

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 12, 1896.

The Tribune is the only Republican daily in Lackawanna County.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

To the Republican electors of Pennsylvania. The Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, 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, the selection of eight delegates-at-large to the Republican national convention, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

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

Senator-elect Foraker will nominate McKinley at St. Louis, but he will not have any Garfield ambitions concealed up his sleeve.

Calling a Halt.

As the battle for the Republican presidential nomination progresses, there are unpleasant signs of an unwelcome increase in acerbity of temper among the respective champions. Some of this is doubtless unavoidable; but a good deal of it is fairly chargeable to the overzealousness of indiscreet friends, of whom Major McKinley seems to have rather more than the average quota.

The Ohio candidate is doubtless personally free from responsibility for the various efforts which have been made in his name to encroach somewhat disrespectfully upon the territory of the rival candidates. He probably has not authorized nor personally encouraged the Magee revolt from Quay in Pennsylvania; the Whitely Field anti-Platt revolt from Morton in New York; the Kohlsaat revolt from Cullom in Illinois; the Thurston revolt from Mansfield in Nebraska; the anti-Davis movement in Minnesota; and the sporadic attempts of certain of his admirers to capture a delegate here and there in New England. Reed's natural territory, and also in Iowa, the home of Senator Allison. But these things have been done, ostensibly for his benefit, and the result of them is seen in the growing disposition of the opposition candidates to hold McKinley to account.

It is no doubt a consequence of this disposition that we now begin to hear charges and countercharges which might well be left unsaid. On the anti-McKinley side the claim is already put forth that the McKinley boomers are seeking to capture irresponsible delegates from the politically hopeless far South by the corrupt use of money; while as an offset, the McKinley boomers set up the plea that "Platt, Quay & Co.," as they irreverently dub the field, have plotted to capture the St. Louis convention by seating spurious Southern contestants. We dare say that most of this mock-thunder is employed in the first place by men who use it wholly for political effect, and care nothing for its artistic character. But the restoration of such artificial claptrap in course of time takes record and scandal. It therefore should be promptly halted.

The nominee of the St. Louis convention, whoever he may be, will need the support of his entire party. Candidates who, if successful, would expect that should conduct themselves accordingly.

While Major McKinley is entitled to full credit for his magnificent work in behalf of protection, there need be no general apprehension that his nomination will be essential to the vitality of the protective principle. There were good protectionists before his day, and there will be good ones after it.

The Lamentations of Iodkin. These are sad, sad days for the New York Evening Post. It hasn't been happy one whole moment since Cleveland wrote his Venezuela message, unless, indeed, it finds a kind of emasculated happiness in being read miserably. Day after day it mumbles forth its tale of woe, never missing an issue except Sunday, when it doesn't print. The whole atmosphere in its vicinity is moist with its lamentations, and the worst of it is that it sees absolutely no relief ahead.

"The present congress," it observes in the course of one of its particularly disconsolate and irreconcilable whines, "the most dangerous we have had since the civil war, and rapidly becoming the most odious, has been in session three months, and during that time has put itself in fighting attitude three times. Although we have no army, no navy, no fortifications, although we have a treasury deficit and have been near to suspension and the silver standard, this congress has stood behind Cleveland in his unnecessary quarrel with Great Britain, has threatened Turkey, and denounced Europe for not dismembering her, and is now threatening Spain about a matter which does

not concern us, under pretense of a regard for humanity. If all this is done in the green tree what shall be done in the dry? If this is the measure of our common sense when we have neither soldiers, ships, forts, nor money, what will happen when we have all of them?" Bless his dear old soul, the Post needn't worry. There are no serious symptoms that the attitude of congress in defense of public justice will bring on horrid war. As the humorous Washington Post amiably says: "This nation does not desire to meet any other in hostile array on land or sea. It is as innocent as Koko of a wish to kill anybody. Looking back a little more than a hundred years we find the country emerging from a long war in which it gained independence. Two foreign wars and one domestic war have fallen to the lot of this nation since the revolution. But all this has not made us a bloodthirsty people. Under the compulsion of patriotic duty we take up arms. When that duty has been performed we lay down our arms and resume the works and ways of peace."

And even if war should come in the line of honorable duty, the Post should remember that Canada is near; it can turn tail and make for the Queen's dominions whenever the pressure upon its overwrought nerves becomes too painful for further endurance.

The practice in making up the roll in Republican national conventions has been to enroll the untested delegations first, and then to make up the credentials committee from this untested element, leaving to the committee the task of deciding the contests. Such a course of procedure is eminently fair, and we quite agree with ex-Secretary Fessenden that it will be a good precedent to follow next June.

Practical Instruction.

A list of sixteen questions was recently submitted by City Superintendent Howell to the teachers of Scranton, with a request for an immediate answer. It is said that not more than three teachers correctly replied to all of them offhand. The questions were in turn submitted to pupils in the intermediate grade, and the result is that a decided interest has been awakened among our young folks in local geography. The questions follow:

- Give population of Scranton and Lackawanna county.
Give the number of railroads in the county.
Name the capital of the county.
What is the chief soil production of the county?
What is the county seat and name the officers in the court house.
Name the officers in the Municipal building.
Name the water courses in the county.
Give the number of townships in the county.
Give the length of the county from north to south and from east to west.
Give the value of the real estate in the county.
Give the value of the real estate in the city.
Which is the highest salaried officer in the county? Give his name.
To what congressional district do we belong?
Give the number of cities in the county.
What makes a city?
It has been said that children in the intermediate grade are too young to comprehend instruction of this nature, but we do not believe it. Doubtless the purpose in submitting these questions was merely to suggest a new line of inquiry, which too often is absent from school work. We do not suspect that Professor Howell expected each young boy or girl to answer correctly all or even half of these queries in an hour or a day, especially in view of the fact that not many adults, though they be college graduates learned in the higher branches, could successfully run such a gauntlet. We infer that he wanted to give an object lesson, to parents and teachers, as well as to pupils, teaching how generally real geography is ignored—the geography, we mean, which has present practical usefulness.

In this sense, the little quiz will unquestionably have value. It is a good thing to see the schools made practical and to the point.

The Baltimore council, which is Republican, has taken away from the mayor, also a Republican, the appointive power because the mayor, having been elected on a non-partisan platform, insisted upon appointing Democrats as well as Republicans to office. The Baltimore idea seems to be that platforms are declarations of conceal instead of to reveal purposes.

Be Done with It.

Conservative sentiment with propriety insisted that before the United States formally took a step in behalf of Cuba which might, under certain possible contingencies, lead to a war with Spain, it should first be sure of its ground. It was in obedience to this dictate of prudence that the congress of the United States refrained for several months from voicing its belief that the revolutionists of Cuba are entitled to belligerent rights. Congress was not moved to action until Spain herself, by recalling from the seat of war her concededly ablest general, Martin Campos, and placing in his stead as general-in-chief the notorious butcher, Weyer, virtually admitted the belligerency of the Cubans in arms. That substitution, with its quick complement of horrors in the field, its summary arrest and imprisonment of innocent men, women and children, its unblinking cancellation of the right of private ownership of property and its proclamatory repetitions of the cruelties of Torquemada and Alva, roused the American people to a keen sense of their manifest duty; and the belligerent resolutions were overwhelmingly adopted by both the senate and the house.

Face to face with this portentous fact, the excitable Spaniards grew riotous and many of our people, having no wish to appear precipitous, urged that final action on the resolutions be again prudentially delayed. Our own opinion is that this argument errs on the side of unwarranted timidity; and that it would, if deferred to, give the Spanish nation a false and unfair impression. The inference which Spain would draw from such a postponement would be that American sympathy for Cuba had cooled; that it was, after all, merely a passing ebullition, and that the path is now clear to a fulfilment in deserted Cuba of the original Weyer programme of torture, spoliation and vengeance. For this reason we submit that the United States congress, having once expressed itself by a majority amounting almost to unanimity, cannot consist-

ently draw back, and, in justice to Cuba, to the American people and to itself, must put the concluding period to its message of friendship for Spain's Cuban victims. Such a course is clearly within our privilege. Such a course is plainly enjoined by moral law. To falter at the crisis would be worse than to have remained silent from the beginning.

At the Rhode Island Republican convention Tuesday Governor Lippitt presented a few interesting figures. He called attention to the fact that during the eighteen months of the Wilson tariff from March, '94, the deficiency of receipts was \$74,855,924. In 1895 bank clearings amounted to \$25,010,000,000; in 1892 to \$20,822,000,000; in 1891, to \$45,017,000,000; in 1890, to \$31,150,000,000. In twenty-seven years beginning with 1865 under Republican protection the public debt decreased \$1,747,301,878, an average annual decrease of \$64,714,881. During the three years since 1893 under Democratic free trade the debt increased \$237,580,910, an average annual increase of \$79,193,637. Figures like these, that cannot be disputed because they are official, are what make our Democratic friends weary.

A year ago seven Connecticut woolen mills, five at Rockville and two at Norwich, employed altogether 1,700 men. Now they employ one-half that number at from one-eight to one-quarter time. Of 32 New England mills in operation then, 11 have since shut down entirely, 10 are on one-fourth time, 5 are on one-eighth time, 1 is on one-half time and 2 have practically gone out of business. In these mills, 7,500 laborers have been thrown idle, their wage loss for the year being estimated at \$2,625,000. The Wilson bill's free wool clause has certainly been a great thing for the foreigners.

The refusal of the British home secretary to resign the Maybrick case is natural and logical. Mrs. Maybrick was fairly tried and duly convicted of a heinous crime; in the default of new evidence sufficient to inspire a reasonable doubt as to her guilt, a re-opening of her case would be a step of obvious imprudence.

There is a story that part of the bargain at Chicago in '92 by which Harrity made way for Grover was that Pattison should inherit Cleveland's mantle in '96. If this is true, we fear that Robert E. received the shock end of the deal.

We cannot blame de Lome for working hard to earn his salary. The only point of objection is the undiplomatic methods he uses.

It is fortunate that the supply of Republican senatorial timber in Kentucky is so much on the sapling order. During all these days it is observed that Thomas C. Platt is not saying a word.

The verdict of Iowa is that Allison has quite enough backbone for it.

CONDEMNED BY THE PEOPLE.

From the Baltimore American. The preliminary skirmishes of the political conflict of 1896 are occurring in many directions. Quite a number of delegates to the national conventions have already been named, and in four months from now the battle will be in progress. The outlook for the Republicans is bright. There is nothing to shake confidence in the recognized policy of the party—sound money and protection to American industries and interests of every kind. The people in a moment of rashness repudiated this policy, and they have never been sorry but once since, and that has been all the time. It is nearly exasperating to say that they repudiated their own policy before the choice of Democratic rejoicing had died away, and would have recalled, would they have done so, their mandate of destruction before President Cleveland began to carry it out. Those who were not convinced became very soon after the inauguration.

The errors of Democratic administration may be summed up under two heads—what the government ought to do and what it has done. It was confronted by a financial crisis, mainly of its own making, shortly after it took office. The policy of Democratic administration caused a general depression, and the threat to pay treasury notes in gold was averted. Had the president even then shown himself to be a strong man, instead of a shabby one, and they have never met together promptly, instead of postponing the extra session until the financial crisis had become a dire emergency, the worst features of the panic might have been averted. When he did bring that body together, he merely allowed itself to be the most formidable obstacle to any sound legislation that would save the country. It has steadily maintained that attitude to the present moment. Three-fourths of the party in the states where there is a possibility of success favoring the workington of the country in recent dollars, while the administration would accomplish the same purpose by a wildcat state bank currency.

The Democratic record in industrial legislation is not a white sheet. It has passed a revenue law which does not furnish the necessary revenue, and the administration has been forced to borrow at a high rate of interest nearly three hundred millions of dollars to make good the deficit. Instead of paying off the public debt, as had been done by Republican administration, it has been tremendously increased by President Cleveland. Many flourishing American enterprises have been killed outright by this same revenue law, while a multitude of others are languishing and sapping for breath. The masses of the people, by the same law, have been deprived of their property and forced out of their scanty earnings to swell the coffers of a mighty trust. By the same revenue law a number of profitable branches of trade, which sprang up under the reciprocity treaties, with the countries to the south of the United States, have been swept away.

This is a simple and correct statement of the results of Democratic administration, and it explains clearly why there is not much interest in the Democratic convention which is to meet in Chicago, and why there are no serious aspirants for the nomination in the Democratic ranks.

HE CHANGED HIS MIND.

Wellman, in Times-Herald. When the constitution of the proposed Cuban republic was non-officially leaked here some time ago, a certain member of the senate foreign relations committee made merry over its somewhat elaborate provisions for marriage ceremonies. The constitution provided that a proposed new nation contained minute regulations of the marriage ceremony were deemed evidence of immaturity and not the incompetency of the men who wished to be builders of the Cuban republic. The constitution was so much amused by this constitutional regulation of marriage that he proposed to

make a speech on the subject, indicating in more or less flippant fashion the Cuban marriage charta. Fortunately for him, he about this time met a Cuban gentleman who was able to give him some information. "You marvel at the trouble the framers of our constitution have taken to regulate marriages," said the Cuban, "and you think it very amusing. But you would have a different idea had you ever lived in our island. In Cuba marriage is, indeed, a luxury. There are enough fees for the banns, for the bachelorette, for the baptismal certificates, for the residence certificates, for the license, for the ceremony, for the record, for the final certification. When I married in Cuba the paper, fees, etc., cost me about \$10. It is scarcely possible to marry there at a cost less than \$25 or \$30 for fees alone. And what is the result? Thousands of honest and respectable, chaste, poor, Cuban boys are living together as husbands and wives, and rearing families, though they were never married. They cannot afford it. The taxes are too high. It is not an outrage upon humanity? And this will explain to you why our new constitution legislates all matrimonial unions of the past and ever to be, and that the result of marriage upon a basis which places it within reach of the poorest men and women. It is no desire to add that the result of him studying the nature of the Spanish rule in that unhappy island, and one of the most eloquent speeches delivered in the senate in favor of Cuban independence came from his lips."

THE ST. LOUIS CONVENTION.

Table listing delegates to the St. Louis Republican national convention from various states and territories.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by J. M. J. The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological chart: 12 4 1/2 a. m., for Wednesday, March 12, 1896.

A moaning child of this white morn Will chant no tuneful lay Of Springtime birds and blossoms; He'll keep his poetry on lay To "Spring" some other day.

The individuals who are mentioned as "possibilities" for political honors, may enjoy themselves for a few months hence. Wilkes-Barre reporters have discovered a cat that has head like a dog. It may be mentioned in connection with the above that there are 1,300 speak-easies in Luzerne county.

There is no question that the word "necessity" hath many definitions in a license court.

Postpone arbutus parties for another week. Do not agitate the church strawberry festival. Keep off the grass.

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