

The Scranton Tribune

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E. P. KINGSBURY, Pres. and Gen'l. Mgr. E. H. RIPPLE, Sec'y and Treas.

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SCRANTON, MAY 12, 1896.

The Tribune is the only Republican daily in Lackawanna County.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

Congressmen-at-Large, JILL SHAW, A. GARDNER, of Susquehanna.

Will Grover spring a Cuban "Jiminy" message and try to ride back into office on a third term wave?

Drawing the Line.

Mr. Platt's endeavor to prejudice the public against Major McKinley by insinuating that he is in some dark and hidden way opposed to a sound currency and that, if elected president, he would use the influence of his office to unsettle business stability and encourage apprehension, is a desperate last card, the publication of which should afford to Senator Quay and other former associates of Mr. Platt a just opportunity to part company from him.

The conversation credited to Senator Quay in which he is represented as having recently counseled the withdrawal of opposition to McKinley as soon as it should become clear that a majority of the national delegates favored his nomination is much more to the liking of decent Republicans than this abusive personal onslaught of Mr. Platt. Up to the present, Senator Quay has taken no step in connection with the St. Louis convention not wholly within his right as a recognized leader of the Republican party.

But there is one thing which no Republican leader is justified in doing; and that is in trying by misrepresentation and misleading innuendo to compromise his party or to jeopardize its success. It seems to us that it is the height of impertinence for Thomas C. Platt to say that like Senator Sherman, General Grover, Mark A. Hanna and hundreds of others who have known William McKinley intimately all their lives and who of their own free will vouch for his integrity and for his fidelity to principle are guilty of fabrication in their representations that McKinley is a believer in the maintenance of a currency every dollar of which shall be the purchasing and debt-paying equal of every other dollar.

According to Professor Burgess, there is no better established principle in the law of nations than the right of citizens of another power to trade with rebels, as the Spaniards regard the Cubans, and this right prevails even where the belligerency of the warring faction has been recognized.

party." The sentence of death passed by Weyler's court martial on the two American sailors of the Competitor is thus shown to be clearly illegal.

If Reed's house was a "do-nothing" body, how shall we describe the United States senate?

The New Bankruptcy Bill.

According to the new bankruptcy bill, which has passed the house—a voluminous measure containing 16,000 words—there are eight acts for which a debtor can be forced into involuntary bankruptcy.

Strong objection is raised in the west to this bill, particularly to the fifth feature forbidding a failing merchant from showing a preference among creditors. The Salt Lake Tribune states its objection by using an illustration, "Eastern houses," it says, "send their commercial men west to sell goods. They pay no rent, no taxes, they contribute nothing to the support of the state, they remain in a town perhaps a week in the spring and another in the autumn. The small retail traders buy of them certain lots, but they depend principally on the wholesale stores near them.

Another feature to which our Salt Lake contemporary enters a protest is that section which enables a creditor to force a debtor into involuntary bankruptcy. "For instance," it says, "a man may be doing business on \$30,000 invested capital. At he invests and extends credit he may have \$20,000 due him. It may all be good, too, but in the mean time, being obliged to borrow money in order to keep on his feet until he can make collections, he does borrow and give notes from time to time until he owes in that way \$15,000. To pay it he has outstanding accounts of \$20,000 and his stock in trade. Now, if the debtor were to permit one of his notes to run two or three days after maturity, the holder of the note could, under the bill, force him into involuntary bankruptcy, and it is easy enough to understand that before it was over the debtor would have nothing left."

Interviewed by the Times-Herald with prominent Chicago business men reveal much hostility to the present bill. H. N. Higginbotham, of Marshall Field & Co., is circulating a petition praying the senate to defeat the measure. He says:

"I believe, for many reasons, that there should be no bankruptcy law of any kind—first, because there are not enough of the debtor cases who desire it, and if they do the creditor class certainly should not want one. The passage of such an act would restrict the granting of credit. The condition of the country generally is such that the passage of such a law would be an unmitigated disaster. The law, as formulated by the committee, is a complete violation of existing state laws with reference to homesteads and exemptions, for the state laws in Wisconsin, for instance, a man may retain a half acre in the city with all the wealth that can be put on it, or forty acres in the country, and still go through bankruptcy and get his discharge. In Wisconsin he may retain a quarter acre in a city, or forty acres in the country. In other states the amount exempted varies from \$50 to \$500. The bankruptcy law is for the benefit of the debtor always, and it can't be made otherwise. The honest man doesn't need it, for we can always compromise with an honest man. A man passing through bankruptcy is not in a position to get credit, whereas if he arranges with his creditors amiable he does not. When an estate is liquidated by the business man, it is managed by the court, which does not appreciate the importance of prompt action. Our experience of twelve years under the old bankruptcy law was that we realized on the estates adjudicated 22 per cent. of our claims, and in the twelve years succeeding its repeal we realized on such estates 55 per cent. A bankruptcy law should be for the benefit of that class of creditors who have fallen behind in the race for wealth, but there are not enough of that class to warrant the passage of a law.

These objections in the main undoubtedly have some justice behind them. But it seems to us that they could be removed in the senate by amendment without necessitating the bill's defeat. The need of uniform bankruptcy laws approximately fair to both creditors and debtors, yet affording less opportunity than at present exists for the defrauding of creditors in cases where debtors are deliberate cheats, is thoroughly established, and it would seem that the senate ought to be able to modify the present, or Henderson, bill, as to supply this need without prejudice or injury to any honest interest.

Thus far, 150 gold standard and 122 free silver delegates have been elected to the Democratic convention. As 454 will be a majority and as the remaining districts seem to be somewhat more inclined to silver than to gold, it

can be seen that the financial battle among our friends, the enemy, promises to be close and spirited. Which ever side wins, there will doubtless be a bolt; and this, of course, is a welcome enough prospect from a Republican standpoint.

In speaking of emotionalism as a factor in politics, Walter Wellman recalls that not long ago congress "went wild on the Armenian question and passed resolutions asking the president to transmit to the kings and emperors of European countries the protest of the American people against continuance of the horrors in Asiatic Turkey. What became of those resolutions? They were pigeonholed in the state department by order of President Cleveland. They were never sent to the monarchs of the old world, as congress had intended. The one course may have been emotionalism; but if it was, the other certainly was imperialism; and as between the two we prefer the former.

It is too bad, of course, that Weyler cannot have his own way in the killing of Americans convicted by "drum head" trial. The interposition of the American government and the prompt removal of Spain no doubt grate on his gory instincts. But Weyler can have the consolation of reflecting that far better men than he have found themselves bulled by fate many more times than once.

The attitude of England towards Cecil Rhodes, if correctly reflected by J. C. Chamberlain, seems to be that he was somewhat guilty in having failed, but that he's too good a fellow to warrant the saying of much more about it. That certainly lets treason down easily.

It is very improbable that McKinley has given, as yet, any pledge for redemption after election. He is one of the few candidates in our history who have been spared the necessity of having to bargain for their preferment.

Just enough has been done this year in the way of beautifying Nay A. M. park to inspire the wish that Scranton had ten times as much money to spend on park decoration and equipment.

The change from Leach to Boyer in the chairmanship of the Republican state executive committee is one which few Republicans in this state will fail to appreciate.

It is worth repeating that William McKinley stands in the people's estimation in behalf of an honest dollar and the chance to earn it.

Mr. Platt forgets that many people have no use for a public scold.

CARLISLE'S SMALL TRICK.

Secretary Carlisle has sent to the senate in answer to an inquiry for the information, a statement of the redemption of the public debt during the first administration of Mr. Cleveland and the administration of Mr. Harrison. According to the figures given, during Mr. Cleveland's term \$20,712,122 of bonds were redeemed and the premiums paid amounted to \$2,000,000. During Mr. Harrison's administration \$25,392,959 bonds were redeemed and the premiums paid amounted to \$2,000,000. The difference between the two administrations is \$4,680,837. The surplus in the treasury got so large as to affect the money market, he ordered the purchase of bonds. The laws were not changed to reduce the surplus in the treasury, but generally the two houses of congress were not in accord, politically, and if the fact that \$25,000,000 of government bonds came due in 1891 is considered, there never was any surplus worth speaking of. Instead of accumulating this money and holding it in the treasury until the maturity of the bonds, which would have caused a great commotion of circulating medium and commercial distress, the government obligations were bought with it from time to time. On the day of the maturity of the bonds finally came on Sept. 1, 1891, the bonds were paid off, with the exception of \$2,000,000, which were extended at 2 per cent., and which, during Mr. Harrison's administration sold at par. This is all the story, and it is a credit to political purposes, it is asserted, that Mr. Cleveland is charged with having reduced the debt and Mr. Harrison is charged with having wasted the surplus. The whole matter of the circulation of the government.

AN EASY WAY OUT.

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record. An easy way for the Democrats to get around the silver question at the Chicago convention would be to adopt a resolution similar to that which appears in the program of 1892, when Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln were nominated. At that time there was a wide difference of opinion in regard to matters of policy, and a bitter struggle was waged. It is asserted that which exists between the gold bug and silver elements of Democracy today. The best and wisest course would be sufficiently comprehensive to satisfy all factions, and it furnishes an excellent basis for a resolution. The general delegations in place of a general address platform from this body of the party, it is recommended that the several delegations, report or otherwise to their respective constituents of the objects of the meeting, and make such explanations as they may deem expedient.

REED AND THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin. Tom Reed regards the offer of the vice-presidency with contempt. He is not to be blamed for entertaining that feeling. The office is usually the shortest of oblivion, and the mighty man of Maine is naturally inclined to look at it as a lone from the McKinley table. Yet it would be a great thing for the country if Tom Reed sat at the head of the senate for the next four years. True, he could not be so nearly all-powerful there as he has been in the speaker's chair, but it would not be long before his penetrating common sense, his dynamic force of conviction and his tremendous power over men would play havoc in the cabinets and mosquitos of tradition by governing himself against mere handfuls of cranks and obstructionists.

INTERESTING IN TRUE.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. Hon. John Leisenring has become quite a figure in state politics since his candidacy for governor. He has been in the limelight recently at Washington says he was told at the capital that the gubernatorial race had been put in our congressman's bonnet by Hon. J. A. Scranton, with a view of heading off William Connell of Lackawanna, who is so mentioned

for governor. * * * We would respectfully suggest that if Congressmen Leisenring and Scranton had had the courtesy to hesitate before employing one from Lackawanna county.

THE PASSING OF LEACH.

Not being allowed to have his own way, Frank Whiting Leach has made known by his public acts that which the Free Press stated some time ago, viz: that he had broken with Senator Quay. He is no longer connected with the state committee. It is a good thing for the party, for Leach has done a great deal to stir up strife among Republicans. He was a most valuable man to the state committee as an organizer and a clerk, but he was not satisfied to remain such. He wanted to rule the roost instead. And the whole record of Leach's recent doings written, it would seem to light a mass of manipulation and trickery that would open the eyes of the Republicans in Pennsylvania, and cause them to see with the Free Press, "the party organization is well rid of him."

We have spoken many kind words for Leach, and we still believe they were deserved. Ready now to attest his executive ability and his valuable past services, we are also ready to say that his latest step will be beneficial to the party organization, as his usefulness has been added to the cause of the party. Whether Leach is being supplanted with money by the position of William McKinley, he has broken away from the party organization, and has done it in such a way that he has not injured the party. We feel relieved that Chairman Quay and others of the state committee have allowed his activities as headquarters to remain undisclosed.

HIS HAT IS DOTTED.

From the Scranton News. The News is disposed to regard the gentleman in charge of the editorial columns of the Tribune as the most graceful writer in the fallow, and as combining a ready insight into the nature of things with specially effective methods of composition.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxius, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 4:13 a. m. for Tuesday, May 12, 1896.

It will be apparent to a child born on this day that no wise man will deliberately resist the force of the stars. Of course everybody wants "sound money." It is the difference of opinion as to what constitutes "sound money" that is causing all the trouble.

The beauties of nature are all right; but when compared to a bunch of artificial flowers on your wife's spring bonnet they are decidedly not in it.

The McKinley band wagon appears to be pretty well loaded, but it will undoubtedly bear up until after the convention.

In spite of the efforts of Hon. Thomas Platt, the Morton boom lacks electricity.

There appears to be a "sufficiency in the north" after a Sunday ball game judging from the work of the Springfield club yesterday.

It begins to look as though an appropriation will soon be required to erect a building for the storage of the Burke-Herring archives.

Spacings Advice. Never spring puns on a joker. He has been there, and it will aggravate him to know just how funny you feel.

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