novelty in this age of commisssions.

The war news from Cuba again appears to have taken a violent Ananias turn.

By doing its laughing in advance of the primaries, the Scranton Republican wisely makes sure of it.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Tribune Bureau,
No. 515 Fourteenth street, N. W.,
Washington, Jan. 1, 1896.

The president may postpone the new bond issue for several days, but there seems to be now no doubt about him dumping one or two hundred millions into the laps of the Morgan-Belmont syndicate at an early date. He has made up his mind that the treasury can get no immediate relief from congress, and the sooner the deed is done the better it will be for the country. On Tuesday Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, attempted to get a bill through prohibiting the president and secretary of the treasury from selling bonds to syndicates to keep up the surplus, but it was choked off by the administration Democrats in quick order. Senator Elkins is not opposed to the issuance of bonds, but he wants them properly advertised and sold to the people at the lowest interest possible. In other words he wants it to be a popular loan. That is just what President Cleveland doesn't want and he will not have it, either.

A bill may be introduced in the present congress for the purchase of property in the northwest section of Washington or in a nearby suburb for the purpose of erecting thereon a new executive mansion for the president and his family. A new executive mansion is badly needed. The old one, known as the "white house," is a disgrace to the nation. It is not only old, and too small, but is located in an unhealthy part of the city. It is in almost the very heart of the malaria district, and it is no wonder President Cleveland and his family do not reside in it any more than they can help. Mrs. Harrison's death four years ago was due largely to the bad location and poor sanitary arrangements of the white house. It will be remembered that she had plans made for both a new executive mansion and the remodeling and enlargement of the old one, and had she lived and been mistress of the white house four years longer she would doubtless have accomplished her ambition. Other occupants of the white house have died from the malarial poisoning which floats about that neighborhood.

Kennesaw Mountain Landis, of Chicago, who was appointed the other day to be special assistant United States attorney for the northern district of Illinois to aid in the prosecution of the Beef Trust, is well known in Washington. He was the private secretary to the late Secretary of State Gresham, and is a young man of more than ordinary ability. Secretary Gresham once told me that young Landis was the brightest and ablest lawyer of his age he ever knew. The way Landis happened to get the name of "Kennesaw Mountain" came about in this way: His father, General Landis, was at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain when he learned of the youngster's arrival. Immediately upon the receipt of the news he telegraphed his wife to name the offspring after the mountain upon which he was then fighting. The old general is still living and is very proud of his son. Young Landis was of incalculable value to Secretary Gresham when points of law were to be decided in the department of state. Secretary Gresham is said to have frequently referred the gravest questions of law as well as diplomacy to his young secretary, and invariably accepted his opinions as final.

Dr. H. L. E. Johnson, a prominent physician of this city, is the possessor of a rare document which he prizes very highly, especially at this time, as it contains the signature of the author of the Monroe doctrine which is now agitating the minds of all Americans as well as Englishmen. It is a soldiers' warrant granting to D. Griffin, a member of Buck's company, Sixth regiment, United States Infantry, 160 acres of land in the then territory of Illinois for services rendered this government in the war of 1812. The document is written on parchment, and contains the signature of James Monroe, president, and is countersigned by Josiah Pheigs, commissioner general of the land office. Dr. Johnson not only values it as a relic, but also because it belonged to his father, who was an intimate personal friend of President Monroe.

It is a rare thing to see a member of congress appear in the hall of representatives in an intoxicated condition, but an occasional one sometimes forgets that he is a gentleman and makes a show of himself. Years ago it was not an uncommon thing for a member of congress to appear in the house under the influence of the flowing bowl, but those days, happily, have about passed. On last Saturday a member from Pennsylvania created a scene by interrupting the proceedings when under the influence of liquor. It was not his first offense, either, but out of charity for himself and family I will not mention his name.

A Tribune reader at Honesdale, Wayne county, has written to me to know if a United States senator gets more salary than a representative in congress; also to tell him what salary a cabinet officer draws. A senator and member of congress get the same salary—$5,000 a year, and a cabinet officer draws $8,000 per annum. The vice-president, who acts as president of the senate, and the speaker of the house draw the same salary as a member of the cabinet. The president's salary previous to Grant's second term was only $25,000 per year. It is now $50,000, which is not any larger than some countries pay their ministers and ambassadors to Washington. Both England and Mexico pay their representatives in this city that amount, in addition to house rent and other perquisites. Very few members, senators or cabinet officers can live in Washington on their salaries. Those who haven't an independent income return home bankrupt at the end of their terms.

Ex-Congressman William A. Sipe, of Pittsburg, was here today. Sipe, who is a Democrat, doesn't think much of his party's chances of success in the Smoky City next spring. The Municipal Reform ticket, which contains two Democrats and one Republican, has put Mr. Sipe's nose out of joint, and he will not support it. Both of the candidates on the reform ticket are worshippers of Harrity, and the State Democracy, of which Colonel James M. Guney is the leader in Pittsburg, will also likely oppose them.

Chairman Andrews, of the Penrose smelling committee, which is investigating the alleged political rottenness in Philadelphia, paid Senator Quay a visit on Monday. Senator Andrews wants to go to the national convention as delegate-at-large, and he will probably have his wish gratified. He is Senator Quay's man Friday and with the senator in a convention without Andrews would be like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out.

Congressman William A. Stone, of Allegheny City, who was reported seriously ill at Atlantic City, is improving and expects to return to Washington early next week to resume his official duties.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Miller has been so overwhelmed with work for the past month that he has not had time to investigate the charges preferred aginst Collector Herring by Billy Burke. Next week he expects to examine the papers filed by Burke and the report of the special agent who took testimony of witnesses at Scranton a couple of months ago. It looks as though Herring will come out of the scrimmage with nothing more than a good thick coat of whitewash, unless Burke can make out a better case than he has up to date against him.

The star route mail messenger service between Dunmore and Scranton has been ordered discontinued after Dec. 31.

An original pension has been granted to Zing Roat, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne county, and an increase to John Knapp, Hines Corners, Wayne county. Jane B. Gage, of Brackney, Susquehanna county, was also granted an original pension.

W. R. B.

THE TRIBUNE ANNUAL.

Most Complete Ever Issued.

Carbondale Herald: The Scranton Tribune Annual and Political Handbook for 1896 has reached our table. The book is the most complete of the kind ever issued in this section of the state. It contains a fund of useful information both of a local and general character. Everything in the way of political statistics, platforms, information in regard to city, borough, county, state or national government, election laws, sporting records, and the usual astronomical facts are to be found in the book. There is a new feature introduced in the statistics of anthracite coal operations for the past thirty-three years. This feature will be found to be replete with interesting and curious information for the student of the progress of our greatest industry. Besides the subject matter of the book there are a number of handsome illustrations making the work ornamental as well as useful.

A Valuable Compendium.

Scranton Truth: The Scranton Tribune's Annual for 1896 has just been issued and is a valuable compendium of interesting facts and statistics. It is, as its cover announces, a "political handbook," and has been compiled with evident care by an experienced hand. The Tribune's Annual contains a vast amount of timely information on national, state and local topics, and will be found a useful book of reference throughout the year. The publishers are to be congratulated upon the excellent character of this publication.

In Every Way a Gem.

Scranton Free Press: We have received the Scranton Tribune Almanac for 1896. In every way considered, typographically, artistically, educationally and especially in the way of a work of reference it is a gem. The Tribune's readers and residents of this section generally will find in this compendium a work which will answer thousands of the questions which daily beset us.

Clean, Neat and Creditable.

Wilkes-Barre Leader: The Scranton Tribune Almanac or Art Annual for 1896 is at hand and is a decidedly pretty publication. It is handsomely illustrated, contains a generous fund of matter usually found in such works, covering, in its local compilations, the counties of Lackawanna, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne and Luzerne. It is clean and neat and altogether creditable.

A Model of Typographical Work.

Wilkes-Barre Times: The Scranton Tribune Art Annual and Political Handbook for 1896 came to us in the mail this morning. It is a book of over a hundred pages and a model of typographical work. Its illustrations are in half-tone on fine paper and statistically it is complete as to state political matters.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 3.48 a. m., for Thursday, Jan. 2, 1896.

A child born on this day will note that good resolutions like beer nausea are effective for the time being, but are liable to be forgotten tomorrow.

Mrs. Nicotera's brain must be somewhat muddled at this time on the question as to which is the greater crime, to commit murder or witness a murder.

It looks as though English war talk and "reform" in Scranton expired with the old year.

The character of the man who boasts of putting his worst side to the world generally renders his asertion indisputable.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Do not hide your light under a bushel. In many instances a hickorynut shell will do just as well.