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LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor.
W. W. DAVIS, Business Manager.
W. W. YOUNGS, Adv Mang'r.

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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, JANUARY 4, 1896.

Three years ago when Matt H. Dale was likely to be the Republican candidate for mayor, Mr. Connell submitted a proposition to Randolph Crippen, the Democratic nominee, pledging his support if certain concessions were made. This can be supported by an affidavit from Mr. Crippen tomorrow if desired.—Scranton Republican.

Bring on the affidavit. It will be none the less an untruth.

In the Interest of Justice.

Attention is called to the statement of facts on another page in relation to the charge made in yesterday's Republican against Captain William H. Burke of this city. That attack, involving as it did not only a suppression of facts which would, if given in connection with the charge itself, have illumined its true character, but also the gratuitous wounding of a high spirited and sensitive gentleman who is not now a candidate for office and who is therefore not before the public for criticism, is characteristic of the man who penned it, and in keeping with his habitual methods. All that we ask is that those who read the accusation will in fairness also read the defense. Then let the public judge.

As for the Scranton Republican's latest abuse of Mr. Connell and Colonel Ripple, that needs at this time no special attention, since it is simply a rehashing of oft-repeated slanders uttered by a man who enjoys, it would seem, a certain inapproachable aptitude in the use of falsehoods, billingsgate, braggadocio and smut. If the public wishes to make comparisons of its own between the public or private records of Mr. Connell or Colonel Ripple on the one hand, and Mr. Scranton on the other, it is doubtless sufficiently familiar with the facts in the premises to do this without assistance from The Tribune. Today's primaries will afford it a good opportunity to give expression to its verdict in this issue; and we, for our part, are entirely willing to submit the case to that tribunal without further argument.

The Republican says that it "will cordially support whatever ticket is honestly nominated next Tuesday." Its support or its opposition is doubtless a matter of indifference to the probable nominees. Three years ago an outsider had to write its editorials in support of the Republican city ticket in that campaign and they were printed only under protest. Last fall the county committee had to send a prodding sub-committee to the Republican office before it would accord the county ticket any notice. Yet both times the ticket won by majorities unheard of during the reign of Czar Scranton. Looking at the matter with an eye to past results we should say that the less the Republican supported the next city ticket the better will be its chances of election.

The New Viaduct Ordinance.

The ordinance of Councilman Oliver proposing to submit to a vote of the people the question of bonding the city to the extent of $150,000 for the purpose of constructing a viaduct on West Lackawanna avenue, between Seventh and Ninth streets, on property to be purchased outright on the southerly side of the avenue, will command approval where the original viaduct project invited criticism, for the reason that it puts the matter on a fair and equitable business footing. The difficulty with the original viaduct project was that it left the question of damages open, thus involving the city in definite possibilities of litigation and expense. In the present ordinance it is proposed to acquire the necessary property by negotiation before constructing the viaduct, thus making it possible for the city to know in advance just how much it will have to pay for the improvement.

If it shall prove that Mr. Oliver's estimate is sufficient to cover all the costs in the premises, his proposition will undoubtedly encounter general favor. There is, among fair-minded Scrantonians, no difference of opinion as to the need of a viaduct over this dangerous and much-traveled portion of West Lackawanna avenue. It has been good luck rather than anything else which has hitherto prevented many serious accidents at this point. In addition to the peril now surrounding vehicles and pedestrians, there is constantly in prospect the possibility of an accident to the downward cars of the Scranton Traction company, which a viaduct would obviate. Given a slipping of the car brakes and a simultaneously passing train, and we have all the elements of a tragedy frightful to contemplate even as a possibility.

The impression has been studiously fostered by certain unscrupulous politicians that there exists in connection with the present city administration a cherished wish to oppose the viaduct project in all its forms. Statements to this effect have been repeatedly circulated on the West Side, and are doubtless being made in the present mayoralty campaign. Such representations are gross perversions of the truth, and reflect with anything but credit upon those who make them. Whatever official objection has arisen in the past to the viaduct project has been directed, not against the justice of the claim of the West Side to this improvement, but to the faulty manner of its formulation. The present ordinance appears to obviate past objections, and will undoubtedly be received with approval by many who felt in duty bound to enter objection to its faultily-drafted predecessor.

Says the Republican: "The ownership of The Tribune will court a personal controversy with that of the Republican at its peril." The owners of The Tribune do not concur in Mr. Scranton's estimate of his own importance.

Ought to Stand by It.

Ex-Secretary Foster's idea of raising additional revenue is to put a dollar of new tax per barrel on beer. "Thus," says he, "you get $32,000,000 at a jump. This would go a long way towards filling in the difference between our income and our expense account. It would be no political harm, either. It would fall on the brewers. As a tax it would never reach the consumer. Beer glasses would be as large for a nickel as they are today. There's plenty of profit in beer to make room for the extra $1, whether it be paid by the brewer or the saloon keeper. Beer costs the saloon man $6 a barrel. He retails it, five cents a glass, for $30. With such a profit $1 extra on beer is the easy, natural revenue thing to do."

The question of the "harm" done by adding to the tax on beer is one which would probably not worry the majority of persons if they deemed it advisable in time of peace to substitute direct for indirect taxation. But there is reason to believe that they do not favor any such substitution. The present insufficiency of the federal revenues having been brought about by the wanton sacrifice of protective duties, it follows at once that the one proper way to repair the deficit is to restore the protection. The house bill has done this, and the Republicans in the senate and throughout the country ought to stand by it.

In at least one respect the Scranton Poor board yesterday reorganized just right. Its unanimous re-election of E. J. Lynett as secretary was a deserved compliment to a most efficient and deserving official.

Today's Primaries.

It has not been The Tribune's custom to espouse in its columns the cause of any candidate or candidates for local office prior to the adjournment of the nominating convention. As a rule the duty of selecting party nominees may safely be left without comment to the convention. But exceptional circumstances justify exceptional action, and in the present ante-convention municipal canvass in the Republican party in Scranton, peculiar conditions have arisen which require treatment out of the ordinary.

At the beginning of this canvass certain individuals who had for some time been active in fighting Republican nominees and in fomenting party disturbance met together and mapped out a plan of campaign, ostensibly in the interest of Captain Moir, but in reality with a view to re-establishing the corrupt and arbitrary domination of J. A. Scranton, which had been practically repudiated by the people as too offensive for further tolerance. At secret meetings and in the columns of Mr. Scranton's paper false charges were made against men of life-long prominence as Republicans and as citizens, whose offense consisted in refusing to be bulldozed, and slanders were uttered of the most unjustifiable character. When it came to be not simply a voicing of candid party preference as to candidates but rather an atrocious diffusion of personal calumnies and a kind of Guy Fawkes conspiracy of attempted political assassination, there was left to self-respecting Republicans no choice but to organize in defense. This has been done, and a ticket has been offered for party approval containing the names of Colonel E. H. Ripple, as its candidate for mayor; Daniel Williams, for city treasurer; and Fred J. Widmayer, for controller. For this ticket we invite support at today's Republican primaries.

Colonel Ripple has already been tried as mayor and his record, whether in public or in private life, is unfamiliar to few. Daniel Williams has been for many years one of the staunch Republicans and sturdy citizens of the West Side, and his record, too, is known. Mr. Widmayer's best claim to renomination is found in the splendid work done by him during his first term. He has made an irreproachable city official and not custom merely but also merit pleads in favor of his re-election. This is the ticket which clean Republicanism offers as its reply to the envious scurrility of the "Independent Republican" organ and to the misrepresentations and the bluster of the standing malcontents who manipulate the opposition. Let party sentiment make an intelligent choice.

Senator Sherman never said a truer thing than when he declared that if the government had to borrow money, it ought to borrow from its own citizens, and not from foreign bankers. The financial operations of the second Cleveland administration will make a humiliating page in American history.

English Comment on Bayard.

Says the London Sun: "The idea of impeaching the American ambassador because of some statements and opinions in a speech delivered in this country, may be justified in Washington by the exigencies of parliamentary rules and political warfare, but after all, even in the ardor and stress of home warfare, some respect is due to the dignity of a nation and to its repute abroad; and the dignity and repute of every nation are inextricably bound up with its representatives abroad. As for Mr. Bayard, the United States was never represented in this country by a gentleman who commanded more universal respect. Kind, frank and thoughtful, he is a man who represents the very best type of American gentlemen; and, whatever political opponents may say—and with internal differences in the United States we in England have nothing to do—every American in London knows that he is a representative to be proud of."

The Sun's endorsement of Mr. Bayard is chivalrous; but it is personal rather than judicial. Very different is the acrid criticism of the London Times, which in discussing the ambassador's Edinburgh speech remarks that "as all this amounts to calling in question the wisdom of one-half of his countrymen, and that the half which has been winning largely at recent elections, it is probable that Mr. Bayard's remarks are fairly described as injudicious. He is held here in the highest respect, and we all know quite well that he did not really intend to interfere at all with party contests in America. At the same time it is quite easy to understand the point of view of the Republicans, who say that an ambassador representing the whole nation ought not to offer observations which make him the mouthpiece of one section only. We should have been greatly surprised had the representative of any European power delivered such speeches as those now in question; and even in Mr. Bayard's case there was some little astonishment. It seems, indeed, that he has transgressed the rules of his own diplomatic service, and that a regulation signed by himself has actually been unearthed, which forbids the very style of criticism in which he has indulged."

It would unquestionably be unwise to renew in congress the silly talk about impeaching Mr. Bayard. That would simply expose American diplomacy to new ridicule. But it is demanded by important public considerations that his open and indefensible indiscretion should receive official censure. This is not so material with regard to Mr. Bayard himself, for he soon will be relieved from his present responsibility, as it is with reference to the future. Failure to express official disapproval of his offense would invite its future repetition; and that is a prospect which American statesmanship may well wish to avert.

Several able college professors are wasting ink in the endeavor to prove that the Monroe doctrine, at the time it was first formulated, didn't mean much of anything. Suppose we grant that, for the sake of an argument. That doesn't signify that we have no right to make it mean something now. We are not living in the past.

Sensible advice is given to the street car employes of Philadelphia by the inquirer when it tells them to do their striking at the polls, by the election of trustworthy councilmen. That advice holds equally good in Scranton.

It may or may not be true that Quay and Reed have quarreled. But one thing is true, and don't make any mistake concerning it. Tom Reed is not a man to be owned.

According to the London Sun, Cleveland's Venezuelan message is "flapdoodle." But the Sun is worrying about it, just the same.

Governor Morton would do well to exact from Thomas C. Platt a guaranty bond.

POLITICAL POINTS.

And now the Republicans of Wyoming county want one of the Fifteenth district delegates to the national convention. Wayne and Susquehanna have already filed their claims for the two delegates, while Bradford remains to be heard from. Of the four counties comprising the district, Susquehanna has a congressman at large, Bradford has the district congressman, and Wayne has the state senator. It does seem as though little Wyoming might justly claim recognition to one of the national delegates. Especially since she has also become a Republican county.

Congressman "Jack" Robinson belongs to the class of politicians who like to have a number of irons in the fire at the same time. Just now, according to some of the Delaware county papers, "Jack" is a candidate for representative in congress for a third term, for United States senator to succeed Cameron, for governor in 1898, and for delegate to the Republican national convention. It is barely possible that there are a few other offices that "Jack" wants, but which have been overlooked. If there are he is not too modest to mention them.

Hon. Thomas V. Cooper, in his Delaware American, urges the Republicans of Delaware county to unite on Congressman Robinson for United States senator, because he is a Delaware county man. If the American urged his eminent fitness for the position the argument would have much more force. For some reason Robinson, in his Media Ledger, never champions Brother Cooper for any office. The two Media editors and politicians do not constitute a mutual admiration society, apparently.

It is said that up in Susquehanna county it is proposed to hold only one Republican county convention this year, and to nominate candidates for the county offices at the convention to be called in the spring to select delegates to the state convention. There is considerable opposition to this proposition by Republicans who do not want the local candidates nominated until later in the year. So-called snap-conventions never have been popular in Susquehanna.

Congressman William A. Stone, of Allegheny, as is well known, is Senator Quay's first choice for something or other, and Colonel Stone's friends say that that something is governor of Pennsylvania in 1898. That arrangement, if really made, will not be very highly indorsed by Lieutenant Governor Lyon, who has ambition in the same direction and thinks he is in line of promotion.

The Republicans of Luzerne county will hold their primaries on Jan. 18 and their county convention on Jan. 21, to select two delegates to the national convention. The legislative district conventions to elect delgates to the state convention will be held Jan. 20. Present indications are that the Luzerne delegation to the state convention will solidly support Hon. Charles A. Miner for delegate-at-large to the national convention.

Some Democratic organs appear to be unable to draw the distinction between patriotism and jingoism. If these papers had existed at the time when an eminent American statesman gave expression to the sentiment "Our Country—May she always be right; but right or wrong, our country," they would forthwith have dubbed him a jingo.

It is now given out that Senator Quay will not expect to be a delegate-at-large to the national convention, but will be content to go as a delegate from his own congressional district. That would make room for one more in the state at large. Why not let Senator Cameron do the same thing?

The United States senate is once more an obstacle to the enactment of necessary legislation. The senate is rapidly becoming as obnoxious to the American people as the house of lords is in England.

THE TRIBUNE ANNUAL.

A Ready Reference Guide.

Philadelphia Times: The Scranton Tribune sends out an annual for the year 1896 of the most valuable character. As a political handbook it is the first venture of the kind from The Tribune establishment, but like the progressive and thorough newspaper it represents it is very complete and comprises an array of information of especial use in northeastern Pennsylvania. The pages devoted to election statistics, the coal trade, and Lackawanna county organizations have been prepared with great care and will be a ready reference guide for the coming year.

A Creditable Piece of Work.

Lebanon Daily News: The Scranton Tribune has issued a neat and very handy almanac, which contains much valuable information put into form for quick reference. It is a creditable piece of work, in keeping with the progressive spirit of the paper which furnishes it.

Hello! Is the musical editor in?
No. He is at home practicing on the bass drum. Can we serve you in any way?
Say. Can you secure me a place in the newly-organized picked chorus mentioned in The Tribune the other day?
What do you sing?
Anything for the "dust."
There's no dust in the present enterprise.
What! No World's fair! No prizes?
No. Nothing of the sort.
Just plain singing?
That's the programme.
Well you can count me out.
Why, won't you sing for the love of music?
For the love of music! You forget that I'm a Scranton singer!
Z-z-z-ling!

* * *

Can I speak with our congressman?
Hello!
Is that Uncle Joe?
Yes. What's wanted?
How are you feeling since your return from Washington?
Sort o' wow! wowish! thank you.
Can you give us any information as to your occupation during the war?
Oh, yes! I was in the same business as now.
What was that?
Out of range of bullets looking for deserters.
Did you ever hear of a paper called The Trib—
Z-z-wow!-z-z!!!-!!!-z-zz-z!!!
Hello! exchange! What's the matter? Why, there has been some sort of an explosion at the other end of the line and the wires have been burned off.
Z-z-z-ling!

* * *

Is that the court house?
It is.
Business lively?
Oh, yes! Lots of important cases on hand.
Matters of great moment?
Yes. Two timid men have had a woman arrested for scolding them; some one's dog has been stolen; some one's character has been defamed, etc.
These things do not cost the county much?
No. Only about $75 a day.
This takes up most of the time?
Yes.
Do you ever settle murder cases over there?
Not often. We usually leave those for the board of pardons.
Z-z-z-ling!