the Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition

Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

New York Office: Tribune Bullding, Frank & Gray, Manager,

E. P. KINGSBURY, PRES. AND GEN's Man. E. H. RIPPLE, SEC'Y AND THEAD. LIVY B. RICHARD, EDITOR. W. W. DAVIS, BUSINESS MANAGER. W. W. YOUNGS, ADV. MANG'S

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 3, 1896.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Headquarters Republican state commit tee, 1231 Walnut street.
Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 12, 1895.
To the Republican Electors of Pennsyl-

vania:

The Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in state convention, Thursday, April 23, 1895, 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 tors, 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 conven-

If Grover Cleveland is really bent on downing Tom Reed he ought to move for a change of venue.

Let Our Poor Directors Be Elected by the People.

The contention that the directors of this poor district should be nominated and elected by a direct vote of the people presupposes that the people, after all, are the true source of public authority. Any argument to the contrary will have to establish that a better grade of public service is likely to result from the present appointive system than from an elective system; and if this be established with reference to the care of the poor, why should it not likewise obtain as to the care of criminals and even in the matter of the judiciary itself? In other words, if it be wise to appoint rather than elect poor directors, why should it not be equally wise also to appoint sheriffs and judges?

Theoretically it is a plausible argument that a man fit to be president qualified than the public at large to choose overseers of the poor. In some cases this argument probably is true in fact as well as in theory. But when judges fall, as they sometimes do, into the bad habit of turning their appointive power into a method of discharging personal or factional obligations, and virtually peddle appointments about with political strings tied to them, then It becomes time to consider whether, after all, the system of direct election by the people were not wisest and best,

We reproduce in another column the comments of the esteemed Truth upon this subject and commend them as an intelligent and timely presentation of the case. To its able argument it may be added that there is reason to believe the office of president judge already has more than its rightful share of political appointments, and that a curtailment of these responsibilities would leave time for a better discharge of the regular judicial function and thus work to the public benefit.

Covernor Morton would make an amlable president, Indeed, if amiability he would have very little difficulty in securing the nomination.

Dr. Rothrock's Report.

The estimate of State Forestry Commissioner Rothrock, that in addition to the \$1,000,000 of direct loss caused in this state each year by forest fires, a further loss of not less than \$30,000,000 is sustained annually in indirect ways, islative initiative. is of course merely one man's guess; but it is the guess of a man who has made this subject a life study, and who has no selfish end to serve by misrepresenting the facts.

Dr. Rothrock does not agree with those who hold that this immense destruction is inevitable. While he admits that no system could be devised sufficiently thorough to secure absolute immunity from fires in our woodlands, he nevertheless contends that the number of such fires can be decreased as certainly as we decrease the frequency of other criminal acts, by punishing the offenders. When started they can, he contends, be extinguished and their ravages reduced to a minimum by the same method that we guard our towns and cities-that is, by making it the business of some officer or officers to attend to and direct the work.

There is nothing specially new in Dr. Rothrock's annual report, yet there is much in it that will be proper food for thought and proper incentive to legislative action so long as the present tremendous spoliation of our forests continues. The last word on this subject will not be said until the evil in its preventible guise shall have been obviated.

Lord Dunrayen is recommended in the future to keep away from America. We never did have much use in this vulgar country for things with titles.

An Erroneous Prophecy.

If we may credit newspaper gossip, that Lord Salisbury, after an interval sufficient for the cooling of present ex- are nearer to success now than they citement in the premises, will endeavor have been at any time since they en-

to effect a solution of the Venezuelan difficulty by negotiating with Venezuela for the purchase of the territory at present in dispute. Our principal patriots something more substantial authority for this belief is Walter Wellman, the well-informed Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald; and after reporting the prevalence of it he adds: "If Salisbury can get out of his predicament in this way, no objections thereto will be urged in Washington."

We are not so sure about that. It is true that under its latest or Olney interpretation the Monroe doctrine has been construed to have no prohibitive force against European acquisition of American territory by negotiation, trade or purchase. Yet it is equally true that the Monroe doctrine in its original form contained no such discrimination or proviso; and in our judgment it will be nothing short of national cowardice if the whole doctrine is not henceforth upheld in all its original amplitude.

Suppose that England already having anada on the north, were to take it into her head that it would be a good idea to have a strip of English soil on the southern border of the United States; and in pursuit of that purpose should begin to dicker with Mexico for territorial concessions. Under the Olney doctrine, the whole of Mexico might be acquired by England without protest on our part, provided no force were used by England; that is, provided Mexico made no complaint. But under the Monroe doctrine, we should be as quick to resent European acquisition by trade or purchase as by force, for the reason that in self defence we, and not an European monarchy, need to wield the balance of power in the Amercan hemisphere.

Of course, it will be said that the purchase by England from Venezuela of some 40,000 square miles of South American territory would in no respect overturn the present balance of power, and hence would not be a proper subject for American objection or interference. But if it be none of our business in the case of peaceable acquisition, why should it be any more our business in the case of attempted acquisition by fraud or force? And if we now keep hands off in a small matter what right would we ever have hereafter to interere in a big one?

The gist of the matter is that Secretary Olney has discarded half of the Monroe doctrine, and that half perhaps the more important one. We suspect that there is still sufficient good stuff in the American nation, take it as a whole, notwithstanding the Wall street Mugwumps and the pale-livered college purfessors, to stand up, should necessity arise, for the whole Monroe doctrine, 24-carats fine.

The president has acted wisely in giving the Republicans a majority of the Venezuelan commissison. This shows that he can, in such a matter, rise above

An Absurd Jury Verdict. The dissatisfaction expressed by

Judge Savidge with the verdict of the local jury, which, in a criminal action, held a defendant not guilty but ordered that he pay part of the costs is fully shared by the public. Yet verdicts like this are of almost daily occurrence in Pennsylvania, and form one many persons there is a feeling of distrust of the regular courts of law, such as is hurtful to the public welfare.

In a criminal action before a higher court the verdict of acquittal ought to constitute a complete exoperation. otherwise we should have the anoma lous spectacle of a prisoner forced to pay for being found not guilty. The community, when by its grand jury it sanctions a prosecution, should be willing to bear the expense of the trial, regardless of the outcome. If the prisoner is found guilty, the cost of reaching such a verdict is rightly supposed to be made up to the community in the bettered condition of its moral tone and of its safety caused by the due conviction of a violator of its rights. If found innocent, the assumption by the public of all costs in the premises is a little enough reparation for the injustice of the arrest and the public arraign-

To be sure, a line of reasoning similar to the above is rarely characteristic of the average jury, which under the law is chosen rather for its unfitness than for its fitness as a supreme authority in lishers the compliments of the season. were the chief requisite in a president, the interpretation of evidence. But until absurd verdicts like that just noted cease to be frequent, our common courts of law will have to endure rather more of popular odium and contempt than is best either for the courts or for the public. If there is any relief for this condition of affairs short of the enactment of new statutes it should be put in operation without waiting for leg-

The story goes that C. L. Magee threatens to arrest the Andrews Lexow committee if it goes to Pittsburg, but we don't believe it. Mr. Magee would hardly take the committee's visit as anything personal.

Cuba as a Belligerent.

According to the doctrine advanced by President Monroe, (apart from the deliverance popularly known as the 'Monroe Doctrine") when a people in revolt against their government have sufficiently maintained their cause to give a reasonable prospect of success they are entitled to recognition as belligerents. At the time President Monroe advanced this doctrine some of the South American states were endeavoring to throw off the foreign yoke that oppressed them-in short, they were struggling for civil and political liberty, very much the same as the Cubans are now striving to free themselves from the tyranny and oppression imposed upon them by the government at Madrid. The Cubans have maintained their cause with wonderful tenacity and with a bravery that commands the admiration and respect of the people of the United States. If James Monroe were president of this republic at the present time there can be no doubt that he would apply to the Cubans the same principle which he held with reference to the South American states, and hold that they are entitled to all the rights there is a growing feeling in Washington of belligerents. They have more than held their own; on the contrary, they

present revolution. Surely the government of the United States should extend to these struggling

than mere sympathy. Why should not these people have the same privileges that the Spanish government has? If they'are desirous of purchasing arms and munitions of war, or war-ships, in the United States why should they not be permitted to do so? Spain has that right, and whatever position may be taken by European governments, there is no good reason why the Cuban patriots should not have a similar privilege at least in this republic. If belligerent rights were conceded by our government to the Cubans there is every reason for believing that the war would the more speedily terminate and that the liberation of Cuba would be the result. Is not this a consummation devoutly to be desired by all patriotic and liberty-loving Americans? Suppose there are a few thousands of men in the United States who would be willing to espouse the cause of the struggling Cubans to the extent of fighting for it, why should our government interfere to prevent them from making the attempt to reach that island? When the American colonies were waging a bloody war for freedom. France came to their assistance with men and means. It is urged that this country is at peace with Spain; that we have no quarrel with that country, and therefore no incentive to aid the Cubans. That may be true, but it is also true that we ought to be the firm friend, if not the natural ally of any people in this hemisphere who are endeavoring to free themselves from foreign oppression. A people who fought for and achieved their own liberty cannot be expected to stand by indifferent when a neighboring people are

We believe that the Cubans have, by their perseverance and courage, entitled themselves to be recognized as belligerents on the basis advanced by President Monroe. It is something of a surprise to many Americans that congress has not before this time taken up the subject in some form with a view, at least, of placing itself in line with popular sentiment among the American people. President Cleveland, in his message to congress with reference to the Venezuelan question, heartily endorsed one phase of the Monroe doctrine. Great Britain demands a strip of territory heretofore recognized as belonging to Venezuela. The president in his message warns England that before she can be permitted to take the territory claimed she must establish a clear title to it before an impartial tribunal. The American people sustain the president

engaged in a similar struggle

in taking this position. In Cuba, the Spanish government is fighting to subjugate the people and compel them to remain in a condition of vassalage to Spanish tyranny. The president has not one word to say in behalf of a people who are fighting for political and civil liberty, but is ready to go to war with England in defense of a people who are resisting the loss of a strip of their national domain. The Monroe doctrine, which resists the extension of foreign power on this continent, is all right, but no less right is that other phase of the Monroe doctrine which would extend recognition and belligerent rights to people struggling to throw off foreign power. Cuba has earned such recognition, and the United States should grant it quickly, unreservedly and gladly.

Among the annuals issued by newspapers in this portion of the state, none is better prized by its recipients than that of the Wilkes-Barre Record. It is a concise yet comprehensive collection of such data as are indispensable to wide-awake readers. The Tribune acknowledges with thanks a copy of the excellent issue of 1896.

The Carbondale Leader, long one of the best inland newspapers in the state, has just taken another forward stride It has installed a new press and enlarged to eight neat pages, made handsome by new headings and body type, The Leader is living up to its name.

The Scranton Republican almanac for 1896 is the nineteenth of its kind, and like its predecessors is a careful and accurate compendium of useful statistical information. We acknowledge its receipt and offer to its pub-

THE TRIBUNE ANNUAL.

A Masterpiece of Its Kind.

A Masterpiece of Its kind.

Olyphant Record: The Tribune almanae for 1886 has come to hand. It is a masterpiece of its kind. The cuts that adorn it are tasty and well executed, while the make-up of the whole is the best possible recommendation to The Tribune print. The "Annual" is replete with useful information relative to the city of Scranton, the countles of Lackawanna and Wyoming, and also contains many interesting facts concerning the Federal government. Practical information is also dispensed throughout this manual of Ilp pages which will well repay careful perusal. It is a work that should be in every office, store and home, and those conversant with its contents will find it a storehouse of facts most prolitable during the coming year.

No One Should Be Without It. No One Should Be Without It.

Carbondale Leader: The Scranton Tribune's annual, which came to hand this morning, is a fine compilation of facts and statistics that is worth far more than the quarter charged for the book, Among these are the local events of 1895, complete and detailed election returns, tax, coal and other statistics of local interest, population of every city, town and hamlet in the vicinity, city and borough governments and much other matter besides much general miscellany and many illustrations. No man wno pretends or desires to be posted should be without this volume.

One of the Best Yet Seen. Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer: The Scranton Tribune almanac to hand is typographically and, in point of merit, one of the best that has come to our notice. While it has been compiled with reference to Lackawanna county, and in this it is very full and accurate, the general character of the contents makes it of much value and interest to every one.

ELECT THE POOR DIRECTORS.

From the Scranton Truth.

While the appointment of Alderman Fuller, as a member of the Scranton poor board, to till the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Charles Tropp, is one that meets the cordial approval of the Truth, we cannot help thinking that it is high time the taxpayers of the district took the necessary steps to have directors of the poor elected by popular vote.

ote. The original charter under which the The original charter under which the poor distret was organized gave the voters the privilege of electing directors, but this right was swept away by an ingenious supplement which vested the power of appointment in the president judge of Luzerne county whenever a vacancy occurred either by death, resignation or otherwise It was the "or otherwise" that did the business and transferred the power of selection from the voters of the district to the president judge of Luzerne upon the shallow formality of a petition.

For years the affairs of the Scranton poor district have been directed by men appointed by a Wilkes-Barre judge, and the ridiculous situation was acquiesced in right along until Judge filee, realizing the absurdity of the thing, finally refused to have anything further to do with the making of such appointments, since he con-

have anything further to do with the making of such appointments, since he considered it beyond the sphere of his official duties, and transferred the obligation to the courts of Lackawanna.

We believe the taxpayers of this district should seek resicration of their rights, as conferred by the original charter, which provided for the election of poor directors, and that they should take early action with this end in view so that the subject might receive proper attention at the next session of the Pennsylvania legislature. There is no valid reason why the people should not elect their poor directors as they do their judges and other officials who are charged with great responsibility, and the question is one that ought to receive the attention of the taxpayers of the Scranton poor district without delay.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Brawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 3.62 a. m., for Friday, Jan. 2, 1896.

It will be apparent to a child born on this day that it is useless to lecture juries for disregard of evidence with the exam-ples of the Pennsylvania pardon board be-fore them.

At a matter of course the man who is least capable of filling his station in life generally makes the most noise about it. Individual Horoscopes.

[Ajacchus has undertaken the task of giving advice to a few readers who have enclosed samples of hair and date of

Cizzerizo, of Moosle,-In your horoscope Cizzerizo, of Moosic.—In your horoscope the signs of zodiac whizz around like a buzz saw. There is a vein of humor in your make-up that is exceedingly cutting. You are a man of few words and use pointed arguments. It will be dangerous for you to reside outside of Lackawanna county. In aimost any other locality there is a disposition on part of the exponents of law and justice to dangle citizens of your inclinations at the end of a rope.

May, of Scranton.—Consultation with the

May, of Seranton.—Consultation with the stars was not necessary to demonstrate that you are a bright gid. The fact that you do not spell your mame "Mae" is also in your favor. Do not be downcast because you are not rich. Remember that balloon sleeves are usually hollow. If you improve your taients you may yet be able to make the eyes of your dearest girl friend turn green with envy. Cheer up, May; there's lots of fan in store for you.

Christmas Presents.

BASKETS BASKETS

Bargains

We are now taking account of stock. It will take the whole month of January to go through our five floors and weed out the odds and ends that are left after a year's business.

We intend to close them out quick as possible to make room for new spring stock.

There will be some real bargains. If you are in need of anything in our line it will pay you to visit our store.

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Fine China, Crockery, Cut Glass, Lamps and House Furnishing Goods.

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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 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 \$ 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

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BANQUET LAMPS, ETC.



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And get your picture took with one of them er pocket Kodaks from

They will take the picture of a candidate for a city office, ears and all. So your ears will get in all right, too.



STILL HAVE A LIVELY TIME SELLING FROM THE MOST COMPLETE STOCK OF

NECKWEAR IN THE CITY. Some Choice Colors in

IMPERIALS At 50°.

Celebrated Duck Rivers, Lynn Havens, Keyports, Mill Ponds; also Shrews-bury, Rockaways, Maurice River Coves, Western Shores and Blue Points.

Blue Points on balf shell in carriers.



Consumes three (8) feet of gas per hour and gives an efficiency of sixty (60) candles.
Saving at least 33½ per cent, over the ordinary Tip Burners.
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WAIT TOO LONG.

Previous to our inventory we have decided EDWIN C. BURT & CO.'S LADIES' FINE SHOES, Consisting of a well assorted line of hand welts and turns in French and American kid that were sold at \$500, \$5.50 and \$6.00, \$3.50.

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