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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, APRIL 1, 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 23, 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.

Attest:—
Jere B. Rex,
W. R. Andrews,
Secretaries.

It would be a joke on several prominent politicians in Illinois if Senator Cullom were to be nominated at St. Louis in spite of their rather petty opposition.

Stamp Out Mob Lawlessness.

Our esteemed afternoon contemporary, the Truth, dissents from the proposition that inasmuch as the legal authorities have permitted Ruthven to hold public meetings in this region, thus tacitly conceding the legality of his course, they ought to see that he is given ample legal protection. We must take issue with it on that point. We do not uphold Ruthven. We think his work in this community grossly pernicious. But the liberty of speech is a consideration superior to Ruthven or to any other zealot, whatever his race or creed.

We consider that the Ruthven question, in its legal aspect, is plain. The first thing which the authorities have to consider is whether Ruthven, in his public talks, violates any statute. If he does, he should immediately be arrested, and not permitted to hold another public meeting in this vicinity. If he does not, he is within his legal rights and so long as he remains within them it is the duty of the authorities to see that he is not molested. Whether innocent or guilty of a violation of law, Ruthven should be protected from mob violence. Regularly established courts of justice are open to those who think Ruthven a public nuisance. The rule of mobs is directly contrary to law; it is repugnant to every sense of justice, and it must not be tolerated on any account in this civilized community. If we excuse mob law in one case, we open the door to it in any and all other cases. If a mob may, without hindrance, try to lynch Ruthven, it may at any other time, with equal propriety, feel commissioned to deal out arbitrary judgments until we should soon have no order at all, but total disorder, if not anarchy.

We are not ready to believe that the duly authorized courts of law in Lackawanna county are so uncertain in their administration of justice that it is necessary for disorderly mobs to take the law into their own hands and administer it on frontier principles by means of the pistol, the billy, and the missile. We consider that lawlessness is lawlessness, whether committed by Protestant or Catholic, singly or in mobs that terrify women and bring shame and scandal on the community which tolerates or extenuates them.

The Philadelphia Bulletin, which has recently become one of the best afternoon newspapers in the United States, has reduced its price to one cent. The daily column on "Men and Things" by "Penn" is alone worth ten times that price.

A Misuse of Power.

Governor Altgeld of Illinois may have his weak points, but he is emphatically and everlastingly right when he declares that "the judicial department is as proper a subject of criticism by the people as the executive or judicial branches of the government. The time has not come when any American officeholder can close the mouths of the people who created him and the office he holds. A proper respect is due to all the branches of the government and is necessary to good government. At the same time a proper respect for the rights of the people must also be maintained, which is also necessary to good government. There are three branches of the government. Each is independent of the other and if one may be criticised another may be."

The newspapers within the past three months have contained mention of several instances in which judges, smarting under printed criticisms, from the bench have threatened the authors of those strictures with summary vengeance. In few cases have these threats been carried out, because even indignant judges realize, upon reflection, that they cannot rightfully claim immunity from public scrutiny and, if necessary, criticism. But here and there one finds judges who so far forget the proprieties of their high office as to use the extraordinary function of a contempt proceeding as a means of arbitrary retaliation; and it doubtless was with that class of jurists in mind that Governor Altgeld recently used the words which begin this article.

It is to the credit of American journalism that its treatment of the judiciary is, upon the whole, much more respectful than is its treatment of either the executive or the legislative branches. But we refuse to believe that this extra respect originates in fear, or that it can be preserved by means of threats of summary seizure and commitment. Indeed, the bench should court even more searching and unsparing scrutiny than it today receives from the press. If any agency can keep the bench pure in the midst of the promiscuous contaminations of political strife, the press can by focusing upon it the careful attention of an otherwise indifferent community.

One proposition is self-evident; and that is that men who will so far give way to violent prejudices as to throw stones at a street car in which defenceless women are seated deserve no consideration. They should be prosecuted to the fullest limits of the law. Only cowards fight women.

An Unfair Argument.

A peculiar argument is made by the Chicago Times-Herald in behalf of McKinley. It is that Pennsylvania and New York and the other northern states which cast the largest percentage of the total Republican vote ought not to be deferred to in Republican national conventions, because they are safe anyway. Upon this principle, states which are faithful to the party should be ignored because of their faithfulness, and the fatted calf should be killed and cooked for the delectation of the erratic and uncertain prodigal sons. The Times-Herald doesn't state the case in quite so many words, but this is a fair inference from what it does say, which follows:

The influence of the great states—meaning thereby New York and Pennsylvania—was more potent in the nominations and presidential elections of past years than it is today. It used to be said that "as Pennsylvania goes so goes the union," but that dictum no longer prevails, nor can prevail. In the early days, when the states were few in number, those that possessed the largest population necessarily had the greatest power. Naturally enough for many years these states were all-powerful, not only in dictating candidates but also in electing them, and in nearly every election from the time of Jefferson to the present day New York has been represented on one ticket or the other of the contending parties. Of the vice-presidents New York has had Burr, Clinton, Tompkins, Van Buren, Fillmore, Wheeler, Arthur and Morton. Two of these, Fillmore and Arthur, succeeded to the presidency by virtue of their office. Of presidents elected by the people New York has had Van Buren and Cleveland. Pennsylvania has not fared quite so well, having had one vice-president, George M. Dallas, and one president, James Buchanan. But the scepter is now passing away from these great states, and their influence is no longer material. In the last presidential election Cleveland did not carry Pennsylvania and he was easily elected without New York. The electoral strength of the people is passing to the middle west, and it will be the states lying between the Alleghanies and the Missouri which will determine the next election. Thus it is evident that the people have nothing to fear from the bosses of New York and Pennsylvania.

We must confess that we cannot see the justice of our bright but prejudiced contemporary's argument. A national convention is a family affair. It should be a place where loyalty and steadfastness are not ostracised. It should be a place where honors are given in exchange for demonstrated merit—and by merit we mean not necessarily the glamor of superficial popularity resting upon no solid foundation of worthy performance, but merit covering a variety of tests and not forgetting political service. It should, in a Republican sense, be a place where the states that form the party's backbone can get, at least once in a while, fair treatment and a fair share of the honors. With special reference to Pennsylvania we should say that the wishes of a delegation having behind it a quarter of a million Republican plurality ought in a Republican national convention to receive certainly as much consideration as the wishes of the carpet-bag delegations from the voteless south or those of the volatile delegations from the fickle northwest.

If an army were to choose its general, would the camp followers, the raw recruits or the trained regulars be considered the best judges of his qualifications?

Uncle Sam's treasury deficit for the first quarter of 1896, under the "perfidy and dishonor" tariff, amounts to precisely $17,000,000, or more than $2 apiece for every voter who, four years ago, voted to turn the Republicans out. We guess there are few of them who wouldn't give $2 apiece to undo that folly.

The Gold Craze.

The action of the Manufacturers' club of Philadelphia in "declaring its unalterable opposition to the free coinage of silver by the United States alone" was coupled with a modifying clause which says that "the question of bimetallism can be permanently settled only through an international agreement." The club does not say whether it would like to witness an international bimetallic agreement, although it is fair to infer from its resolutions of a year ago, which declared in favor of international bimetallism, that it would. Its avoidance of a committal statement on that point in its resolutions of March 30 is, however, significant of the rapid progress which has been made under the whip and spur of the present Democratic administration toward gold monometallism.

When we consider that four years ago both the leading parties declared in plain terms for bimetallism, either by international agreement or by other safe action, the present aggressive advance of the gold single standard sentiment in this country becomes more than ever remarkable. If this were in a large degree a creditor nation, producing little and living chiefly on dividends and interest payments, this advance could be readily accounted for. In that event it would clearly be to our interest to have an appreciating standard of values, whereby debts would in effect be artificially increased by the taking away of practically half of the means of paying them. But when we recollect that the American people are in the main a nation of debtors and producers, this movement toward a contraction of the basis of our currency can be accounted for in no more complimentary way than by calling it one of those phenomena of popular hallucinations common among democratic institutions.

However, there is always one consolation to those who look at such phenomena in a philosophic mood. The pendulum cannot indefinitely swing in one direction. A reaction is sure to come. It may come soon or it may be long deferred, but its coming, in the end, is inevitable. The world did not, for four thousand years, use silver and gold together as a double standard, for nothing; nor is the civilization of this fin de siecle period so perfect that it can safely venture to discard, for all time to come, the economic teaching of the centuries which form the background to human progress. We have had the silver craze. We are now apparently in the tidal wave of the gold craze. Bye and bye we will recur to common sense principles, and then we will re-establish the bimetallism of the past.

Probably the best way for the Wyoming conference to get rid of the Hogan issue is to ignore its subject as beneath serious notice.

Make a Safe Choice.

Says General Clarkson: "Who the candidate will prove to be at St. Louis no one can tell, but it will be the man who will best stand the severe analysis sure to be made there, or the man who will be the strongest in second-choice strength. In my opinion, Senator Allison, who has the most central position of all the candidates and has the broadest record as to experience in statesmanship, and who has never been the candidate of factions, and who is equally strong east, west and south, is most likely to be the man. Iowa Republicans feel this, but they are ready to support loyally and to carry their state overwhelmingly for any man chosen at St. Louis. They have no disposition, however, to force a candidate upon the doubtful or necessary states, unless such states see in the Iowa choice the strongest man."

This is an eminently sensible view to take. The battle for the presidency will not be won at St. Louis. It will have to be fought out, inch by inch, after the nominations are made. Therefore, while Republican success looks gratifyingly probable, it should not be taken for granted. The campaign should be organized upon the strongest and most effective lines possible, just as much so as if the result were in doubt. That will be best for the party and also best for the country. The nominee should be a man acceptable to the recognized leaders as well as acceptable to the shouters of the party, for while shouters are well enough in their way it takes leadership to win.

POLITICAL POINTS.

James S. Clarkson predicts that from this time forward three out of every four states that will choose national delegates will favor other candidates than McKinley. He thinks the McKinley boom an artificial one, and says it has already begun to wane. He adds: "The invasion of Illinois as against Cullom, the organization in that state with money and bureaus to induce Illinois districts to declare for the Ohio and not for the Illinois candidate; the invasion and capture of Minnesota for McKinley as against Senator Davis, a man with the ability to be president and as worthy of it as McKinley; and the invasion of Nebraska as against Manderson, have all been victories for McKinley that will in the end prove to have been more costly than defeats. This reckless plunge into the states of other candidates has alienated many Republicans who would make McKinley their second choice. McKinley men and money were sent into Iowa to try to induce county conventions there to declare first or second choice for the Ohio candidate regardless of Allison's interests or of Iowa's self-respect. Men were sent there to try to defeat my election as a delegate to the national convention because I had presumed to be for a candidate of my own state and one who has qualifications at least as good as McKinley's, and whose strength as a candidate I consider superior to McKinley's. I know how the Republicans of Iowa feel as to the intrusion upon their state, and I have no doubt that the Republicans of the other states have the same feeling. This course on the part of McKinley's management gives authority for Republicans to be anti-McKinley in Ohio just the same as Minnesota Republicans have been induced to be anti-Davis or some Illinois Republicans anti-Cullom. The echoes of the strange contests forced in Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska are not unlikely to be heard the loudest in Ohio itself."

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According to the Pittsburg Daily News, Frank Willing Leach has created disorder in the Quay ranks. It says: "The young man with the elaborate head and overweening ambition has vaulted into leadership in such a way almost as to set at defiance his patron and protector, Senator Quay. Leach is always doing something of this kind—he has been a disturbing element ever since he entered politics. In 1881—fresh as a daisy—he stood beside Chairman Quay in the state convention as secretary of the body, and a month later he was a follower of the black flag raised by Charles Wolfe when he opposed Bailey for state treasurer. In 1882 he was the secretary of the Stewart committee, and howled himself hoarse over the defeat of General Beaver for governor. From this he slid, with easy grace, into the city controller's office, under a Democrat, where he remained until he made his peace with the city powers, after which he found his way into the sheriff's office by the grace of Martin, only to turn on him when he needed political assistance. Since then he has been with Quay. How long he will remain is a question. If Quay does not soon 'fire' him, Frank will 'fire' himself. It is generally understood that Quay is not the least pleased over the bold way in which the young man has pushed himself to the front as a candidate for state chairman, and the rupture will come when, next month, the state convention re-elects Chairman Quay."

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The Republicans of Tioga county, at their coming primary elections, are to have a chance to declare by their own votes whom they prefer as a candidate for president. As it is understood the Republicans of Lycoming county will also have a popular vote, more than two-thirds of all the Republicans in the district will have been heard from.

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Ex-Lieutenant Governor Chauncey F. Black is at the head of the movement to take a party of Pennsylvania Democrats to the Jeffersonian reunion at Monticello, Va., on the occasion of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson.

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The Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer declares that Congressman Leisenring is a full-fledged candidate for governor, to succeed Hastings.

|| || ||

There is some talk of ex-Judge Sadler, of Carlisle, as a Republican candidate for congress in the York-Cumberland-Adams district.

Mr. BLAINE'S IDEA OF RECIPROCITY

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record.

I am asked whether Mr. Blaine ever said, "Keep your tariff to trade on," and under what circumstances he said it. That was a favorite expression of Mr. Blaine, and he used it frequently when he was trying to hammer the reciprocity idea into the heads of the LI congress. The first and most important occasion that I ever heard it was at what is known as the hat-smashing interview in the room of the senate committee on appropriations in the summer of 1890, when the McKinley tariff bill was under consideration. He went to the capitol to confer with the committee on appropriations concerning certain provisions he desired made to carry out the recommendations of the international American conference. There were present Mr. Hale, Mr. Allison, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Butterworth and several other gentlemen, and the discussion turned upon the reciprocity amendment which had been rejected by the house of representatives and was pending in the committee on finance. He spoke with great earnestness, and, having his silk hat in his hand, brought it down upon the table with such force as to smash in the crown like an accordion.

Among other things he said: "You have built up our domestic industries by a protective tariff until they are now producing far more than the country can consume, and the manufacturers and farmers need a foreign market for their surplus. Don't reduce your duties without requiring foreign countries to reciprocate. Tell them that we will take our duties off their goods when they take their duties off ours. Keep your tariff to trade on. Don't throw away the duty on sugar as we threw away the duty on coffee and tea. Make the sugar and coffee growing nations put our products on their free lists before you put their products on ours. We furnish them their most profitable markets. Make them buy our merchandise in exchange." That was the Blaine idea of reciprocity.

THE HYPNOTIZED REPORTER.

One of the things to be dreaded by good citizens generally who take pride in the fair name of Scranton, is the artist of the Philadelphia Sunday Press, who has focussed his comic valentine camera upon the ladies of the Electric City. Courts of justice occasionally offer protection to the unfortunate who are libeled by pen or tongue, but in case of the cross-eyed artist there is no redress, and handsome women about us are obliged to restrain their wrath as best they may when beholding caricatures of themselves prepared by the circus-poster etcher of the Press. In case of wicked man it does not matter. The politician does not mind being made to look like the late Charles Guiteau or an ancient mummy find. In fact, the more he can be made to look like a murderer or a child-stealer, the better his chances of success at the polls. But no society lady of Scranton desires to have her name attached to what might be a composite portrait of Lydia Pinkham and Alderman Sam Jones, of Carbondale. They would rather remain in oblivion and blush unseen than be known as understudies to the Bowery tough girl or the tatooed woman from Borneo. I feel that I am voicing the sentiments of a large number of handsome and refined Scranton women in entering a protest against the nefarious work of the Philadelphia sketch artist.

* * *

In spite of the fact that Lillian Blauvelt's manager has stated that all of her American engagements for this season have been cancelled, the Wilkes-Barre papers continue to anounce her appearance in that city in the near future. This peculiar discrepancy may perhaps be accounted for by the excusable supposition on the part of the fair Lilly that Wilkes-Barre is out of place in the United States, anyhow.

* * *

I should like to make a few remarks upon the Frothingham Arcade portico, but the possibility that something new might unconsciously be said upon the subject makes me hesitate. Allow me to express the hope, however, that the portico question will not occupy the time of the street commissioner and councils all summer in a way that will make them forget that Scranton's streets need cleaning. An excavating party that would uncover the pavement on Washington avenue, between Spruce and Mulberry streets, for instance, would be as welcome as the blossoms of spring.

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