

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 18, 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, will meet in state convention Thursday, April 22, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the opera house, city of Harrisburg, for the purpose of nominating two candidates for representative-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. Rex, Sec'y. W. R. Andrews, Secretary.

Superintendent Howell's list of questions relating to practical, home geography, to which allusion was recently made in The Tribune, has been reprinted in a number of state exchanges, in connection with commendatory comment. The practicalizing of school work is sure to strike a popular chord.

The Prize Story. Upon another page of this issue appears the story which won the prize of \$25 offered by The Tribune through the Robert Morris lodge's contest. It is the best of twentification, and in plot and treatment is a clever and readable short piece of fiction. The writer of it Miss Sarah A. Jones, of 1123 Hampton street, a teacher in our public schools, deserves praise and encouragement. Better work is sure to come from the same pen.

The contest disclosed the existence of much talent among the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. As some of the contestants doubtless by this time realize, to write a satisfactory short story is one of the most difficult of literary feats, perhaps the most difficult one to which a young or inexperienced writer can apply himself. It is a task like that of the clergyman who, when asked how long it took him to prepare a sermon, replied: "If I wish to preach for half an hour, it takes me two days; if for an hour, one day; but when I preach a sermon two hours long I can generally prepare it in thirty minutes."

The short story, to be successful, should contain a clear and, if possible, an original idea, and this ought to be so worked out as to carry the interest of the reader from the beginning to the end, steadily increasing it as it goes along until the climax, at which, or very near which, the story ought to stop. In a general way, a short story, to be acceptable, should be full of crisp and natural dialogue, and should, in its situations, be probable and logical. The prize-winning story on page 6 does not fulfill all of these requirements—for if it did, it would be worth many times \$25—but it comes near enough to most of them to be a welcome evidence of the existence in these parts of promising literary possibilities.

The Tribune extends cordial welcome to Pittsburg's new afternoon newspaper, the Daily News. The News is bright, newsy and enterprising from the start; and under Editor Gable's management, will undoubtedly improve every day.

Carlisle as Democracy's Candidate. The apparently authentic information comes from Washington that within a few days President Cleveland will inform the country that he is not a candidate for a third term, but that he would be pleased to have his party nominate some man conspicuously identified with his administration. The story goes that this letter will be followed by a formal announcement of the candidacy of Secretary Carlisle, under such circumstances as to make it clear to the party that he is Mr. Cleveland's choice, Secretary Olney having declined to enter the field.

From a Republican standpoint, Mr. Carlisle's nomination by the Democratic convention would be entirely satisfactory. He is personally a man of great natural ability and widespread experience in public affairs. He would make as good a president, probably, as any Democrat, save Mr. Whitney. His record as a bond-seller would be against him, yet it is the record of his party, and whatever odium attaches to it would belong to any man nominated by the Democracy, whether in Cleveland's cabinet or out of it. Mr. Carlisle, too, is a plain, outspoken free trader, and in this respect, also, stands in line with his party. He is a Southerner, with an inherited prejudice against the industrially more prosperous North, and here again he becomes a fit exponent of the economic principles of Cleveland, Wilson and the rest of the modern school of tariff reformers.

On the currency issue, Carlisle represents in conspicuous degree the merits and the defects of the Democratic policy as shaped by Grover Cleveland. He is a determined foe of bimetallicism, carry-

ing to the cause of gold monometallism the traditional zeal of the new convert. He is an equally determined friend of the irrefragable state bank currency, and the advocate of dubious experiments in national banking. His nomination would insure the nomination of a third, or free silver ticket, which would take from him the Democratic states of the South and Southwest, and make Republican victory easy. On all these grounds, therefore, he is a candidate whom Republicans can cordially welcome into the arena and just as cordially defeat.

The old cry has again arisen that fourth-class postmasters under this administration are frequently boycotted by persons who buy stamps at other offices, and the postoffice department at Washington wants congress to pass a prohibitory law on the subject. Wouldn't it be quite as easy a remedy to appoint acceptable postmasters?

One Cent Letter Postage. The committee appointed by the national board of trade at its last meeting in Washington to agitate in favor of one cent letter postage is active and alert. It is sending literature everywhere in support of its contention that the public interest demands the reduction of letter postage to the lowest unit of American coinage.

"If any railroad, express, telegraph or telephone company or other company enjoying monopolistic privileges were," says one of its documents, "to charge the public a clear profit of 375 per cent. for its services, it can readily be imagined that a howl of indignation would be heard all over the country at the extortionate profit charged by 'souless' and 'grinding' corporations. And yet, according to official figures, every letter writer of the country is obliged to pay the above extortionate profit every time he buys a two cent postage stamp. By referring to the postmaster general's report for 1895 (the only report in which one cent letter postage is clearly and exhaustively treated) it will be seen that the revenue from letter postage for that year amounted to \$38,000,000, while the actual cost for handling and transportation was but \$3,000,000, leaving a net profit of \$35,000,000 from letter postage, or a profit of 375 per cent. According to this report, had letter postage in that year been reduced to one cent, there would still have been a net profit of \$11,000,000, or a profit of 137 per cent., even though there had been no increased business in consequence of the reduced rate of postage."

The history of former postal reductions shows very conclusively, however, that cheaper rates mean more correspondence. Thus, in 1884, when letter postage was reduced 33 1/3 per cent., the reduction in the revenue for that year amounted to only 4 per cent., while six years later the revenue had grown 13 1/3 per cent., larger than during the last year under the higher rate. The cheapening of the present rate to one cent for each half ounce would in a short time nearly double the number of letters carried without increasing the postal department's expenses. The bill to this effect which is now before congress should pass.

Major McKinley explains his position on the currency question to be favorable to good money and plenty of it. His idea deserves enthusiastic support. "If the Republicans of this section," says the Carbondale Leader, which one year ago supported the Quay delegates in the Fourth district with all its might, "want to help McKinley's cause they should make certain that McKinley, not Quay delegates, are sent from this district."

Let us consider this advice for a moment. The Fourth district is entitled to two delegates to the state convention on April 22. Suppose those two delegates were chosen, as the Leader wants, for McKinley and not for Quay, what could they do at Harrisburg to prevent the election of Quay delegates-at-large to the St. Louis convention? If the last state convention was for Quay notwithstanding the great fight then made against him, the next one surely will be for him, with almost no dissent, since Magee is the only man now fighting Quay. Why, then, should the Republicans of the Carbondale district wish to join with Magee for McKinley against Pennsylvania's own candidate—with Magee, of all men, for whom the Leader a year ago couldn't find contemptuous enough words? Why should they want to figure as probably the only kickers in the state, outside of Allegheny county? Why should the Quay organ of a year ago be the first to desert Quay?

We assume, of course, that the Leader refers to state delegates, and not to the local national delegates, who have already been elected. Otherwise, his remark, as quoted above, would possess no meaning.

The prophets at Washington are predicting that this will yet be a "billion dollar congress"; but, then, it is better understood than formerly that the United States has grown to be a billion dollar country.

A Happy Change of Heart. The Railroad Review, in the course of an extended discussion of the United States Supreme court's reported finding in the Brown interstate commerce case, makes the gratifying admission that the sentiment of railroad men regarding violations of the interstate commerce law is undergoing a change. "When first enacted," it says, "the law was by them generally regarded as a sort of imposition; to be complied with when necessary, but evaded when possible. Gradually, however, the fact has dawned upon them that, properly construed and faithfully observed, the law tends to conserve railway revenues, and, if maintained, would, in the absence of other possible remedies, operate to some extent to minimize freight wars and thus protect earnings."

In other words, the railway men of the country are beginning to realize, after a long period of depression, defaulted interest and dividend payments and expensive receiverships brought on principally by dishonest administration of carrier properties, that honesty is the best policy, and that justice to the shipper and fair-dealing generally

are in the end as good for a railroad as for its patrons. This is a somewhat unexpected admission for a railway journal to make; but we cannot doubt its truth, and can only hope that the reported change of opinion among railway men will continue to operate until a widespread reform in railway methods shall be the welcome result.

In view of the now established fact that Senator Flinn and Mr. Magee, in Allegheny, made a written conditional offer to Senator Quay of that county's national delegates, only springing the McKinley movement after he had declined their terms, it will not be surprising if the Ohio candidate's appreciation of his Pennsylvania following should experience a shrinkage.

According to a report on the organized militia of the United States, which has just been prepared by the war department, the United States, in case of need, can put 3,467,694 men in the field. This is altogether exclusive of the New Woman.

Should McKinley be nominated, it is hardly likely he would want the anti-bolshevism idea pushed to the point of trying to let his campaign run itself. There are times when the Quays of a party are mighty useful.

The central fact in regard to the recent efforts of Magee and Quay to compromise seems to be that both were opposed to the other fellow getting the oyster.

THE HYPNOTIZED REPORTER.

I have been reading the papers recently and have been deeply impressed with the verdict of the jury in a striking manner. In the case of Mrs. Rachel Griffiths, I find the following: "We find that the said Rachel Griffiths came to her death from injuries received by being knocked down by a small wagon driven by James Hamilton. We believe that the said wagon was being driven at a careless and unnecessary rate of speed and deprecate the fast driving prevalent in the city. Below this I discover a statement to the effect that the coroner does not believe the verdict warranted Hamilton's arrest. I am pleased to know that the rights of the cabman, grocer boy and reckless Jehu generally have been deduced. There is nothing to be done as to the legal right of a driver to run down pedestrians on our streets, and certain citizens have been of the opinion that it was the driver's business to exercise care in Scranton as in other cities. Now that it has been determined that drivers can run down people and kill them without fear of punishment, it is the duty of the law to make a light pole when the vehicle of one of the fast drivers is in a dangerous position. Speaking of streets, it is to be hoped that the approach of another summer will inaugurate a new order of arrangements in street cleaning. Perhaps no one will agree with me, but in the opinion of your under hypnotic influence the flushing process is the only method yet discovered whereby asphalt pavements may be cleaned without filling houses along the route with obnoxious dust that has been stirred up by sweepers. If the water supply for the purpose does not hold out, of course sweepers will be necessary; but for health, comfort and cleanliness the washing system is certainly superior to the most approved sweepers. Even at Wilkes-Barre streets are sprinkled ahead of the sweepers and some of the unpleasant effects are avoided. If there is anything in the assertion of health officials regarding the evil effects of germs that stick in the filth along our thoroughfares, the street sweeper which sends deadly particles aloft on the air is certainly a curse to humanity."

My attention has recently been called to the present system of home instruction in many of our schools whereby the intellect of the rising generation is kept under constant strain to digest food for thought that is forced into the brain. Parents have stated that in some instances it is necessary for their children to spend the greater portion of each evening during school days in hard study in order to keep up their classes or gain a smattering of the various branches that have been forced upon them. It is believed that better results may be obtained through a course of study and graduation at an age when he should be trading a hoop in usually a physical wreck from hard study or an intellectual parrot, discarding upon that which he does not understand. Sad as it may seem while there are exceptions, Scranton has furnished some frightful examples of the school graduates who later in life are thoughtless on part of teachers, who, in their enthusiasm, are so anxious for progress in various departments that they force pupils beyond their powers of endurance and comprehension. Scranton school teachers, as a rule, are progressive and are constantly reaching out for new ideas and new methods of instruction and it is believed that their greatest failing is the propensity to follow the teachings of theoretical instructors who air their schemes at various times and advance ideas of high pressure education that are not practical. It is to be hoped that the interest of the future will counsel moderation.

Mr. Dickson's crusade against profanity is commendable. An enforcement of laws bearing on this subject cannot fail to bring good results. I think, however, that Mr. Dickson ought to make an exception of moving day.

POLEMOPHOBIA.

From the Rochester Post-Express. All sensible men have an aversion for war, and when they can do so with honor they try to avoid it. There is, however, an exaggeration of this natural antipathy to war which is pathological in its nature and a mark of human degeneration. This is polemophobia, as manifested as a national symptom. It is manifested as a national symptom in that it indicates a decay of vitality that is fraught with great public danger. A man of a nation who loves peace as well as to engage personal or national dignity is likely to become the prey or imposition of a nation who loves war. Where principle is considered less important than comfort, whether to the individual or the public, degeneration has undoubtedly set in, and it is not difficult to see that the spirit has departed by which men and nations are made great.

Have the American people reached a condition in which this symptom of degeneration is evident? American nervousness has long been notorious. It is destined to assume this form. Has the weakness that is so prevalent in the optic organs and has rendered artificial aids to vision so common, have the American children penetrated the cerebrum also and effected this lateral extension of the brain which meditates the processes of judgment and volition, producing a predominant of the emotions over the consciousness of intellect and a deterioration of the springs whence flow the streams of pure reason and resolution and the result is the lead in the effective life of our people? These are difficult and serious questions, and there is no one to indicate that our peaceful, industrial existence, in which agreeable sensation is made the leading interest of the people, is not in danger of the will and augment the emotions, thus imperceptibly changing the stern char-

acter of the hardy pioneer into the soft and easy sensibility of sheltered luxury. If the tendency in the direction indicated, the remedy for it must be sought. This would not necessarily be found in war itself, which would only tend to eliminate the bravest element in society, but should be sought in a universal regime of voluntary effort in the direction of sacrifice and in the firmer grasp of the great principles that sustain the heroic element in life. Unless we give ourselves and our posterity that there are realities more important than our own sensations, and that there is a national destiny which still demands individual renunciation, the prospect of de-voluting heroes is dim, indeed. To counteract the psychological drift toward putting sensations, we need to have preached to us a gospel of patriotism that will keep alive a strong sense of obligation to honor and preserve the great principles for which our fathers gave what was dearest to them, and which will probably not cease to be called in question.

POLITICAL POINTS.

Every member of the present Lackawanna delegation at Harrisburg is a candidate for reelection.

In the meantime, Congressman Jack Robinson is pursuing the senatorial trail with the seal of a statesman.

A quiet boom for Deputy Attorney John P. Flinn, of Indiana county, for state chairman has been incubated in Harrisburg. Anything but Andrews!

A close personal of the Quay-Magee correspondence will be likely to convince the variant that politics in Allegheny has resumed a very practical basis.

Senator Flinn's intimation that Governor Hastings made up with Quay without notifying him or Magee gives rise to the question whether they imagined they had any mortgage on the governor.

While there has been no direct confirmation of the reported reconciliation of David Martin and Senator Quay, the evidence seems to prove that such a reconciliation has been at least partially effected.

Now that Colonel Warren has consummated the Wilkes-Barre water deal, which he said to have added largely to his pecuniary reserve fund, it is possible that he may devote some of his spare time to the senatorial fight. The latter has for some time been outwardly quiet, having been overshadowed by the presidential struggle.

DISAPPEARING MERCHANT MARINE.

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Bureau. A recent report of the Bureau of statistics illustrated in a striking manner the decay of the American merchant marine. In 1845 81 per cent. of our foreign commerce, including both exports and imports, was carried in American vessels; in 1855 the percentage was 73.2; in 1861, at the beginning of the war, it was 62.1; in 1867, at the close of the war, it had fallen to 27.7; in 1875 it remained about the same, and was 27.2; in 1881 it had dropped to 15.3, and in 1887 it was only 11.7.

The only portion of our foreign trade now carried on in American vessels is with the other countries of North America, 4.61 per cent.; Mexico, 2.02 per cent.; Central America, 2.29 per cent.; the West Indies, 41.83; South America, 21.31; Asia, 1.61; Oceania, 18.14; and Africa, 11.67 per cent. of our commerce with Europe carried in American vessels.

Greater Depths. He—"And did he tell you he saved me from a watery grave?" She—"He said he saved you from a worse place than that."—Life.

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FURNITURE AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

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Large Assortment, Newest Styles.

BEIDLEMAN, THE BOOKMAN,

437 Spruce St., Opp. "The Commonwealth."

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. Coax 'Em Out.

It strikes us that Winter has stayed around this country about long enough to outwear its welcome. It was all very well along last November to share the children's enthusiasm over the falling flakes, but good gracious! that was four months ago! Suppose we all do something to coax Spring to "Give us back the sunny days. The breeze perfumed by flowering sprays."

And all the other beauties and blessings of the season. As our share to bringing this about we

OPEN UP THESE.

Nobby, Jaunty Silk Capes

Lined throughout and with full sweep,

AT \$3.98.

LADIES' SEPARATE SKIRTS AND SUITS.

That will captivate the most fastidious. Skirts measuring 6 1-2 yards around, lined throughout with Rustle Cambric and hang to perfection. Prices begin at

\$1.25 AND RANGE UP TO \$15.00

ALL STREET CARS STOP AT THE DOOR.

THE LAST WEEK OF

BANISTER'S GREAT SHOE SALE

On Monday, March 23d, we start in to make the improvements in our store room and the store will be closed until Saturday, March 28th.

Promptness on your part means dollars in your pocket. We are going through the stock and marking prices on goods so low you will wonder at it.

We Intend to Make This the Banner Week of Our Great Sale

Don't wait until the last day, but come early in the week and have the larger assortment to select from.

BANISTER'S, Lackawanna and Wyoming Avenues.

CORNER OF

SEVEN COUNTER CASES, ONE GLASS SIDE CASE AND COUNTER FOR SALE.

Must Be Sold Before We Remove

To our new store, No. 130 Wyoming avenue, Coal Exchange, April 1st. Price no consideration.

MERCEREAU & CONNELL

305 LACKAWANNA AVE.

THE SHERIFF'S SALE

OF ULSTERS AND OVERCOATS

ALSO MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS

Greatly Reduced Prices.

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Corner Franklin Avenue.

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TELEPHONE 755.

MERCHANT TAILORING

Spring and Summer, from \$10 up. Trouser-legs and Coats, foreign and domestic fabrics, made to order to suit the most fastidious in price, fit and workmanship.

AYLESWORTH'S MEAT MARKET

The Finest in the City.

The latest improved furnishings and apparatus for keeping meat, butter and eggs.

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