

The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition. Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Co., Inc. Office: Tribune Building, Frank St. City, Manager.

E. P. KINGSBURY, Pres. and Gen'l. Man. E. H. RIPLEY, Sec'y and Treas. L. V. RICHARD, Editor. W. W. DAVIS, Business Manager. W. W. YOUNG, Ass. Mgr.

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SCRANTON, MARCH 20, 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. J. S. GARY, Chairman. Jere B. Rex, W. H. Andrews, Secretaries.

Why should Scranton (the city, not the man) want a military post? That question is still shrouded in mystery.

How to Reform the Senate.

Advocates of the election of United States senators directly by the people argue that such a departure from the present practice would "restore to the senate its pristine dignity and power." We must confess that we do not perceive the logic of such a deduction. If the people are unable to elect state legislators who can be trusted to do their duty when it comes to electing United States senators, it puzzles us to discover wherein the quality of senators would improve by referring their election back to that self-same populace.

The only gain we should expect from the change if it be made would be the more speedy choosing of senators, thus doing away with the numerous legislative deadlocks like that just ended by adjournment in Kentucky.

Whether this gain would be a sufficient compensation for the alteration which popular elections would necessarily work in the personnel and character of the senate is an open question. It is admitted by those who arraign the senate as it stands today—disgraced on the one hand by the Populist demagogues who break into it by elasticity of political conscience and gibbous tongue, and, on the other hand, made intellectually poor by the presence of mediocre men of wealth who command elections by cash—that in earlier days, under the same system, it was the grandest forum of legislative debate in the world.

Therefore, the senate's present defects are not the fault of the system, and a change in the system would not necessarily correct them.

Popular elections would speedily do several things. They would facilitate the entrance of adroit demagogues and make statesmanship in its highest form an impossibility in American public life. They would breed a race of senatorial trimmers, responsive to each gust of popular prejudice or passion, and banish totally that calm and conservative deliberation which educated men know to be indispensable to safe and sure legislation. They would exchange the aristocracy of wealth for the aristocracy of the mob spirit, and repeat on American soil, possibly without bloodshed but certainly with almost equal contrast, the jump which France once took from the elegant dalliance of the Bourbon court to the irresponsible and ghastly anarchy of Robespierre.

If the senate today be unsuitable, strike not at the system of election, which is wisely ordered; strike, rather, at the public indifference which permits machine politics to make United States senatorships a private stock in trade.

A spirited effort is being made to carry the Blair county primaries for John Wanner for senator. His chief opponent is "Jack" Robinson, which ought to simplify the choice.

"The Man on Horseback."

It is often amusing to witness the antics of men in the mania of hero worship. The McKinley craze today, like the Blaine craze of yesterday and the Grant craze of the day before, not to speak of the earlier ebullitions of man-worship which characterized the days of Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, rests upon no definite footing. It can point to no specific achievements on the part of its beneficiary either in private or in public life which are of a kind to justify the tossing of hats and the tearing of hair. The Ohio candidate has been, it is true, a prominent figure in tariff discussion and legislation; but apart from that—and even there he often charmed the galleries while older heads did the real, practical legislative work—his public career is not illumined by either extended experience or by overmastering ability of the highest order.

On the financial question he has uttered only sonorous generalities. With regard to foreign affairs, his position is defined in no specific terms and has been outlined in no act or phrase of notable public legislation. The records of congress may be searched from the moment of his entrance to his exit without discovering anything to differentiate him from dozens of equally pa-

triotic, eloquent and level-headed colleagues, save the single fact that as chairman of the ways and means committee in the Fifty-first congress he, following custom, was privileged to give his name to a tariff act, which in detail was the joint product of all the leaders of the Republican party, but which, in the subsequent political discussions in congress and out has been known as the "McKinley" bill. To this happy accident, taken in connection with the disastrous experiment which culminated in protection's temporary overthrow, is he indebted for his present prominence as a presidential candidate; for this reason are statesmen of many times his breadth, depth and experience, such as John Sherman, Senator Allison and Shelby M. Cullom, shoved aside in the rush of the masses to bow down before a personified idea.

We say all this in no spirit of disparagement of Mr. McKinley, who both personally and politically is a clean, an honest and an admirable man; we say it merely because it is the conspicuous fact which from Maine to California is turning ordinarily sane and collected men into impassioned champions and enthusiastic boomers. It is another case of what the French people have in mind when they speak of "the man on horseback." The public imagination has been fired again, as it was fired, years ago, by Blaine. The flame is sweeping the prairies, and unless the wind of popular favor soon veers, it will be the means of elevating to the most difficult and exacting of public offices in this or any other country an untried exponent of a single idea.

Senator Chandler, on hearsay evidence, trying to blacken the reputation of a fellow Republican whose only crime is in being in the lead for the presidential nomination, has succeeded in earning only the disgust of his own party and the contempt of the opposition.

Mr. Hanna's Disclaimer.

Mark A. Hanna, of Cleveland, O., the energetic generalissimo of the McKinley forces, has taken pains to honor with a formal denial a charge which nobody believed. He has said:

"The statement made by Senator Chandler, to the effect that Mr. McKinley's canvass had been one of boodle from start to finish, and that I had levied contributions on the industrial interests of the east, is absolutely and unqualifiedly false. I would not have dignified his interview to the extent of even taking notice of it, did he not challenge a denial. In doing so I content myself with the simple statement of the fact that neither Mr. McKinley's character nor my own calls for any further reply in this connection. As to the invasion of Senator Quay's state or any other, I have not found it necessary or expedient to resort to any such course in order to create McKinley sentiment. The only state of the Union has come spontaneously from the people, and his canvass is entirely in their hands. As to my motives in contributing to the cause of money in the interest of Mr. McKinley, I hold that Senator Chandler is in no position to judge. My devotion to the Republican party and its principles has not been inspired by this campaign. The institution that it was founded on a desire to hold office or control patronage is absolutely without foundation. I can fully appreciate why the honorable senator cannot understand that sort of thing in politics. Having said this much, I leave my case in the hands of the Republican party of the United States."

This charge was first presented to the public through the columns of the Philadelphia Times, a renegade from the cause of protection edited by a man who has, we believe, no special claim to speak in behalf of purity in politics. Colonel McClure declared that he could prove it, that he had personally seen the letters in the premises, but when challenged to produce one of these letters, fell back on his dignity and gave the subject no further notice. The impetuous and irascible Chandler followed, with more sweeping charges, but not one of them was reduced to details or corroborated by evidence. Mr. Hanna's denial means that McClure and Chandler must either prove their case or make public apology and retraction.

The opponents of Major McKinley who are honest and honorable in their attitude toward his candidacy should lose no time in repudiating the "stop, thief!" tactics of those who fancy that McKinley can be beaten by slander. The present preliminary canvass should be above all things friendly and good-natured, to the end that a united party may rally around the standard of the winner after convention.

When the New York World stepped on the toe of Theodore Roosevelt, it evidently selected the wrong man. Yet on the principle that any publicity is better than no publicity at all, we suppose the World is satisfied with the thrashing which Roosevelt has administered to it.

"God in the Constitution."

Concerning the recent recurrence of the effort of certain sectaries to "put God in the constitution," the Rochester Post-Express speaks out with notable force and directness. Replying to the contention that a formal recognition of the Deity by name is necessary in our federal charter, it says: "A century of American history, with the marvelous development of material resources, the advancing civilization, and the progress of religion as well, which it has witnessed, has but confirmed the wisdom of the fathers, and made the principle of the complete divorce of church from state more sacred in the minds and consciences of the generations that have succeeded. It is irreversible as against the assaults both of fanaticism and of infidelity. "There is need neither of discussion, nor of petition, at this late day. We should as soon expect to see the graves give up their dead as to see the proposed amendment, or anything like it, adopted by this people, in the closing days of the nineteenth century. It is repugnant to all classes of citizens, whether they worship at Christian or at Jewish altars, or refuse to bow in the temples of any faith. Of course, it remains true that this is a Christian people, but not a Christian nation. The genius of the republic allows all forms of religion, but cherishes none. By not so much as a finger's touch, can profane hands be laid upon the freedom, within which all creeds are protected, and the performance of all rites and ceremonies, not inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state, is assured. By the same persuasion, however, which guards the church, it is ordained that it may not interfere, in the slightest measure, with the integrity of the state. "It is plainly seen that this absolute

divorce of church and state—the spiritual church and the secular state—is for the weal of each. The church has its agencies of life—the sermon, the ritual, the Sunday school, the well-ordered home. These all make for the temporal, as well as for the eternal, salvation of those to whom they minister. Any association with them by the state would be to their hurt. That church is not worth sustaining which can only be sustained by the state, whether this be by bayonets, by law, or by largess.

"Recognizing these things, as written in letters of light, the fathers made this a secular government, abolishing church establishments, proscribing religious tests, and even refusing to write God in the constitution. They did wisely and well, inspired by true Christianity, as well as by patriotic fervor. And their sons will not destroy that which they intelligently builded. Neither Jew nor Gentile need fear that the backward step will be taken. Irrefragably and irreversibly the liberties both of church and state are inviolable in the fabric of the nation and abide in the soul of American manhood."

When will this simple truth be everywhere understood? The Pittsburg Dispatch confesses that it is not wholly satisfied with Senator Quay's side of the Flinn-Quay overture. "It was not his business," that journal says, "to listen to peace propositions after the battle had been waged on the understanding that it was to continue until the entire system represented by last year's municipal combine was expanded." The Dispatch should not expect too much reform all at once. Great improvements are gradual.

It is greatly to be regretted that Hon. Charles A. Dana has found that he will be unable to deliver the next address at Wyoming monument on Massacre day. A speech from this great American, who is a great grandson of one of the victims of 1778, would have been prized as of exceptional interest and value. May he be able to come at some future time. Let us hope so.

"At the present moment," says Walter Wellman, with a glance of pride at his "fair share of success" in forecasting the action of past national conventions, "the chances for Mr. McKinley to beat the field are as good as two to one." In three months, however, changes are possible.

THE RAINES BILL.

From the Troy Times. But one conclusion can be drawn from a study of the measure, and that is that it will greatly reduce the number of dealers in liquor, free the business from the traffic on a higher plane, and impose a sentence, as long as they obey the law in letter and in spirit. All estimates conclude that the tax on alcohol will increase the receipts of the several communities, and at the same time greatly reduce the demands upon the taxpayers to meet state expenses.

It is believed that the prevailing sentiment in this state is in favor of the higher taxes upon liquor selling, and more stringent regulation of the business. The better class of citizens are in favor of this, for the realize that it will put them on a more respectable footing and relieve them from the necessity of working of petty local political schemes. The best people of the state favor it because it puts the liquor business where it can be controlled without the interference of local favoritism.

The United States revenue law is never dodged, because the dealers know that no "pull" will save them in case of violation. Similarly, state supervision of the business will work for good because of the remote chance for escaping the penalties prescribed for illegal practices. There is an honest difference of opinion as to the special method which should be employed, but no one who has the good of the people at heart doubts the virtue of state supervision. In the opinion of the legislature, the best way to create a state excise commission, with under officials to cover the whole territory carefully and efficiently. If the present working of the comp. Esion comes short of the popular expectation, the next legislature can make such modifications as experience may show to be wise. In so radical a departure from the old methods it is not to be expected that perfection will be attained all at once.

Under the new plan the state government becomes responsible for the enforcement of the law in all sections. If violations are permitted the blame can be placed easily and a remedy for persistent mismanagement will be at the polls. Under the old way a local machine could wink at saloon law breakers and the people were helpless. Some objection is made to the state commission in the name of cost. The increased tax will more than offset this. Moreover, the cost of the various local boards under the old law has exceeded many times the total possible expense under the state plan. The expense argument is therefore unavailing. The general principle is correct. If errors have been made in the details there will be full opportunity for removing them. The business of the whole people interested in morality and good government now is to aid in the new regulations a fair and thorough trial.

HOW TO TEACH GEOGRAPHY.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. Scranton has a level-headed superintendent of its public schools. He is aiming at making the study of geography by the pupils of a more practical, sensible, intelligent character than heretofore, and this is certainly a step in the right direction. Recently a series of sixteen questions were prepared and submitted to him by the teachers of that city. Subsequently at his request they were presented to the scholars, and were received with great favor. The questions related to the city of Scranton and county of Lackawanna, and it is desirable that the school should be able to answer each and all questions correctly. The same questions will apply with equal force to Harrisburg and Dauphin county, in fact to every other town, city and county in the state. Questions like these are not only profitable but interesting and edifying as well. If the curriculum of studies was made up of more such questions on this or similar topics, time would never hang heavy upon the pupils or teachers. Every scholar in the public schools should at least be familiar with the geography of his or her own county. By being thus made acquainted with their own locality or neighborhood, they will be prepared to more speedily enter upon a larger field, and to study with interest and profit that of other counties, states, countries and continents. It is pleasing to know that here is one such school superintendent in Pennsylvania. Would that every town, city and county in the state had a Professor Howell at the head of their schools. What good scholars and practical, intelligent men and women there would be in every community in a short while. Geography be taught on the Howell plan in all our public schools.

NOT QUITE FAIR.

From the Shenandoah Herald. The politicians of Ohio are overstepping the mark by their assertions that to ex-Governor William McKinley is due the credit for the passage of the tariff bill bearing his name, and that he "framed" the bill. The Republican party is proud of William McKinley, and should be fortunate enough to secure the Republican presidential nomination. There is no question but that he would receive the support and a triumphant election. Whether or not he should be elected as the governor's chair of the congress of 1897, McKinley has filled each position with ability and is justly entitled to all the distinction and prestige which his services have won for him. But to say that McKinley "framed" the tariff bill is hardly stating the whole truth. He was made chairman of the ways and means committee by the appointment of Speaker Reed, and to the other Republican members of that committee, as well as the late James B. McMillan, ex-President Harrison, Speaker Reed, Senator Sher-

man, (Allison, Aldrich) and Quay, he lent the honor of framing the measure as such so as to be the chairman of the committee. It was a distinctly Republican measure, and it is hardly within the intellectual capacity of one person, no matter what ability he may possess, to frame a measure of that character. Besides, it is generally acknowledged that but for the masterful light led by Senator Quay in the senate in behalf of the measure the bill would have been killed in that body, and President Harrison would not have had the pleasure of attaching his official signature thereto. The Ohio boomers, it will be seen, are overstepping the mark and allowing their enthusiasm to run away with their better judgment.

CONTEMPORARY FAME.

According to the New York correspondent of the Pittsburg Daily News, the Rates high license still in New York is making Governor Morgan a man very much talked about. Already, according to Henricks, the press clipping man, he stands first on the list of men in the United States who are most talked about just at present. President Cleveland stands first on the list, his recent utterances on the Venezuelan and other questions, having received the greatest attention. Major McKinley stands second and Governor Morgan follows him closely. Their mutual fame has been increased by Mrs. Dimock, having named his name in the matter of newspaper paragraphs. The German Kaiser takes first rank as the most talked of man in the world. Roosevelt gets in about between Harrison and Secretary Olney, who is closely followed by Channey Dewey, Theodore Roosevelt and Eleanor Duse.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 12:41 a. m. for Friday, March 20, 1896.

It will be apparent to a child born this day that the "anchors" should be erected to accommodate the crowds that block up Washington avenue sidewalks daily during the horse show.

Presidential boomers are undecided yet what button to adopt. Members of the Second legislative Democratic committee are convinced that Fred Kerchoff is subject to psychic influence.

It begins to look like war, or something else, when the patron of seaside retreats with a standing army.

A spring poem the man who did not clean off his sidewalk yesterday, if written by pedestrians, would doubtless contain beautiful features slightly emphasized.

Do not be too anxious to display a chin on your shoulder on all occasions. Someone may miss their aim and knock you off the earth by mistake.

Join the Reds.

PUZZLED.

There lived in ancient Scribbletown a wise old writer-man. Whose name was Homer Cleo Deros Demos—He'd written treatises and themes till "For a change," he said, "I think I'll write a children's book before I go to bed." He pulled down all his musty tomes in Latin and Greek, consulted encyclopedias and manuscripts antique, Essays in anthropology, studies in counterpoise.

"For these," he said, "are useful lore for little girls and boys, and he scribbled hard, and scribbled fast, he burned the midnight oil, and when he reached "The End" he felt rewarded for his toil.

He said, "This charming children's book I'll call 'The Boy Who Was Puzzled.' And now he's sorely puzzled that no child has ever read it."

Carolyn Wells, in St. Nicholas.

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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,

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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.

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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 SHOE 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.

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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.

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