The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition.

Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

E. P. KINGSBURY, Pres. and Gen'l Man.
E. H. RIPPLE, Sec'y and Treas.
LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor.
W. W. DAVIS, Business Manager.
W. W. YOUNGS, Adv. Mang'r.

New York Office: Tribune Building, Frank S. Gray, Manager.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, OCTOBER 3, 1896.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

NATIONAL.

President—WILLIAM M'KINLEY.
Vice-President—GARRET A. HOBART.

STATE.

Congressmen-at-Large—GALUSHA A. GROW, SAMUEL A. DAVENPORT.

COUNTY.

Congress—WILLIAM CONNELL.
Commissioners—S. W. ROBERTS, GILES ROBERTS.
Auditors—A. E. KIEFER, FRED L. WARD.

LEGISLATIVE.

Senate, 21st District—COL. W. J. SCOTT.
Representative, 1st District—JOHN R. FARR; 2d District—A. T. CONNELL; 3d District—DR. N. C. MACKEY; 4th District—JOHN F. REYNOLDS.

Today is the last day for the payment of state or county taxes. Unless these taxes have been paid within two years you cannot vote for president next month. It is worth looking into.

Faithful to Their Trust.

The signal efficiency with which the growing business of the county commissioners' office is at present conducted is best shown by a few figures.

The largest single item of expense to the county comprises criminal court cases. For the increase of these costs the commissioners are in no degree responsible. They have practically no discretion in the premises. The laws requiring their payment are mandatory. The commissioners can do no more than to see that the laws which they have no voice in formulating are promptly and honestly executed.

In the year 1885 the total costs of criminal cases, including aldermen's, justices', constables' and witness' fees, amounted to $4,969.61. In the year 1890, five years later, these costs had increased to $6,359.69. In the year 1895, ten years later, the costs of criminal cases for this county amounted to $19,954.07; an increase of over 300 per cent. in ten years. It must be taken into consideration that during the past five years Lackawanna county has had 25 murder cases to dispose of, and the costs of the trial of each have been no small factor in the foregoing increase. Another cause for the large increase in the cost of commonwealth cases is the bill to regulate the fees of aldermen, justices and constables, passed by the legislature during the session of 1893 and approved by the governor May 23 of the same year. This bill made an increase of fees amounting in some cases to fifty per cent. For the present year the total costs of criminal cases are likely to reach as high as $26,000. The work of the last grand jury supplies a vivid instance of the recent growth of the criminal business of our courts, and under the insolvency act it becomes an easy matter for the individual mulcted in costs to escape liability and throw the burden back on the county. The problem of reducing these inordinate sources of expense rests with the legislature. Until that body shall supply relief, the commissioners must order these court costs paid. They have no alternative.

Among the new items of expense which the present board of commissioners has had to provide for is the enumeration of school children required by the compulsory education law. The compensation for this work is five cents a name for each child registered. When a thorough enumeration is made this means an additional expense of about $1,000 a year to the county.

The legislature of 1895 passed a bill amending the act of assembly of May 22, 1891, relating to the registration of voters. The act of 1891 provided for one registration each year. The amendment of 1895 makes it necessary for the register to take two additional copies of the registration and instructs the county commissioners also to make two copies of the original list for election boards. This entails an additional expense of about $3000 to the county.

One of the most noticeable sources of increase in the current expenses of the county during the past five years is found in the new ballot law. During the past three years 25 new election districts have been created in the county, necessitating a corresponding increase in the number of booths, tickets and election boards, the cost of which falls upon the county.

During the administration of the present board of commissioners 17 new bridges have been erected or contracted for, at a cost of $25,000. This has been done in response to urgent public demands.

At the county prison the commissioners have made improvements by fitting up cells, providing for a matron to take care of female prisoners, laying flag walks and placing a curb on New York street. The maintenance of prisoners is an expense that has increased rapidly during the past three years. Five years ago the number of prisoners did not average 75 a month; now it runs up to from 125 to 150 a month.

Notwithstanding this large growth of the county's business county taxes have been kept exceedingly low in comparison with those in counties of a similar area and population. At no time has the millage exceeded 6 mills for county purposes. The sinking fund now amounts to $25,000; and while the bonded indebtedness is $120,000, provision has been made this year to redeem $20,000 worth of outstanding bonds as soon as they mature.

If any other county in the state can show a better bill of efficiency for its board of commissioners, we should like to hear from it. We cite the foregoing facts in support of our contention that the Republican majority of the present board, Messrs. Roberts and Roberts, deserve to be re-elected Nov. 3, and challenge denial.

An invitation is extended to every Republican in the two counties to consider himself a committee of one to boom the people's cheap excursion to Canton next week. Let Northeastern Pennsylvania show Major McKinley that it is all right this year.

A Peripatetic Candidate.

Some one with an inquisitive turn of mind has gone to the trouble to figure out how William J. Bryan compares in point of loquacity with previous nominees for the presidency. From this inquiry it appears that if Bryan shall be able to keep up his present pace until Nov. 1 he will have spoken more words and traveled more miles than all other presidential candidates put together during the past 100 years.

Up to Tuesday of this week Bryan had made 205 speeches in 172 towns and cities, distributed among 22 states, and had traveled since his nomination 8,022 miles. Major McKinley to date, has made 80 speeches and traveled 80 miles since his nomination. Mr. Cleveland made four speeches in 1892, one in 1888 and three in 1884. Mr. Harrison delivered but two speeches in 1892, but in 1888 he made an extensive campaign, delivering fifty-six speeches and traveling 200 miles. Mr. Blaine in 1884 conducted the most extensive speaking campaign ever known up to that time, delivering 195 speeches and traveling 4,750 miles. Mr. Garfield, in the campaign preceding, delivered ninety-seven speeches and traveled 2,300 miles. Previous to that there had been little campaigning by the presidential candidate since Greeley's time. In 1872 that candidate delivered seventy-nine speeches and traveled 2,234 miles. Douglas, in 1860, made sixty-five speeches, traveling 2,750 miles. Lincoln made but one, not stirring out of his state. In 1864, however, Mr. Lincoln made eight speeches.

Just what the effect of Mr. Bryan's phenomenal activity as a candidate will be upon the popular vote cannot of course, be foretold. Nor will the returns themselves settle doubt upon the subject; for there will still be left open to conjecture whether or not the platform upon which he ran would not have defeated him anyhow. It is safe, however, to say that the pace which he has set is unwise. Even if it were to cause his election, it would be a dear price to pay for four years of thankless responsibility and official hardship.

The determination of the State Homeopathic Medical society to hold its next meeting in Scranton is an appreciated compliment to the increasing excellence of our unrivalled water supply.

Harrison Answers Bryan.

If General Harrison has been prevented by personal reasons from entering actively into the present campaign as a speaker for the Republican cause, he has not been idle either with his brain or pen, as the October number of the Forum magazine conclusively shows. The first article in that periodical is contributed by him, and it analyzes to the minutest vestige the Popocratic proposition of the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

The first discrepancy that the distinguished author points out in the arguments of Mr. Bryan lies between the latter's statement that free coinage is for the betterment of the debtor class because it holds out to it the promise of a cheaper dollar, and his other assertion that under free coinage gold and silver would come to a parity. For "if free coinage will lift the value of sixteen ounces of silver to the present value of one ounce of gold, silver will then be as obnoxious as gold." But, the ex-president adds—

It is not true, as Mr. Bryan seems to intimate, that the law of 1873 changed our money standard to the injury of the debtor class. The silver dollar was dropped from our coinage, but it was not then a cheap dollar, but a par dollar—the 371¼ grains of pure silver contained in it were the full equivalent, as bullion, of the 23.22 grains of pure gold contained in the gold dollar. It is not fair, then, to liken the change in our coinage laws made in 1873 to that now proposed. The former involved neither dishonesty nor oppression. The dollar that was dropped, and the dollar that was retained were commercial, as well as legal, equivalents; and the change did not favor the creditor class nor injure the debtor class.

Next General Harrison addresses himself to the Popocratic affirmation that gold has appreciated:

Condensed, the argument is this: It takes more wheat to get a gold dollar than formerly, and therefore the gold dollar has gone up. But the deduction in that premise is in the alternative—either gold has gone up or wheat has gone down. Commonly, we would say wheat is lower, and would seek the explanation in a large general crop or in diminished consumption. We know that these things do affect the price of wheat and will continue to do so under free silver coinage. Drouth and rust and the cinch bug, a full European crop, the increasing output of Russia, India and Argentina, closed American mills and enforced economy in the homes of American workmen—these things always have and always will affect the price of wheat. Another thing to be taken into account in this connection is the production of gold—for if a large wheat crop means, commonly, a lower price, so a large crop of gold must mean a lower value for gold. The world's production of gold in 1873 was $96,200,000, and only two years since then has it fallen below that figure. All other years show an increase and the last five years a steady and enormous increase. * * * In view of these considerations and of these figures as to production, who is wise enough to say that gold has gone up or silver down, or how much either metal has varied? And yet it is assumed that the silver dollar has been a true and stable measure of value, that it has neither gone up nor down since 1873, and that it would be honest to return to that standard and settle all contracts by it. Now how is this to be proved?

The one thing in Mr. Bryan's speeches which in the ex-president's opinion approaches argument is the illustration he uses that if a man able to perform his contracts should offer to pay $1 a bushel for all the wheat brought to him, the price of wheat would go up to a dollar. But, General Harrison adds—

The United States is not to buy the silver—it only puts a stamp on it and returns it to the owner. It is rather as if a miller should offer to take all the wheat brought to him, to grind it into flour without charge, to put each 100 pounds of the flour into a barrel, to stamp on the head of it "This is a barrel of flour," and to return it to the owner. How would the price of wheat, or of flour, be affected by that transaction?

The Bryan dollar, instead of being a "dollar of the fathers," would be a dollar of compulsory compromise between debtor and creditor on the basis of the creditor getting returned to him 50 cents' worth of commercial value in the place of 100 cents' worth loaned. The fathers "followed the commercial ratio into three decimal numbers to find the coining ratio; and these claim to be their followers who say that the commercial ratio should be entirely disregarded. The former sought a ratio that would keep both dollars in circulation—the latter one that gives gold to Europe and associates us with Asia."

What this country needs, the general concludes, is "not a silver dollar that will exile the gold dollar but one that will abide with it;" not a double standard "unless each money unit is the commercial equivalent of the other; and if it must have a single standard it will have the best."

The decision of Congressman Leonard of the Sixteeenth district to withdraw from further opposition to his successful competitor for the Republican nomination, ex-Senator Horace B. Packer, simplifies an ugly situation and places the party under distinct obligation to him. It is this spirit which makes for Republican success; and this year of all years is a time when that should be held paramount to purely personal ambitions.

Platt for the Senate Again.

The rumored intention of Thomas C. Platt to seek next winter a re-election to the United States senate, from out of which honorable body he walked behind Roscoe Conkling fifteen years ago, suggests some curious reflections. History has all but closed over that dramatic episode, and out of every ten men probably eight today do not remember with any clearness the reasons back of a breach in Republicanism which quite as surely cost the country its misfortunes under Clevelandism as it sent Garfield to a martyr's death, and removed to private station in the person of Senator Conkling one of the ablest and cleanest men ever developed by American politics.

And yet it is just possible, although not probable, that history in some details may repeat itself. Conkling fought Sherman at Chicago and was reconciled to the nomination of Garfield only after a private conference in Mentor at which it is believed by many that General Garfield made promises which were subsequently broken. Platt this year fought McKinley and was reconciled to his inevitable nomination only after the historic visit of Senator Quay to Canton. Conkling had factional enemies in New York just as Platt has now; and Platt has even greater reason for wishing to exercise a controlling voice in the apportionment of Empire state patronage by the next administration than Conkling had when the appointment of Robertson came as a lightning stroke of what at least he regarded as executive perfidy. No one who knows Major McKinley can for an instant believe him capable of acting toward any Republican leader as General Garfield acted toward Conkling; nor is it likely that Mr. Platt, if chosen a member of the next senate, would in the event of his not receiving from the administration as much consideration as he desired, repeat the mistake of his younger days. He would be more likely this time, with his enlarged influence and ripened sagacity, to continue in the senate and lay plans to make it interesting for the objects of his resentment.

But conjecture apart, the return of Platt to the senate, which by every well-informed observer is now regarded as assured, will be sure to recall interesting memories. It will re-emphasize the adage that great men can live down their mistakes and supply a new vindication of the proposition that everything comes to him who waits. As senator, Platt would be the most interesting personality in Washington, and, without doubt, one of the most influential.

Everybody sympathizes with General Harrison in the domestic prospect which is understood to be the reason for his reluctance to undertake at this time a long campaign tour. But at the same time everybody will be glad to know that he has consented to speak next week in West Virginia. This is the year for the fracturing of the solid south.

A poll of Illinois, taken by the Chicago Tribune through its correspondents in every county, indicates a Republican plurality in that state of 50,000. If we drop off 25,000 as discount for party enthusiasm, there is yet a safe margin to the good. Without Illinois, Bryan cannot possibly win.

"I am not going to say one word against the Democratic president. I am going to leave history to record that the man who went into office with an overwhelming majority went out of office supporting a ticket which did not carry a single county in the United States."—Bryan at Clarksburg, W. Va.

That was a center shot, if there ever was one.

About the silliest campaign fiction of the season thus far is the Popocratic story of a disagreement betweeen Senator Quay and General Osborne of the Republican National committee over twenty-two two-cent postage stamps. This is literally as well as metaphorically a "tuppenny" yarn.

No county in Pennsylvania has more efficient and upright commissioners than has Lackawanna in Messrs. Roberts and Roberts. Their best recommendations are the records of their work. They fully merit a re-election.

The story now goes that Tom Watson has consented to get off the ticket and give Sewall a monopoly of the mortuary honors. That is certainly what a shrewd man would want to do.

There are 41,486 registered voters in Lackawanna county and not less than 35,000 of them ought to vote this year for McKinley, Protection and sound money.

Forty thousand more Spanish troops have just been ordered to Cuba, as a re-inforcement to Weyler's boast that the rebellion is crushed.

Billions to Be Made by Fiat

From the Post-Express.

Mr. Bryan is authority for the statement that the free coinage of silver by our government, at the ratio of 16 to 1, would raise the price of silver from 66 cents to $1.29 per ounce, and thus bring the white metal to a parity with gold, and keep it there. Of course, as has been often shown, this would not relieve the debtor class, in addressing which Mr. Bryan is especially eloquent, by enabling it to pay its obligations in a depreciated currency, and cheat creditors; but a man of the fertile imagination and exuberant rhetoric of Mr. Bryan is not required to be consistent. Let us follow him to the legitimate conclusions which his postulate of silver at $1.29 per ounce necessarily includes, and in doing this we are indebted to the figures which Judge Thomas, of Missouri, the assistant attorney general for the postoffice department, and formerly judge of the Supreme court of Missouri, has prepared for the New York Times.

Mr. Bryan will concede that the price of silver bullion in this country cannot rise here without rising everywhere, and that such rise will apply to all silver, whether in bars or wares, as well as in coin, throughout the world. According to the official report of Mr. Voorhees, from the finance committee, to the United States senate, March 5, 1894, the present supply of silver in its various forms, is stated at 8,000,000,000 ounces. This at 66 cents per ounce is worth $5,280,000,000; but, according to Mr. Bryan, the fiat of the government would increase its value by $5,040,000,000, the largest part of this added wealth being outside of our own country. In gold standard countries the fiat would substantially double the value of $112,000,000 in silver coins in Great Britain, $500,000,000 in France, $215,000,000 in Germany, $54,000,000 in Belgium, $16,000,000 in Italy, $115,000,000 in Switzerland, $155,000,000 in Spain, $85,000,000 in Austro-Hungary, $56,000,000 in the Netherlands, $44,000,000 in Turkey, etc., besides $625,000,000 in this country, and would raise all this money nearly, if not quite, to par with gold. In the silver countries it would double the value of $41,000,000 in Russia, $50,000,000 in Mexico, $8,000,000 in the Central American states, $30,000,000 in the South American states, $950,000,000 in India, and $725,000,000 in China.

These are bewildering figures, but there is even more in Mr. Bryan's proposition, for its realization will not only bring the existing stock of silver to par, but it will also safeguard future production, and the price would stimulate such production. Here is a dream of wealth dazzling of proportions. No genii of Arabian fable could evoke such marvelous riches, but we submit that it must ensue if Mr. Bryan's premises are well founded. It is, indeed, repugnant to reason and contrary to experience; its mere statement reveals its absurdity; but it is entirely consistent with the style of argument in which Mr. Bryan and his associates indulge. Judge Thomas ventures to ask, in view of the facts here presented, how it is that 70,000,000 people can affect the money of 1,350,000,000 by statute regulation, while the 1,350,000,000 outside people cannot by legislation affect us. It is also suggested that it is but fair for Mr. Bryan to state explicitly what he thinks would occur if his prediction should fail to be fulfilled and the standard of exchange should suddenly be changed from a gold to a silver basis with no, or at best a slight, advance in the commercial value of silver bullion.

But this is not the kind of information that Mr. Bryan vouchsafes. He sees, or pretends to see, only the bright side of the issue he presents. Having said that the free and undimited coinage of silver will advance its price to $1.29 per ounce throughout the world, he there takes his stand and no plodding statistician, handling trustworthy figures, and carrying the claim of free silver to their logical ultimate, can phase his oracular pretensions or disturb his paramount verbosity.

Had Her in His Power.

"Then you refuse to marry me?"

The young woman addressed turned somewhat falteringly, and reluctantly faced the man who had spoken.

"I know what you will say," she replied. "You will tell me that for months I have given you every reason to believe that I loved you, that I have encouraged you by every means known to a woman, and now, in refusing to consider your offer, I am guilty of great perfidy. All this may be true to a certain extent. But you must reflect also that I have a perfect right to change my mind. I——"

"Have a care, Miss Clamhope," interrupted the other, with a dangerous gleam in his eye. "Refuse me if you will, scorn me if you think best, but remember," he continued, a slight sneer visible in his voice, "that I may think it best to inform your friends that the wheel you ride is not your own, but hired by the hour."—New York World.

ASTROLOGICAL

Weather and Other Predictions for the Coming Week.

Sunday, Oct. 4.—Venus sesquiquadrate to Neptune. Weather fair. A child born on this day will be fortunate and rise in life; a female will make a good wife.

Monday, Oct. 5.—Mercury trine to Neptune. Weather fair. A child born on this day will be headstrong and fond of travel. Travel, remove and deal with women before noon.

Tuesday, Oct. 6.—Moon in conjunction with the sun. Weather unsettled. A child born on this day will meet with many reverses in a business way. Avoid superiors and keep thyself quiet.

Wednesday, Oct. 7.—Mercury semi-sextile to Saturn. Weather unsettled. A child born on this day will be active and generally fortunate. Travel and push thy business affairs.

Thursday, Oct. 8.—Sun in conjunction with Mercury. Weather wet. A child born on this day will be very lucky. Court, ask favors and deal with others.

Friday, Oct. 9.—Venus parallel to Saturn. Weather changeable. A child born on this day will be continually in trouble; a female will be in danger of disgrace. Sell before 11 a. m.

Saturday, Oct. 10.—Sun semi-sextile to Saturn. A child born on this day will be careless and improvident; a female will marry an unlucky man. Travel and deal with others.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 2.23 a. m., for Saturday, October 3, 1896.

A child born on this day will notice that local Democratic leaders have the air of a man who has been lingering on the wrong side of the wheat market for a month or so.

It looks as though that for all time to come reformers would continue in most instances to hack at the branches of evil while the roots are allowed to flourish unmolested.

When the campaign is ended time no doubt will hang heavy in the hands of many self-constituted statesmen who have rushed into print with opinions as uninteresting as the trade mark on a tub of mackerel.

There is no question about the approach of good times. Isn't the pumpkin pie season at hand?

Autumnal Rhymes.

A stage-struck girl essayed to shine
Before the footlight's blaze;
But 'ere she reached the torch of fame
Unanimous the verdict came
That she'd seen better days.

DID MUCH TO BEAT HIMSELF.

From the Post-Express.

If Bryan had gone straight home from the Chicago convention and had resolutely declined any and all invitations to address his fellow citizens, his canvass would be in better condition today. As an architect of his own defeat, he has been a great success.

UNCHANGED.

Keep your courage, candidate!
Run the best you can,
Lose no chance to educate
Any fellow man.
If no laurel decks your brow
When the race is o'er,
You will be no worse, I vow,
Than you were before.

When to him who won the day
Garlands fair are tossed,
Hope still points a gladsome way
For the man who lost.
'Tis a retrograding state
That excuses tears—
You'll go on, candidate,
As in former years.
—Washington Star.