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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, JUNE 6, 1896.

The Tribune is the only Republican daily in Lackawanna County.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

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

"The services of McKinley's friends," says Mark Hanna, "will be valued by the sacrifices they made." Well, Colonel Quay has already sacrificed the presidency.

The New Traction Company.

Upon its face, the proposition of the Citizens' Street Railway company to the city of Scranton looks fair. The new company agrees, if voted certain franchises, to begin the construction of its lines within one year following the signing of the ordinance, and to complete it within two years, under forfeiture of all franchise rights. It further agrees to file a bond as a guarantee of the genuineness of its intentions, said bond to become forfeited if any of the franchise conditions be not observed by the company. By way of compensation for the rights sought, the company pledges itself to pay into the city treasury an annual tax of $2 a car, which may not be a very ample consideration, but which at all events is $2 a car more than the Scranton Traction company is paying for rights even more valuable.

The attitude of the public toward this proposition is, we believe, embodied in the statement that it wants fair treatment and good service. The city is steadily growing, and if with this fact in mind a second transit company wishes to enter the field as a competitor for the public's patronage we believe that it will receive a cordial welcome and retain the favor of the people just so long as it shall deserve to. The new company would possess several advantages not enjoyed by the company now in possession of the city's streets. It would be composed entirely of home capitalists familiar with the city's needs; it would not be weighted down with such a burden of fixed charges as would necessitate a cramping of its service; and it would start with the marked advantage of new equipment, including all the latest improvements. Insofar as its coming would dispossess the older corporation, that would call for no special sympathy since the Scranton Traction company has paid virtually nothing for its privileges and given to the public, in way of service, considerably less satisfaction than the field clearly calls for.

Competition is the order of the day. There is scarcely a department of business in which it does not prevail. While the building of the Hotel Jermyn may have seemed a blow at the Wyoming house, it has proved of decided advantage to the city and the Wyoming house is still making money. If a new street car system will have a similar effect, we say let it come; the sooner the better.

Mr. Cleveland's opinions on the third term question now probably coincide with the fox's opinion of the unattainable grapes.

McKinley and Silver.

The letter which Major McKinley is said to have written to the secretary of the Stark county, O., Farmers' Alliance, under date of Oct. 27, 1890, represents him as saying: "I am in favor of the use of all the silver product of the United States for money as a circulating medium." By "all the silver product of the United States" is meant, we assume, that portion of the total product not used in the arts. It is estimated by experts that on an average 60 per cent. of our total silver product is utilized for commercial purposes, leaving only 40 per cent. open to coinage. The total yearly product of silver in this country has never gone above $80,000,000 and is now about $40,000,000 in round numbers. Forty per cent. of this would be from $16,000,000 to $32,000,000. Our annual increase in population is 1,000,000. To keep our per capita circulation at $25 would require the absorption each year of $25,000,000 of new money, which is about the amount contemplated in the foregoing proposition ascribed to William McKinley.

It is not certain that Major McKinley ever wrote this letter. He denies having any recollection of it. But if he did write it, he need not be ashamed of it, for it embodies a sound and sensible proposition, exactly on the lines of the one which this paper has repeatedly suggested as a safe and wholesome solution of the currency problem. Our plan, it will be remembered, was to levy a tariff on foreign silver sufficient to keep it out of the country and then admit to coinage at a ratio to gold corresponding with the ratio of former times, namely, 16 to 1—or, for that matter, any other ratio, since the ratio itself is not the thing of chief importance—such a percentage of the American silver product as would not be diverted into the arts. We fail to see—and we have consulted some eminent authorities on the subject—how this plan would in any wise imperil the soundness of our currency, how it could cause any loss of our gold or how the result of such a limited expansion of our circulation to fit the normal growth in population would have other than a beneficial effect upon the country, which now is admittedly suffering from currency contraction.

Free and unlimited coinage of the world's silver by this nation alone would mean the replacement of our gold by silver at half the value of gold. It would, therefore, be ruinous. But the limited coinage of protected American silver would give to this country an elastic currency every dollar of which would be as good the world over as a gold dollar for the reason that whenever a foreigner preferred one of our gold to one of our silver dollars we could cheerfully give it to him, knowing full well that in course of time, under a protective tariff, the balance of trade, no longer swinging against us as is the case under the Wilson bill, would bring the gold dollar back to us again.

This, we suspect, was the thought in Major McKinley's mind when he wrote that letter, if write it he did. It is a logical extension of the protective principle to the product which American labor digs from American silver mines, and we have yet to be shown wherein it is unwise, unjust or unsafe.

International bimetallism is by no means an iridescent dream. Once let Russia and the Orient absorb gold in the development of their industries to one-half the extent that it has been absorbed by the older countries of civilization and the world will be compelled to monetize silver or else hobble along on fiat money.

The Jury System.

The Chicago Times-Herald prints not on its editorial page but in such a manner as to carry editorial indorsement an attack upon the jury system which is sufficiently energetic to be worth repeating. We suspect that it was penned by Judge Kohlsaat, the brother of the Chicago paper's owner.

"The way to improve the jury system," says this contributor, whoever he may be, "is to abolish it. The jury system, as exemplified in actual, continual, daily practice throughout the United States, in courts of every degree of decorum, from the yawning panel in the police court to the substantial dozen who flank the judges in the higher courts, is a rank and outrageous mockery. It is the most expensive adjunct of our judicial system, and its results are the most worthless. It is above all things a breeder of bribes, a refuge for ignoramuses, a castle from which to work in safety any sort of injury, a useless, idiotic, malice-infested and ghost-supported pest. There has not been a litigant in the last fifty years who was profited the weight of an honest penny by the intervention of a jury. And the litigants who have suffered are named legion, while the public which has paid for the larger portion of the bill is patient and long-suffering beyond all bounds of reason.

"Absolutely, a jury is helpless, except to work injury. It is more helpless than the sparrows that twitter on the window-sills, when it comes to adding to the chance of a just administration of the law. A jury is the judge of the evidence, yet the court can order a certain verdict, and may set a verdict aside if it is not in accordance with the evidence. The jury is a co-ordinate branch of the court, yet the judge may send a juryman to jail—or all of them, if he likes, because they refuse to recognize him as a superior. Jurymen are the bulwark of American liberties, the safeguard of freemen, the chosen 'peers,' and yet they may be bullied and browbeaten and insulted and ordered about by every little scrap of a lawyer who can borrow his way to a diploma. As a matter of fact, few men are tried by their peers, and few cases see a jury of qualified or competent men in the box. The rag-tag and bobtail gets into the jury box by a system that, like the peace of God, passeth all understanding. It is paid a price which wouldn't hire competent men. Evidence which not a man of the twelve can understand is projected at the jury for days at a time. Matters of the nicest balancing are given for this indifferent body of men to determine. No wonder the old lawyer said if there was anything God Almighty didn't know, it was what verdict an American jury would bring in.

"But it is in criminal trials that the gravest injustice is done. There are half a dozen men in this town who can get a jury to acquit or save by disagreement any man so elected. Their friends are beyond the reach of punishment. There are three lawyers who will, to an absolute certainty, secure an acquittal or a disagreement if they can come into the case before the jury is drawn. And one of them can come into a case the day the panel is called and guarantee a disagreement at the least. Of what good, then, is the jury? How does it help the ends of justice? Where can it, even if it were ideal, do a single thing better than can the judge? Is there an objection to trusting your life, your liberty or your fortune to any single human intelligence? But one man decides it, anyway. All twelve must agree, or there is no verdict. It were too much to describe how they arrive at a verdict sometimes; but that sacred fetich, a verdict, there must be, or the whole work must be done over. Any one man of the twelve may prevent it."

This sounds rabid enough. But is it as rabid as it sounds? Is not the jury system as at present exemplified just about the kind of a farce outlined above? Would not one or three paid judges, chosen for life or good behavior, make a safer tribunal before which to submit evidence? Think it over.

It is related of Colonel Abe Slupsky, Mr. Dana's St. Louis favorite who was numbered among the cyclone's victims, that in 1892 he just missed being nominated for president. After the Blaine men were beaten the convention was in doubt. Slupsky was drinking in the bar of the West house, and did not know the delegates were looking for a candidate. After Harrison had been nominated General Slupsky heard that for a time the delegates were begging for a candidate "Why," said he, "if I knew dey were lookin' fer a man I'd a gone in meself." The west will mourn Slupsky and the east will join in the grief.

Probably when Ballington Booth saw the picture of him which was printed in yesterday's Republican he was reminded of Judge Willard's story about the young man who wanted a celebrated artist to paint his father's picture. The son explained that his father was dead and that he had left no photograph, but the artist was told to go ahead and do the best he could. Finally, when the portrait was unveiled, the young man, after contemplating it in silence for a time, remarked sadly: "If that is father, great heavens, how he must have changed!"

The Philadelphia Ledger used to be an honest paper; but we find difficulty in reconciling with honesty its arraignment of the compulsory education law because, forsooth, local school boards in certain sections do not provide sufficient school accommodations. On the same principle it should urge the repeal of laws against crime because in some places the jails are overcrowded.

It is no surprise that the supporters of Major McKinley all over the country are urging upon him the selection of Mark Hanna as the next national chairman. Such a choice would be the only logical result of Hanna's masterly management of the nomination canvass. Hanna owes it to the party to complete the work he has so well begun.

The proposition to change the basis of representation in future Republican national conventions so as to give the controlling say to states with Republican electoral votes is opposed only by the irresponsible carpet bag element of the south and southwest. Their opposition is an eloquent argument in its favor.

It has been suggested that inasmuch as the battleground of this year's presidential campaign will be the west, the national headquarters of the two parties ought to be transferred to Chicago. The suggestion looks plausible.

Report has it that ex-Senator J. Sloat Fassett has sold his controlling interest in the Elmira Advertiser to a New York syndicate favorable to T. C. Platt. It will take a good many newspapers, however, to perpetuate Platt's sway.

ASTROLOGICAL

Weather and Other Predictions for the Coming Week.

Sunday, June 7.—Mercury semi-square to Jupiter. Weather changeable. A child born on this day will be careless, extravagant and generally unlucky. An unfortunate day.

Monday, June 8.—Sun in conjunction with Neptune. Weather rather unsettled. A child born on this day will do better to keep in the employ of others. Sell before 11 a. m.

Tuesday, June 9.—Sun bi-quintile to Saturn. Weather unsettled. A child born on this day will probably be lazy and useless. Uncertain day for business transactions.

Wednesday, June 10.—Sun in conjunction with Mercury. Weather unsettled. A child born on this day will be active and agreeable; will be respected and will rise in life. Court, marry, speculate and push business affairs generally. This is a lucky day.

Thursday, June 11.—Weather rainy. A child born on this day will be bright, but rather unfortunate in business; a female will experience some trouble in wedlock.

Friday, June 12.—Mars a morning star. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will be unfortunate late in life. If a female, will marry an unfortunate man. Be wary in all dealings on this day.

Saturday, June 13.—Sun semi-square to Jupiter. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will be of excellent wit, but will have to work hard for a living. Travel.

HAS NO USE FOR DEFICITS.

From the Times-Herald.

Englishment are just now felicitating themselves over the splendid financial showing made by the English government during the past year. Their national debt has been decreased and the budget for 1896 shows a surplus of $21,000,000. This condition of things is pointed to with pride by Englishmen as an achievement of wise statesmanship—results of a sound financial administration that indicate great national prosperity. Governor McKinley represents better than any other American statesman this sound English policy of having a surplus instead of a deficit. Under the McKinley law there was a surplus of revenues over expenditures of $37,239,726.57 on June 30, 1891; of $9,914,453.66 on June 30, 1892, and of $2,341,674.29 on June 30, 1893.

SOUTHERN JUSTICE.

From the Times-Herald.

There is an amusing side to the South Carolina attempts at disfranchising negroes under the educational test of the new constitution. Negroes are required to read and understand such sections of the constitution as contain words like "mandamus," "quo warranto," "conveyance," "ex post facto" and "subsidy." They fail, of course, and thus are deprived of the suffrage privilege "according to law." When white illiterates apply the officers make matters easy for them by giving them sections free from all technical and uncommon terms. This injustice had been foreseen and predicted, however, and now excites no surprise. Is the country growing indifferent to the negro problem?

A BIT OF PROPHECY.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

The Republicans will declare for protection to home industries, for ample revenue, for absolute integrity in our monetary system, and for a foreign policy which shall uncompromisingly maintain the national honor. The Republican party will pursue its chosen course, appealing to the interest and conscience and patriotism of the people, and will win success by deserving it. The path of duty is clear, the way to victory is open, and the march will be made along the straight line of what is right and beneficial to the whole nation.

QUAY MAY WITHDRAW.

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record.

No one need be surprised if Senator Quay withdraws from the presidential race within the next few days and requests his supporters to cast their votes for McKinley. It is understood that he has already written a letter to that effect to a member of the Pennsylvania delegation and is withholding it to consult friends.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 2.35 a. m., for Saturday, June 6, 1896.

A child born on this day who contemplates the Republican's picture of Ballington Booth will be of the opinion that the commander's whiskers must have grown rapidly during the night.

The new uniform of Chief of Police Robling has the same effect upon some of the unterrified patriots that would be produced by the flaunting of a red flag before a mad bull.

Professor Coles says that life is not a huge joke. We suspect that the professor has been interviewing Collector Herring regarding the Burke charges.

Speaking of street railways, there can be no objection to competition that will in the end enable every man to put a nickel in the slot and bring a trolley car up to his back doorstep at will.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Do not bet against the Scranton Base Ball club during the coming week. There's a mascot in camp.

FASHION NOTES.

The best and most seasonable effects in unmuzzled dogs are produced by lead filling.

Opinions and designs are somewhat divided on bicycle suits for ladies.

Hempen scarfs tied with seven loops are recommended for citizens of foreign birth who have received court diplomas for dexterity with the razor and slung shot.

Handsomest things in ladies' hats in Scranton—heads.

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At about One-Half of their actual value. A big lot just bought from a defunct manufacturer.

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Lot 4.—22-inch White Silk, with three ruffles, - - - At $1.98

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FOR I'M TO BE MARRIED OH, HO! OH, HO!

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