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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, JULY 1, 1896.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

NATIONAL.

For President,
WILLIAM McKINLEY, of Ohio.
For Vice-President,
GARRET A. HOBART, of New Jersey.

STATE.

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

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

1. Tariff, not only to furnish adequate revenue for the necessary expenses of the government, but to protect American labor from degradation to the wage level of other lands. 2. Reciprocal agreements for open markets and discriminating duties in favor of the American merchant marine. 3. Maintenance of the existing gold standard and opposition to free coinage of silver except by international agreement with the leading commercial nations of the world. 4. Pensions and preferences for veterans of the Union army. 5. A firm, vigorous and dignified foreign policy "and all our interests in the western hemisphere carefully watched and guarded." 6. The Hawaiian Islands to be controlled by the United States; the Nicaraguan canal to be built; a naval station in the West Indies. 7. Protection of American citizens and property in Turkey. 8. Reassertion of the Monroe doctrine. Eventual withdrawal of European powers from this hemisphere and union of all English-speaking people on this continent. 9. The United States actively to use influence to restore peace and give independence to Cuba. 10. Enlargement of the navy, defense of harbors and seacoasts. 11. Exclusion of illiterate and immoral immigrants. 12. Reapproval of the civil service law. 13. A free ballot and an honest count. 14. Condemnation of lynching. 15. Approval of national arbitration. 16. Approval of a free homestead law. 17. Admission of the remaining territories, representation for Alaska and abolition of carpet-bag federal officers. 18. Sympathy with legitimate efforts to lessen intemperance. 19. Sympathetic reference to "the rights and interests of woman."—Condensed by the Times-Herald.

Anyhow, ex-Attorney General Palmer had a whole lot of fun out of it and made the race picturesque.

For Congress.

At the risk of being thought prejudiced, The Tribune desires to say a few words concerning the announcement by William Connell of his candidacy for congress.

Mr. Connell, it is true, is one of the owners of this paper, a fact which ordinarily would seal its columns against words of personal commendation. But if all those local enterprises in which he is actively interested to the community's benefit were to be prevented by his participation in them from voicing their recognition of his worth, there still would be an earnest demand from disinterested citizens for his selection as this industrial district's next representative in congress.

That congress promises to be one of unusual importance. It will be charged with practically the reconstruction of the nation's revenue system. To it will be delegated by the people at the coming election the welcome but at the same time difficult task of readjusting the national policy so as to do away with deficits, reverse the now adverse balance of foreign trade and restore among domestic industries needed protection against foreign competition. This work will not call for butterfly statesmanship. It will demand serious and practical business skill—the wisdom of the successful man of business who knows by personal experience what has gone wrong and how it can be remedied.

It is no reflection upon any other citizen of Lackawanna county to say that William Connell is by breadth and variety of practical business experience and by long familiarity with this community's varied resources pre-eminently qualified to take part in this important work. If others excel in special directions, surely none within the district surpass him in all-round equipment for effective labor in the practical safeguarding of home industries by new tariff legislation.

By the election of William Connell to congress the district itself would gain, not he. To him it would mean a personal sacrifice.

Collector Ryan's utilization of Consul General Lee's name for purposes of self-advertisement having been duly squelched, the nation eagerly awaits General Lee's next pleasure.

The renomination of ex-Representative Coray in the Second Luzerne district is of course equivalent to an election, which means that it will restore to a position of usefulness at Harrisburg one of the brightest and cleanest of recent legislators. Mr. Coray is a good type of the men who ought to be kept in state law-making assemblies regularly.

The silver men contemplate, it seems, a new departure in American politics. They propose to hold a caucus at Chicago, prior to the assembling of the Democratic national convention, and agree if possible on one candidate, thus averting a division of strength in convention. The experiment is new but it looks sensible. Principles certainly ought to be superior to personal ambitions; and this plan, if successful, would make them so, for the time at least.

The Execution of Mero'o.

It is well known to our regular readers that The Tribune does not believe in capital punishment. It considers unanswerable many of the arguments which may be brought against the death penalty. On moral grounds it questions the right of the state to send an immortal soul guilt-burdened into eternity. On the grounds of expediency it fails to see wherein the semi-barbarous principle of retaliation, as illustrated by the state when it exacts life for life, can work to the ultimate improvement of society. Statistics convince us that it does not discourage homicidal crime. Science teaches us that it is often a very unjust method of action, particularly when hereditary influences predestine some persons to crime just as they predestine other persons to the pulpit, the studio or the stage. And lastly, common sense and common humanity revolt from the spectacle of legal butcheries and throw over such scenes the charitable mantle of privacy.

The death penalty, however, prevails in this commonwealth and until there shall be sufficient enlightment to ordain in its stead a wisely ordered reformative system, there is left to opponents of that penalty no option but to assent to its enforcement and to insist that the law in relation to it shall be vigorously and manfully enforced. It, therefore, is cause for partial satisfaction that in Lackawanna county, after numerous failures to secure capital sentences for deliberate murderers, one of these culprits will today dedicate to its lawful work the first gallows in the county's history. In the case of Crescenzo Merolo guilt is plain and striking. There are no extenuating circumstances. The deed for which he is today to pay with forfeit of his life was audacious, brutal and calculated. His demeanor since arrest has been that of stolid indifference, tinged at times with defiant bravado. If he is a moral pervert, there can be small loss from any standpoint in his subtraction from human society. If he is acting a bravo's part, sympathy for him would be superfluous. In either or any contingency, he has come to his imminent doom after a strictly fair and impartial trial; the law of the commonwealth approves of his sentence and consequently good citizens will readily acquiesce in his execution and hope that the influence of it upon the lawless element of the community will be beneficial.

Before passing from this subject we deem it proper to renew our felicitations to Sheriff Clemons because of the wholesome manner in which the arrangements for Merolo's execution have been managed. Sensationalism has been repressed, mawkishness discouraged and only the essential facts have been communicated by him to the public. The result has been that the sentimentalism so frequently characteristic of preparations of this character have in this instance been, if we may use the paradox, conspicuously absent. Thus one serious evil of the death penalty has been kept from outcropping into mischief and the entire community has been laid under a debt of obligation.

Somebody ought to ask Grover Cleveland why if the Cubans are not belligerents Spain is sending so many soldiers to fight them.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

"The American people hold the financial honor of our government as sacred as our flag and can be relied upon to guard it with the same sleepless vigilance. They hold its preservation above party fealty and have often demonstrated that party ties avail nothing when the spotless credit of our country is threatened. The money of the United States, and every kind and form of it, whether of paper, silver or gold, must be as good as the best in the world. It must not only be current at its full face value at home, but it must be counted at par in any and every commercial centre of the globe. The sagacious and far-seeing policy of the great men who founded our government, the teachings and acts of the wisest financiers at every stage in our history, the steadfast faith and splendid achievements of the great party to which we belong and the genius and integrity of our people have always demanded this and will ever maintain it. The dollar paid to the farmer, the wage-earner and the pensioner must continue forever equal in purchasing and debt-paying power to the dollar paid to any government creditor."—McKinley's Speech of Acceptance.

We regret to observe symptoms of a widespread disposition to trample upon the tender little Pattison presidential boom.

The Result in Luzerne.

Although he was unsuccessful in the immediate object of his ambition, ex-Attorney General Palmer is to be congratulated for having imparted to Luzerne county politics a praiseworthy impetus toward higher standards. The nomination of yesterday was effected in a decidedly more Republican manner than that of two years ago. Money played at the finish a comparatively minor part. The pledge of the candidates not to use it for the corruption of delegates was observed with manly fidelity and the ensuing campaign will bring out the united strength of an enthusiastic party.

The nomination of ex-Senator Williams came as a natural consequence of the unwarranted attack recently made upon him, an attack which unfortunately had its strongest reinforcement in the curious course of the leading Republican organ, which two years ago was the ex-senator's loudest supporter. Whatever chances Mr. Palmer might have had to win for congress on the merit platform it vanished the moment the Wilkes-Barre Record gave its help to the diffusion of the idea that Mr. Williams' candidacy was relatively unfit. From that instant sympathy massed itself in Mr. Williams' favor, and continued to grow in volume under the Record's ludicrous attempts to qualify, evade and explain.

Of the county ticket it is enough to say that it represents fair ability and prudent geographical distribution. The nomination of Colonel Scott for state senator to succeed Clarence Kline has been for some time expected, and it will prove an exceptionally popular one. Altogether, the Republicans of the mother county have emerged from their political field day with conditions that guarantee in advance a sweeping victory.

In the same issue of the Washington Star which gives the tragic story of the Twin shaft disaster there appears a vicious diatribe against the "monopolists" who control the supply of anthracite coal. We suppose the Star really believes that an industry which writes its progress in the life-blood of its toilers ought also to sell its limited commodity below the cost of production.

It is brave in Mr. Singerly's newspaper to undertake to convince the leading political economists of the world that when they advocate international bimetallism they don't know what they are talking about. But is it also discreet?

Manley evidently thinks that for him to take an official place in the McKinley campaign management would look like rubbing it in on Tom Reed.

The Cleveland World announces exultantly that "an avalanche of gold is coming." It will be welcome. Let it come.

Pope Leo's idea of Christian unity is unity on a Catholic basis. We fear this will not bring evangelical consolidation about.

Possibly Senator Quay doesn't want the executive committee chairmanship because he already has troubles of his own.

Governor Boies should remember that the wise candidate never encourages the public statement habit.

RATIONAL AIDS TO PATRIOTISM

From the Washington Star.

It appears to be gradually dawning upon the people of America that they have drifted somewhat from the old ideas of what constitutes a proper observance of Independence Day. There seems to be a growing desire to return to the old-fashioned ways of celebrating the birth of the Republic, with such modern additions as present-day skill and inventiveness may afford. Aids to patriotism in addition to those provided by the customary firing of explosives are demanded by a progressive sentiment. A correspondent proposes for this purpose patriotic concerts by bands playing under the orders of the authorities, giving the people free access to good music of a timely character and familiarizing them with the national airs. He also proposes plays founded on patriotic incidents, to be given under the auspices of the government. These ideas are well worth considering at this end of the century, when the thought of how best to observe the greatest of all the national holidays is abroad among the people. In olden times there were speeches, poems, picnics and barbecues, with a very few incidental fireworks, designed to call the people together and to turn their minds into a common channel. Now these forms of celebration are practically obsolete, except in certain country districts, and the holiday is utilized by the great majority simply as an opportunity to flee from the ordinary cares of life and from the explosive celebrations of the stay-at-homes. The patriotic societies form the nucleus around which a reform may be successfully wrought. Their plans of observance are founded upon the right spirit and perhaps some day in the near future the great awakening will come when the younger generation will learn the lesson that patriotism and rejoicing over the liberation of the land have other symbols than the cannon cracker and the devil-chaser. The boys may never love fireworks less—it is not necessary that they should—but they will appreciate better the more rational forms of patriotic celebration and reminder.

AN INTERESTING COMEDY.

Rochester Post-Express.

There are few features in the American political campaign more innately humorous than the formal and solemn notification to the candidates of their nomination. This serious and impressive work is invariably done by a committee which is some weeks in getting around from convention to candidate. Meanwhile the members of the committee have personally congratulated the candidate, the town where he lives has whooped things until it seemed to be daft, loyal excursionists have come from all parts of the country to wring the nominee's hand and hang on his hopeful words, ready letter writers have deluged him with their epistles—it is said that McKinley gets 4,000 letters a day—office seekers try to squeeze promises out of him, his picture adorns half the press of the world and his name appears in every newspaper, songs are written about him, bands serenade him, babies are named for him, and at last, after two weeks of a suspense that must be theoretically full of wonder, the honorable committee calls upon the candidate to "notify him"—save the mark!—of his nomination. And even then the jest is not over; the acting has just begun: He receives them calmly and courteously as any other callers, they discuss the weather and kindred playful topics—or the candidate seems to expect to do so, until the gentlemen immensely surprise him by pompously revealing the news which they bear. How amazed, impressed, and grateful he then is; how happily, in a long written impromptu speech, he replies! The episode is one of the best of our national farces.

ENGLISH MISINFORMATION.

From Barron's London Letter in the Chicago Times-Herald.

Representatives in America of London papers are doing their utmost to fill the English mind with the idea that the United States is rocking on the verge of a revolution that shall make the civil war seem a pastoral frolic by comparison. The western states are depicted as being at a pitch of ferocious hatred toward the east, which they threaten with destruction. Says one strenuous correspondent: "When it is remembered that all these so-called western 'silver states' are self-governing, have their own armies, well equipped with modern weapons, and are inflamed with hate, it is not difficult to grasp the serious significance of their threats." Hence it is, declares this ingenuous prophet of unspeakable disaster, "that so many patriotic citizens would hail with delight a war with some foreign power;" because it would divert public attention from these "irritating" matters, and bind Americans together in one common cause. It is amusingly difficult to get a reasonable appreciation of American affairs before the judgment of the average Englishman. There is a disposition to believe any sensational extravagance, while the expositions of the inside workings of the political systems and machines by those who profess to know them intimately are often comical to a degree. None of these has been more in the vein of Mark Twain, though unconsciously so on the writer's part, than a painfully detailed recital of Mr. McKinley's rise from obscurity to national eminence wholly as "a creature of circumstance." Now it would be quite impossible to convince so self-sufficient a person as an English political correspondent in America that the man who hews to the line for thirty years, overcoming one obstacle after another, and making temporary defeat his herald of victory, is hardly a creature of circumstance. Fate hasn't played McKinley's cards; he has held his own hand.

SIXTEEN TO ONE.

The meaning of the words "16 to 1" is defined in dollars and cents by a prominent banking firm in Philadelphia as follows: "It means in practice that sixteen ounces of silver should be held as worth as much as one ounce of gold. One ounce of gold, American coin standard of fineness—that is, 900 parts of pure gold to 100 of alloy, will coin in gold dollars $18.60. Sixteen ounces of silver, American coin standard of fineness—that is, 900 parts of pure silver to 100 of alloy, at the rate of 412½ grains to the dollar (the weight of the present standard silver dollar) will coin $16.60 in silver dollars. These sixteen ounces of silver can be bought in the markets of the world today for $9.94. There would, therefore, be a profit of $8.66 on an investment of $9.94, being about 87 per cent., if the holder of silver could take it to the mint and coin it without charge into silver dollars. The advocates of free coinage favor a law that will allow any holder of silver bullion, or, in fact, silver of any kind (as the latter can readily be melted into bars) to have the right to take the same to any mint of the United States and convert it into silver coin free of charge."

TWO QUOTATIONS.

From the Carbondale Herald.

We still hope that Grover Cleveland will be kind enough not to indorse McKinley.—Scranton Tribune.

This was the most unkindest cut of all.—William Shakespeare.