

The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly, No Sunday Edition. Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Co., 100 North Third Street, Scranton, Pa.

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SCRANTON, MAY 28, 1896

The Tribune is the only Republican daily in Lackawanna County.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

Congressman-at-Large. GAIUS A. GROW, of Susquehanna. SAMUEL A. DAVENPORT, of Erie. Election Day, Nov. 3.

Now that the conclave is over, we wish to compliment the Scranton Republican upon its discernment in re-publishing, in its Wednesday's issue, a considerable part of the excellent report printed in The Tribune on Tuesday. Better late than never.

A Word of Caution.

While there can no longer be any reasonable doubt that the feeling which will animate the great majority of delegates to the St. Louis convention will be firmly hostile to the idea of taking doubtful risks in relation to silver coinage, it need not and, for consistency's sake, should not follow that that convention must commit the party unreservedly to the gold standard. The fact deserves to be recognized that hitherto the Republican party, in national platforms and through leading organs, has espoused, indorsed and pledged its co-operation to bimetallicism. At this minute probably a majority, but certainly a considerable minority of its membership favors the double in preference to the single standard, conditional upon its establishment by consent of the chief nations.

Senator Hoar recently said in the senate that every Republican in New England was in favor of international bimetallicism. The recent Republican conventions in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois and Indiana took action which indicated a desire for the rehabilitation of silver to complete party with gold by international concurrence. Judging, therefore, from these recent expressions, it is not reasonable to suppose that a plank at St. Louis declaring for the existing standard but pledging the party's active endeavors in behalf of an international restoration of bimetallicism would be more consistent with past declarations and more prudent as a matter of present policy than a dogmatic, inflexible pronouncement for gold now and finally?

Says Senator Carter, one of the foremost of the so-called silverites, yet a man esteemed sufficiently four years ago to be made national chairman of his party: "This is not all the silver Republicans would like. They believe in free coinage. But they also believe in the Republican party, and do not want to be driven out of it. Such a platform would hold many of them in the ranks. It would contain a promise for the future. It would give Republicans who believe in protection a chance to go home and tell their people the party was not an enemy of silver, that a policy had been adopted which might lead to great results in the future, that most Republicans agreed silver must some day be rehabilitated, that the only differences of opinion were as to the method by which it was to be done, and that the silver men must exercise patience and wait for the coming of conditions favorable to their cause."

We recognize the temptation under which the St. Louis convention will rest to bid for the applause of gold standard extremists by a plank snapping in a moment the long association with the party of the thousands of thoughtful men, not simply in the west but all over the country, who, taking their cue from irreproachable Republican instruction, believe, without a tinge of selfish interest, that the only permanent solution of the periodical financial convulsions of the past quarter-century is to be found in a return, sooner or later, to the bimetallic standard. But before this temptation is permitted to carry its point, let the delegates reflect that, however bright may seem the prospect of Republican success in 1896, there will be future elections when the lesson of Democratic mismanagement will not be so potent a contributor to Republican majorities, and when it will be necessary to husband party strength and guard against the needless sacrifice of party unity and enthusiasm.

It looks as if when Brother Platt rounded Warner Miller to open warfare he brooded the wrong animal.

Need of an Extra Session.

It may seem a far cry from now until the inauguration of the next president, yet that stretch is suggested by the report which comes from Canton crediting Major McKinley with intending, the day after his installation into the office of chief magistrate, to call an extra session of congress for the purpose of securing immediate consideration of the state of the national revenues.

This report, although unauthorized, is probably true. It conforms to what

will clearly be the next president's commanding duty. The national finances are in a tangle. Each day adds to the treasury's embarrassment. Our income as a nation is not sufficient to meet our necessary current expenses, not to mention the new debts which Democracy has accumulated for future cancellation nor the intervening interest charges. This unnatural and unsafe condition of the finances of our country has reflected itself in private affairs, causing distrust, apprehension and monetary stringency. It has precipitated ruin after ruin on the treasury. It has contributed to an unprecedented fall in prices. It has been very largely the means of reducing 2,000,000 American workmen to whole or partial idleness. And it will go on from bad effects to worse unless it shall be speedily and effectively corrected, by such a readjustment of the tariffs of the nation as will insure adequate revenue without forfeiting American industry, and guarantee an honest dollar with the chance to earn it by honest toil.

To this doctrine Major McKinley is pledged; to it he owes his remarkable present popularity, and to it, when he shall be elected president, he will properly devote his serious and immediate attention. He can do this with especial grace because while the deficit accumulated as a consequence of the present Democratic tariff amounts thus far to \$183,000,000, or more than \$70,000,000 a year, there was no deficiency whatever under the tariff act which bore his name, but, on the contrary, a net surplus of over \$15,000,000. Therefore, he will not need to recommend the adoption of novel and uncertain experiments but can advocate the regulation of the future by the wise teachings of the instructive past.

If Nikola Tesla can substantiate all his expectations, the new light of his, concerning which so much is said, will resemble veritable little suns. In a bulb like that now employed for a 16-candle power incandescent light, he expects to secure a light of nearly 1,000-candle power, without any film to burn out. The electricity for this purpose can be taken from any charged wire, and the voltage now used in the incandescent system will, it is promised, do ten times its present work. The public eagerly awaits developments.

General Miles on War.

The editor of the Cosmopolitan magazine recently requested General Miles to prepare a paper giving an outline of probable first steps in a war between this country and a great European power, for instance, England. The general properly declined to comply with this request, upon the ground that it would necessarily involve a giving away of official secrets. But he wrote, and the June number of Mr. Walker's magazine contains, an interesting paper on the duty which Americans owe to themselves to prepare in time of peace such means of defense as would shield them in case of war.

General Miles, we take it, is not hopeful of a speedy realization of the golden dream of universal peace. "Happy," says he, "would it be for a nation if it could reach such a stage of excellence and moral character that all its affairs could be administered with intelligence, wisdom and justice, so that the resort to physical force would be unnecessary, either in the adjustment of its internal affairs, dissensions and disaffections, or in the maintenance of its interests and character with its neighbors. We have not reached those millennial days, however, and while we would not encourage war or a spirit of hostility, yet we would simply deceive ourselves should we close our eyes to the lessons of history or the obvious perils in which the defenseless would find themselves in the event of war."

Assuming, therefore, that the possibility of war has yet to be reckoned with, the bulk of General Miles' endeavor is to prove that we ought not to delay the work of preparation. He is especially anxious to remove the impression that a war would be likely to be reached only after a long interval of word-bandyng, sufficient to allow us to get properly ready for the inevitable. He cites in this connection the result of an inquiry by the British adjutant general as to the historical cases in which hostilities had taken place between civilized powers prior to a declaration of war. The period covered was between 1700 and 1870; and while there were more than 100 cases of war where-in the first blow had been struck before notice was given, there were only 10 cases to the contrary. This proves, he thinks, that the only safe way is to be prepared at all times for the unexpected.

But how shall we prepare? The general, in his talk of a larger navy. Already, he points out, we have spent \$10,371,710.10 on that portion of our equipment for war, or \$100,000,000 more than would have sufficed, according to the estimate of the Endicott board, to fortify every important American port so as to make it impregnable in the event of naval attack; yet that navy is still only a small affair, ranking eighth in the world's list. "Great Britain alone," he says, "has 50 battleships to our 3; 85 coast defense vessels and armored cruisers to our 20; 140 unarmored cruisers to our 42; 189 torpedo boats in service to our 2; and 62 in process of building to our 7. And she has enrolled 88,550 officers and men to our 13,400, including marines."

Not only is Great Britain's navy superior to ours now, but it is the purpose of the English government to keep it superior. "Her policy," says General Miles, "is known to be to maintain the strength of the British navy in quality if not in superiority with the navies of any two foreign powers. No effort on our part to equal her naval strength at sea is likely to succeed in the near future." And while it is England's plan in case of war "to place her first line of defense at the enemy's coast," the United States, on the contrary, "are consolidated and able to reinforce their coast defenses without encountering the vicissitudes of protracted sea voyages and of foreign climates."

In brief, the advice of the general of the American army is to waste no more money on warships, but work night and day until every important American seaboard city shall be so protected by coast defenses that if the predatory squadron of an enemy's vessels should ever suddenly anchor in its harbor with

hostile intent, the attack could be repelled as rapidly as it could be made.

There is renewal of the recent talk about adding the persecuted Armenians to emigrate to some more hospitable country, and among other sites for such a colony the Canadian northwest is suggested. Unfortunately, Turkey does not want the Armenians to emigrate, and consequently the plan will fail. The Armenians make too rich robbing to render it possible for them to get free tickets of leave from their periodical despoliers.

Next!

The Buffalo Enquirer, which was established as a Democratic organ and which later became independent in its politics, has decided to cast its lot with the Republicans this year, and in announcing its decision it gives many good reasons for the step. After reviewing how sadly the Democrats have failed in the past three years to meet public expectations, the Enquirer remarks:

The Democratic party, with a record of failure in administering our own affairs and a vacillation in regard to the affairs of other nations, faces the country with a single issue—that there must be a currency reform. But no man can tell what reform is to be proposed. Will it be gold monometallism? Will it be free coinage? Will it be a fiat paper, issued by the banks of forty-five states, security for the uncertainty as to principle is added the uncertainty as to candidates. There is a single Democrat in the field who commands the confidence, to say nothing of the enthusiasm, of the Democratic masses. The people give no hint of a choice, and there is no politician with courage enough to stand up to the voters and propose the possibilities that the Chicago convention may nominate Mr. Cleveland for a third term. It is a display of the vituperation upon which the Democratic party was founded—disparagement of executive power and sneering at the masses. The masses, therefore, as to policy, chaos; and as to leadership, treason.

Assuming that chaos and treason are to be shunned, and believing that a political change from Clevelandism is necessary at this time, the Buffalo paper continues:

The Republican party is at least a party of hopefulness; it is aiming, not at pessimism, but at a state of calmness and despair. It is for the present the party that bears promise of rest, peace and security. It seems inclined to leave undisturbed our industrial system, to which, whether wisely or unwisely, our business has been formed. It seems disposed to maintain our financial system, refusing to wrest it to the wrong of the creditor by the free coinage of silver or to the wrong of the debtor by demoralization of the standard dollar and retirement of our legal tender paper. It may take the government out of Wall street and put it into the hands of the people, give the masses a chance to invest their money in business enterprises rather than national bonds, and let the masses have full swing in working out their own property. It is to the credit of the Republican party that it has produced a man fit for the political occasion, William McKinley; and that the plain citizens of that party have spoken out so strongly in favor of his nomination regardless of the will of the mere political managers. He is a pure and honest citizen; he was a gallant soldier; he has been an able party leader as well as a party follower. He stands out sharply for that which is best in Republicanism; and that is the best there is since Democracy became temporarily demoralized.

This is merely the beginning. It is the first public confession of what thousands of Democrats have for months been saying privately. It has preceded the nominating conventions but the greatest difficulty which the Republican party will encounter in this campaign will be in finding room for the millions who will flock to its standard.

The election by yesterday's grand Templar commander of Major T. P. Penman as a graceful and well-merited compliment alike to Mr. Penman and to the city which presented him as its candidate. That the honor was wisely bestowed is true as well from a personal as from a geographical standpoint. We congratulate Major Penman and felicitate the local commanderies.

It is estimated that 1,250,000 men who served in the union army during the rebellion still survive. But for the past five years the annual death rate has averaged above 25,000; and in the natural order of things it must soon multiply rapidly. Now, therefore, is the time to do justice to the veterans. It will soon be too late.

Chauncey Black's harmony proposition that the nominee of the Chicago convention be pledged in advance to sign, if elected, any currency bill passed by congress is safe enough, since that nominee will not be elected. But doesn't it show a culpable willingness to subordinate principle to expediency?

One week from Saturday Huntingdon county Republicans will ballot for their preference as between Fennose and Wanmaker for United States senator. But suppose Hastings should be a candidate?

As if they had not troubles enough of their own, the Luzerne papers are beginning to talk Lackawanna congressional politics. Well, talk is cheap.

RUSSIA'S NEW CZAR.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. Nicholas II, born 1868, succeeding to the throne on the death of his father Nov. 1, 1894, does not seem to have the brilliant that during the reign of his father and the interval between his own accession and coronation, he had made subject to his crown the other colossal empire of history, China, with its immense area, not less than 4,000,000 of square miles and its uncountable hordes, not less than 400,000,000. His subjects comprehend, moreover, a larger variety of human species than has ever acknowledged any other sovereignty. It is probable that there may be found within the confines of his empire descendants of every great division historically known as the human family of Asia and Europe. 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