

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 13, 1896.

Talk of purchasing Cuba is nonsense. Spain has shown her unwillingness to rule that island, and according to the moral law, an unfit sovereignty deserves no compensation.

The Useless Electoral College.

It is significant of a growing restlessness with present forms that so conservative a journal as the Philadelphia Ledger pleads for a sixteenth amendment to the constitution doing away with the election of presidents by means of an electoral college.

This year, fortunately, is an exception; and yet, as we pointed out on the other day, although McKinley had more than 1,000,000 popular majority, a total change of less than 25,000 votes could have been so distributed among the nine closest McKinley states as to have elected Bryan by an electoral vote of 231 to 216 for the choice of a large majority of the individual citizens of the republic.

Whether it will be possible within the lifetime of this generation to effect such an amendment of the constitution is another question, concerning which we do not care to hazard a prediction. But if such an amendment is carried through, it ought also to provide for a single presidential term of six years, with eligibility to re-election only after an interval of at least six years.

It is stated that Major McKinley has chosen his cousin, William McKinley Osborn, of Boston, to act as his private secretary after his inauguration as president. Mr. Osborn is a man of ripe judgment and discretion. He will lift the position up to a plane of unusual usefulness.

Where Credit is Due.

We quite agree with Colonel Butler, of the Buffalo News, that "the American people owe no man today a greater debt of gratitude than that due to the able, modest man who owns and edits the great paper of the west—the Chicago Times-Herald. The debt of gratitude for service well rendered at a critical time is made more binding by the declaration of Mr. Kohlman, made since the election, that he has no desire to fill an office, and would accept no place in the cabinet of his friend, Major McKinley."

The part which Mr. Kohlman in direct personal effort and through his newspaper, played in the campaign just ended was second to none in discretion, perseverance and effectiveness. Not even Chairman Hanna in full direction of all the resources which attach to the office of national chairman, achieved more for victory in the pivotal middle west than did this energetic and determined Chicago editor who has in only a little more than a year won his way to the very forefront of American journalism.

This is said the more readily because the remarkable success which Mr. Kohlman has achieved in politics and journalism in that brief interval has been won fairly, honorably and by clean, square, American methods. It has not been achieved along a pathway of deception, broken promises and humbug; it has been earned by hard, capable and conscientious work spiced at the top with the fine intuition which for lack of a better word we call genius.

We have no motive in saying this except to be fair. The only advantage to us in Mr. Kohlman's success is that it proves that it is wholly possible for a man to be a successful journalist and also a gentleman.

And now it is said Senator Butler has the presidential bid. This boy orator never must be coning.

Liquor Law Amendments.

As the time for the assembling of the legislature draws near there is renewed discussion of the liquor problem. It is generally conceded that the present license law stands in need of amendment. Upon this point friends of temperance and representatives of the liquor interests are agreed. A law whose machinery of enforcement is so inadequate that in one county—Luzerne—there are estimated to be a larger number of speakeasies than licensed places cannot be regarded as satisfactory from any standpoint, and the sooner there is determined effort to secure its improvement the better will it be for the public revenues and for public order.

every man to engage in the liquor trade who could pay for a license and supply a bondsman; but it would compel the forfeiture of his grant in the event of conviction for disobedience of the statutory regulations. The issuing of licenses and the enforcement of a state commission serving by appointment, and it would therefore be more difficult than it is now for special interests to claim immunity or engage exemption from official interference by means of political services rendered or promised in local campaigns.

The Raines law has been on trial for over a year in the neighboring state and it has given excellent satisfaction. It does away with favoritism in the granting of licenses and it decreases the liability to political manipulation of the mechanism for the law's enforcement. No one will claim that it is a perfect statute or that it is no longer possible for "pull" to mislead justice; but it is claimed with seeming fairness by its sponsors that this law has gone further to secure effective and impartial restriction of the liquor traffic than any other license law which has been devised up to the present time.

Senator Quay announces that he will be in Harrisburg at the opening of the legislative session. He will probably be in evidence there all through the session. The senator does well to put himself in direct communication with his friends and admirers, and not depend too much on intermediaries.

Chairman Elkin's Work.

The dinner tendered in Philadelphia last evening to State Chairman Elkin was a graceful recognition of superior service. It might carelessly be thought that to direct a Republican campaign in Pennsylvania, in a presidential year, and especially with the issues drawn as they were in the recent struggle, would require but scant ability; that the campaign would virtually run itself. Such an impression would be exceedingly remote from the truth.

In Chairman Elkin's case the difficulties with which he had to contend increased in direct ratio to the probability of success. The campaign fund at his disposal was the smallest on record. It barely sufficed to meet the actual running expenses of the State headquarters. In addition to that, every available speaker of prominence who could be drafted by the National committee was taken out of Pennsylvania and sent to the debatable territory known as the middle west. The result was that during most of the time there was not a speaker of national reputation at the command of the State committee, and it had to meet local calls for campaign oratory by appealing to the generosity of men who do not make a practice of political stump speaking.

At a time when there was a widespread belief among political professionals in the boundlessness of the Republican campaign treasury, Chairman Elkin was confronted by the necessity of getting practical work done throughout an immense territory without having at his command the customary means with which to do it, and the fact that under these circumstances a plurality was polled for McKinley and the national ticket in excess of the 200,000 mark speaks volumes to well-informed persons concerning his efficiency as an organizer and a strategist.

It was predicted last spring by those who urged his selection as State chairman upon the State convention at Harrisburg that Mr. Elkin would prove to be the right man for that delicate and responsible position. As one of his supporters then The Tribune takes pleasure in pointing to the magnificent record which he has already established for himself and for the party; and welcomes this public occasion to offer to him its heartiest congratulations.

Chicago's vote beat New York's 46,055. Estimating five people to each voter, it gives Chicago a population of 1,728,875. The West will evidently have to be reckoned with.

Wharton Barker's Platform.

The irrepressible Wharton Barker, having at length concluded to concede McKinley's election, bravely advances to the fore with a platform for 1900. It comprises eight planks, the first two of which declare for the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver and gold at 16 to 1, and for government issue and control of all paper money. Plank three "demands such legislation as will prevent the formation of trusts and combinations designed to tax the consumer on the one hand and the wage earner on the other, and provide means to discover over-capitalization of corporations and enforce penalties against such over-capitalization."

Plank four goes the whole distance to ultra-Populism. It affirms it to be "the duty of the government to see that the products of labor are justly distributed, that the many be not despoiled for the benefit of the few," and to the end that all producers shall enjoy a just recompense for their toil, it "holds that it is the duty of the government to absorb and operate in the interest of the whole people all such agents in the distribution of wealth as tend, in the hands of private corporations, to develop into monopolies." It furthermore "holds that oppression of the people by such monopolies either through the charge of exorbitant rates for transportation or through discrimination on the part of our transportation companies against some localities and some individuals, should not be tolerated," and to the end that all producers may be accorded the same treatment and protected against unjust charges, it "demands that the government own and operate our railroads and telegraph." The remaining planks favor protection for industry and labor,

but not for trusts; call for careful restriction of immigration; oppose the sale of public lands to aliens and the ownership of public lands by aliens; and declare for a thoroughly American policy in foreign affairs.

This platform is obviously an improvement upon the one on which Bryan ran, for it makes no attack on the supreme court, and does not question the sovereignty of the federal government. If it would moderate its attitude and call for more effective federal regulation, instead of outright federal ownership of railroads and telegraphs, it would not so far astray. Mr. Bryan could never run on such a platform, for he is a free trader. Neither could the South support it, for it, also, is committed against protection. Within the next four years the monetary question may be so far advanced toward settlement by international agreement as to take from the foregoing declaration the chief pillar on which it rests, and for the other reforms which it proposes the public knows enough to look, not to zealots and enthusiasts, but to the conservative and experienced statesmanship of the Republican party.

It may be that our judgment of Hon. Bourke Cockran is at fault, and that he really is a star of the first magnitude to whom President-elect McKinley should hasten to proffer the pick of all the positions soon to be within his gift. It may be that his earlier associations and achievements when a mere tool of Tammany at the rottenest period of its malodorous history were but the necessary background for a new career of singular purity, sweetness and light. We trust that we are. We sincerely hope that the Hon. Bourke has become, within the year, a great and good man. But isn't it a little early yet to take him into the inner sanctum and bestow upon his person the oil and ointment of high preference? Aren't the fellows who are clanking in his interest rushing the season just a trifle?

One of these days, when Don Cameron is politically dead and buried, a whole lot of persons now shying brickbats at his picture will perhaps ask themselves why they acted as they did. Don has made mistakes, but they have been a gentleman's mistakes. There have been many worse men than he in the United States senate; many who have saved their bacon by hypocrisy when he preferred to act the man.

The latest surgical achievement is recorded at Grand Rapids, Mich., and consists of transplanting to a man's wrist the scapulae of a dog. At the rate at which surgery is at present going it will not be long until mankind will literally be only a thing of shreds and patches carved indifferently from all the quadrupeds.

Prince Bismarck's trouble is one quite common among persons in the past tense—the trouble of overestimating their importance.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

"Here, chief, post this letter, please," said Mayor Bailey to Chief Holbing.

It was addressed: "Mr. O. so, No. so and so, Kressler court, city." Yesterday morning the man to whom it was sent called on the mayor as requested in the letter and when he was leaving he took the envelope from his pocket. It was covered over with: "No such street in the city." "Held for better directions," etc., etc. And there were enough stamps on it to carry it to the South Pole.

Mayor Bailey looked at the letter and then began to think. "As sure as me making the letter," he said, "I will look this letter to Wilkes-Barre with him and mailed it there." He at once sent for the chief and charged him with it. There was a Wilkes-Barre postmark on it and the chief had been taken testifying in the Brown-Miller-Mangan-Judge burglary case.

The chief denied that he posted the letter, and left the blame on Steve Dyer, who saddled it on Lona Day. The only thing that saved it from the dead letter office was the crest of Chief Holbing on the envelope.

If the New York papers are to be believed, Paley's star has already paled before the effulgent glow of the new luminary Rosenthal. The latter, after much heralding, has come, seen and conquered. On all hands it is agreed that he is by every odd the greatest pianist of the century; and soon we shall no doubt have a surfeit of gush over his hair, his mane, his eyes, his miscellaneous characteristics. It is said that there is no law to imprison the faddists who make such intolerable asses of themselves over such new virtuosity; but in default of capital or other statutory punishment let us try to suppress this particular kind of arrant nonsense by appealing to rational sentiment. Rosenthal is mentioned as expected to appear this winter in Scranton.

Three years ago Professor Cole, of Kingston, asserted the possibility of reflecting sunbeams by artificial means and bottling them away as one would bottle wine, to be used when wanted. His plan was to erect great towers on the hill-tops and to distribute the condensed illumination through pipes to street lamps and individual consumers very much as gas is now distributed. It was even said that he had perfected an appliance in a small way which had put this theory to a successful test, although we cannot vouch for this. The student is mentioned at the time simply because a New York paper the other day credited Edison with working along the same line, a circumstance recalling the advice that great minds run in similar channels.

The local staff of The Tribune keeps a scrap book. In this book are many things of newspaperdom, wise things, unwise things and things otherwise. Among them, however, none is regarded as a greater oddity than the appended, which came in a postal card to the Sporting Editor, last September:

Winstown, Pa., 9-16, 1896. Gentlemen:—Kindly publish Casey at the Hat for me in your paper and send me a copy and I will send you stamps for same. Yours Respy.

Mr. The-Man-From-Williamstown is still waiting for his agent's warrant.

The difference between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre is far as nature and good-naturedness is concerned, is aptly illustrated in the trial of the four young men, Brown, Judge, Mangan and Miller, on the charge of burglary down there. The case is going on three days and the end is not yet. One of similar gravity would be tried and through with by District Attorney John H. Jones at the same time, if the commonwealth and defendants would get ample justice at that.

Some members of the Symphony orchestra are not pleased that after that organization had announced its December concert another musical entertainment under local auspices should be arranged for just two days earlier. This probably however, arose from an oversight. At all events, there ought to be ample support in this community for both occasions,

and there no doubt will be if the merits of each are properly heralded.

One of the warmest admirers and supporters of Major McKinley in the recent campaign was P. J. Waldron, the Canadian member, who passes much of his time in Scranton. He won altogether over \$6,000 on McKinley's election and says if the election had been postponed a month he could have won money enough to warrant him in retiring from business.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

From the Philadelphia Times.

A statistical expert has examined the records of the last census and presents an interesting and startling story of the recent national election in regard to the population, wealth and illiteracy. It is based on the last United States census reports. There are 48 states and 20 states, with a population of 20,200,000 and an industrial wealth of \$4,950,000,000, or an average per capita of \$99.25 states, with a population of 45,200,000, voted for silver. The total industrial wealth of these 25 McKinley states is \$7,381,717,276, while the 20 Bryan states have but \$3,658,841,784, or about one-third as much. The average amount of the 25 McKinley states is \$285,388,719, while the 20 Bryan states average but \$181,929,239, or a little less than one-half as much.

From an educational standpoint the statistics show a still greater contrast. Just 22 per cent. of the population of the silver states are unable to read or write, while but 12 per cent. of the population of sound money states are thus deficient, showing that there are three times as many illiterates in the silver states as in the sound money states. Figured out the 25 McKinley states have a population nearly twice as large as the 20 Bryan states, yet they contain but 7,000,000 illiterates to 5,800,000 illiterates in the Bryan states, as shown in the following tables: For McKinley: Number of states, 25. Average population, 1,847,623. Average wealth, \$185,388,719. Average per cent. of illiteracy, 7.5. Average wealth per capita, \$1,041. For Bryan: Number of states, 20. Average population, \$124,620. Average wealth, \$3,658,841,784. Average per cent. of illiteracy, 22. Average wealth per capita, \$99.

GRACIOUS COURTESIES.

From the Philadelphia Record. The crowning touch of grace to an extremely bitter canvass—a canvass, however, happily devoid of offensive personalities—has been given to the electric current which conveyed to Mr. McKinley the hearty ungrudging congratulations of his opponent, and which elicited in turn from the president-elect, with equally gratifying promptness, his expression of thanks and good wishes for Mr. Bryan's health and happiness. In these brief messages, but in the spirit of good will especially befitting the very Thanksgiving time, the world is given a fine illustration of the best spirit of American citizenship revealed on the highest plane of American politics.

There is another significance in the correspondence in question which the campaign should not overlook. It should well be noted, since Mr. Bryan's well chosen words are a complete answer to insensate about corruption and coercion which befouled the conduct of the canvass. The defeated candidate, with a manliness and frankness which do him honor, squarely recognizes in the result an expression of the will of the people. In bowing to that supreme decree Mr. Bryan has credited, not humbled, himself in public estimation; and he has set an example of respect for law and order which should not be lost sight of by the hot-headed among his followers.

ADVICE TO THE COLONEL.

From the Washington Post. Mr. Breckenridge has again been defeated. Mr. Breckenridge would confer a great favor on the country by considering himself a closed incident.

SEASONAL RHYMES.

His REVENGE. He was but a struggling artist, and a haughty maiden she, And he loved her—oh, he loved her—but his bride she would not be. Then, so humble his affection, he implored her with a tear, Just to let him paint her portrait for a tender souvenir.

But the maiden cold and haughty 'e'en this trifling boon she would not take. And the artist mourned in silence his devotion so abused. But at last revenge woke in him. Never more 'e'er art should least. Conquest 'e'er the soul artistic! So he put her in a poster, Green and yellowish he made her, flat and not rounded and prominent; And she faded when she saw it, But the artist became famous.

A DEAD FAILURE. He has a mind that is sublime, His learning is immense, and yet men are prone to sneer and say He hasn't any sense.

His form is like Apollo's, and He has a handsome face, And every single movement that He makes is full of grace.

Yet men are wont to pass him by, The cause I do not know— Unless, perchance, it may be that The ladies like him so.

HE IS ON AGAIN. Now doth the meek and lowly college youth (That earnest seeker after ancient truth) Appear once more on current history's page.

Prepared the furious foot ball fight to start, And 'e'er the air with raps, raps, frozen clods, Thumps, eyes, noses, also hair in walk, —Indianapolis Journal.

ONE REAL. 'Tis the last rose of summer, Why hangs she thus on? And now the reason her 'Upon you' then dawn? Fate has for madmen, Like her only frown.

For shirt waists are cheaper Than tailor-made gowns, —Detroit Tribune.

SHATTERED IDEALS. I never could see the sense in a man forming a plan, Of the woman he will marry— The way she must cook his meals—

For, with very few exceptions, He enters married life, And eats entirely different meals With a very different wife. —Philadelphia North American.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacelus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 1:15 a. m., for Friday, Nov. 13, 1896.

A child born on this day will do well to wear padded clothes, and stay in nights, and avoid games of chance. It is very untucky to be born on the thirteenth of the month when it falls on Friday. Everything is being adjusted to the initial days of a season of prosperity save the throat of the calamity howler.

Even men "out of politics" have opportunities to gain benefits from election results this year.

By the way, is it not about time for the Baneroff to pass the Dardanelles? Ajacelus' Advice. Do not light the kitchen fire with kerosene on this untucky day. Avoid quarrels with persons larger than thyself.

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