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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 1, 1896.

We conceive it to be due to the public that a complete report should be printed of last evening's proceedings of the board of control; and this is done on another page. We shall be glad to give equal publicity to any statement which Superintendent Howell may make. We cannot believe that he was actuated by any other than worthy motives in his course with reference to Mrs. Booth; if he erred in anything it must have been in giving too much confidence to undeserving testimony.

Ignored Business Principles.

An interesting light is thrown by President Proctor of the Civil Service commission upon the efficiency of Hon. John Wanamaker as postmaster-general. The executive order putting railway mail clerks under civil service rules was to have become operative on April 1, 1889, but had for clerical reasons to be postponed one month. Says Professor Proctor:

"Postmaster-General Wanamaker took advantage of this interval and made 1,900 changes in the railway mail service for the benefit of politicians, which I think was a great mistake, and the records of the service leave no doubt on that question. The reports from the railway mail service show that during the year 1889 before these 1,900 changes took place the ratio of errors by railway mail clerks was one to 3,954 pieces of mail handled. In 1890, the year following, the ratio increased to one error for 2,824 pieces of mail handled. Since then under the merit system and promotion for efficiency the ratio has decreased until it is now only one mistake for 10,000 pieces of mail matter."

Mr. Wanamaker's candidacy for senator is being exploited by businessmen on the theory that he would represent and so far as he could employ business principles in official position. The foregoing record certainly does not bear this theory out.

The trouble with Rev. Dr. Parkhurst is that he has the troublesome habit of every now and then speaking the bald truth. That is very annoying to all concerned.

The American School System.

An interesting point of educational law has just been decided in New York state. In West Troy the board of education leased rooms in the St. Bridget's parochial school for public school purposes and employed as teachers therein members of the St. Joseph sisterhood, who wore their regular garb while in the school room. It was claimed by the board that this arrangement saved the district considerable money, but there was objection among some of the people in the district, and the legality of the arrangement was referred to State Superintendent Skinner for an opinion.

His finding is of value as bearing upon similar cases elsewhere and as tending to elucidate the attitude of the American people on this general question. He holds that inasmuch as the sisters have been regularly examined and commissioned they are duly qualified teachers and cannot be dismissed without sufficient cause, their religious belief not entering into the problem. But he holds also that the teachers in the public schools of the state ought not to wear the distinctive garb of any religious denomination, order, sect or society, but dress in the usual costume worn by men and women generally; and that any other costume or usage is inimical to the best educational interests of the locality and should be discontinued. To those not satisfied with this complete severance of secular and religious instruction he suggests that the private school is open. The leasing of rooms in a sectarian building surmounted by a sectarian emblem is pronounced illegal.

This may grate upon the nerves of some denominations which would like to effect a compromise tending to obviate the necessity of supporting two sets of schools, but it is the plain justice of the situation. The state cannot with safety go into partnership with any church or sect in control of public instruction. The moment it does, it opens the door to endless discrimination and favoritism.

Major McKinley was elected president on a pledge to do what he could within reason to secure international bimetallism. Of course he will carry out his instructions.

Concerning Inter-State Commerce.

A decision recently rendered at Cincinnati, O., by Judge Sage, of the Federal circuit court, in a suit involving the right of the interstate commerce commission to fix a specific rate, holds with the United States Supreme court that congress has clothed that commission with no such power. The sense of Judge Sage's ruling was that the commission may decide whether a particular rate is unjust or unreasonable. It may ascertain whether rates and contracts show discrimination between either persons or places similarly circumstanced, and, in general, it may supervise, as an administrative and not as a judicial body, the transportation within its purview but the railroads retain full power within these limits to make their own rates. They continue "free," as the Supreme court says, "to make special contracts looking to the increase of their business, to classify their traffic, to adjust and apportion their rates so as to meet the necessities of commerce, and generally to manage their important interests upon the same principles which are regarded as sound and adopted in other trades and pursuits."

This ruling accords with common sense. It can hardly be held by the most enthusiastic advocate of federal regulation of railroads that officers of a national commission should have power not only to prevent discrimination but also to fix an arbitrary maximum limit to charges for transportation. The latter power would be equivalent to taking from the owners of the road the management of their own property, and would warrant them, should their business sustain a loss, in crediting that loss to federal interference and in suing the government for damages. The United States government is an important institution and it has rights which merit respect, but even it is not big enough nor strong enough under its laws to force a loss on such of its citizens as are living wholly within their rights.

There is much need of intelligent federal regulation of interstate commerce to the end that the little shipper shall have fair treatment as well as the big, and that neither shall have his rights menaced by combinations on the part of carriers for the purpose of "doing" the public. The present law can with profit be amended so as to give the interstate commerce commission ampler authority along these lines. But it must not be clothed with arbitrary or legislative powers; it must at all times be an enforcer, not a maker of laws.

In 1864 Nevada cast 16,420 votes and in 1876, 19,691 votes, but since then the total has steadily diminished until this year it amounted only to 8,507 votes, or 925 votes more than were cast in the First Legislative district of Lackawanna county; 577 more than were cast in the Second district and 2,099 less than were cast in the Fourth district. And yet this beggarly state has one representative and two senators in congress, and there is no known way to remedy the inequality.

In Reply to Weyler.

Signor Varona, the Cuban journalist who has undertaken to reply to General Weyler's recent statement, does so effectually. Weyler, it will be remembered, claimed that the Cubans enjoyed home rule, possessed a free voice in the enactment of laws governing themselves and were not in any particular warranted in resisting Spanish supremacy. To this Signor Varona answers:

Permit me to state that the Cuban representation of which the general boasts was and is no more than a sham and a hollow mockery for two reasons: First, because the number of Cuban electors is limited in such a manner that they represent only about 3 per cent. of the population. Second, the law was framed in such a manner that the resident Spaniards would always have the major proportion of the representation. Up to the present time the average membership of Cubans in the parliament has been three, the highest number ever reached being seven. The same state of affairs exists in the municipal and provincial governments, so much so that it is a fact that in the Havana city council it has occurred that there was not one single Cuban member; this, notwithstanding that throughout the entire island, in the city and country districts, the majority of the population is by an overwhelming number native Cuban.

As to the alleged freedom of speech and of the press, the Signor remarks:

The Spaniard wants the world to believe that the mere fact of the enactment of a liberal law carries with it the full application of that law. General Weyler told nothing about the counterlaws which make it possible for the Spaniards to violate the liberal laws on one pretext or another. Has it not happened that despite the existence of the law guaranteeing absolute freedom of the press, liberal Cuban editors have, for the writing of a simple editorial regarded by that government as obnoxious, been compelled to submit to a drum-head court-martial? Has it not happened that editors have been arrested and deported by the captain general? The government interferes in all public meetings. Government officers are present with full authority to close the meeting and all manner of pretexts are found by which the meetings are summarily closed. For example a meeting was held in a building which had been used for public purposes for years. Up to the day of the meeting the building was regarded as perfectly safe and sound, but during the meeting to which the Spanish government objected an engineer in the employ of the Spanish government declared the building unsound and in danger of collapsing at any moment. The officer in charge thereupon ordered the gathering to disperse.

And so on through the list. At every point Weyler is refuted and shown to be a special advocate who suppresses and distorts facts, or as one is more inclined to put it, a deliberate and wilful liar. The sympathy of the United States was with Cuba before, but it will be strengthened by this masterly unmasking of the Spanish captain-general in his characteristic effort to falsify the records.

Report has it that it cost W. K. Vanderbilt $15,000,000 to have his daughter become Duchess of Marlborough. If he paid that he got cheated.

For Secretary of State.

According to Walter Wellman the most difficult problem which President-elect McKinley has to solve in the formation of his ministry is to find a man suitable in every way for the state department portfolio. "It is," says he, "a remarkable fact that there is not in the Republican party today one man who meets all the requirements of this post. According to the tradition, an incoming president should choose for his secretary of foreign affairs the most conspicuous, or at least one of the most conspicuous of his rivals for the nomination. If this tradition be not followed, then the choice should alight upon a party leader of undoubted ability and prominent service. In addition to these requirements the secretary of state should be a man who has had contact with diplomacy and executive work, who knows international law and the history of nations, and who is in learning, in brain power, in tact, in force of character and in judgment in the front rank of public men. Again, he should have a certain temperamental fitness for the work and for the most intimate relations with his chief. It is not enough that he be a man of prominence and ability—he must be fitted to work side by side, day by day, with the president himself, without danger of friction or jealousy. Where in the ranks of the leading Republicans today will President-elect McKinley find such a man?"

Mr. Wellman passes the eligible names in review—Harrison, Reed, Sherman and Allison—and finds some fatal fault in each. Harrison, he thinks, is too frigid and too prone to jealousy to sustain with the new president that personal as well as official intimacy which the position demands. Reed is too rugged, too outspoken, too undiplomatic. Sherman is too old and Allison too inexperienced in matters of international concern. The result is that Mr. Wellman bowls every possibility over save ex-President Andrew D. White, and ex-Secretary of the Navy B. F. Tracy. We think he is somewhat prejudiced in his estimate of ex-President Harrison. The suggestion of his name in connection with the state portfolio still commends itself to us as embodying the one ideal solution of the whole problem; but if he shall persist in his declination to re-enter public life, there remains the name of Senator Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, a robust and virile American, who has made diplomacy a life-study and who would measure up to the highest requirements of the so-called "premiership" of the cabinet.

The objection to Mr. White is that he is by temperament too excitable. It is doubtful if he could endure the physical strain which the position would impose. Ex-Secretary Tracy would do; those who know him best claim that his full stature has not yet dawned upon the public mind.

The engineer of the government building at Denver, William R. Morley, who has just been bounced for "pernicious political activity," once resided in Buffalo and claims to have brought Grover Cleveland out in politics. If that was his activity, it certainly was pernicious. But doesn't Morley's claim infringe on Colonel E. H. Butler's rights?

The one interesting feature of Secretary of Internal Affairs Latta's annual report is its showing that the capitalization of the steam railroads in Pennsylvania is nearly one-fifth of the entire stock capitalization of the railways of the country. Forty-nine per cent. of the Pennsylvania stock is dividend-paying, whereas in the United States at large only 29 per cent. is. Truly, this is a great state.

General Weyler's military movements would make a good subject for a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

Concerning the evidence of Sam Hudson, one of the recent proprietors of the Scranton Times, before the senatorial investigators in Philadelphia yesterday a dispatch says: "When the senatorial investigators resumed their inquiry into the governmental and political affairs it was with Sam Hudson, the defeated candidate for congress in the Third district of the Free Silver party, on the witness stand. Mr. Hudson has made a complete analysis of the vote cast in a large number of the election divisions, and, according to statements made by him to his friends, an airing of the figures in detail will show rather startling results. In fact, Mr. Hudson does not hesitate to express the opinion that the votes in many of the divisions as shown by the returns were cast after the closing of the polls, and not by the citizens during the regular and legal hours prescribed for holding the election, and this fact, he says, will become apparent as the inquiry proceeds. Ugly stories of police activity and interference with the election in the wards of the Third district have already been made public through the medium of the senatorial committee, but it is asserted that these will pale into comparative insignificance before some of the tales of the operations of the blue coats, which will be related by ex-Candidate Hudson when he unfolds his extensive budget of information. The friends of Mr. Hudson argue that the development of the case before this committee will aid the contest against Congressman-elect McAleer, and that the evidence which will be brought out today will be likely to exert an influence on the next congress, even though it will be such a strong Republican and sound money body that it will prevail upon the members to appoint a committee to go into the merits of the contest and make a rigid investigation." Sam always was adept in raising a breeze.

The Thanksgiving Day service at the Ninth street Baptist church, Cincinnati—the church of which Rev. Warren G. Partridge is the pastor—was unique in respect of the decorations. Says the Tribune of that city: "The pulpit platform was beautifully decorated with sheaves of grain and shocks of corn, sent by express into the city for this purpose. Also fruits and vegetables, and groceries were heaped up in profusion. The effect was like a great harvest home festival. The Boys' Brigade were present in large numbers in their uniforms. The church has five fine companies. The balconies were filled with the girls of the seven industrial schools and Kitchen Garden. They were dressed in white, and decorated with the colors of the different stations. Their singing was an inspiration." But this was not all. "In the afternoon," the account adds, "hundreds of poor people were given large baskets of provisions for a bountiful Thanksgiving. The young people went out two by two and carried these good things to the destitute families." In his discourse Rev. Mr. Partridge gave a graphic statistical summary of America's resources, and contrasted the high average welfare of the American people with the misfortunes of the inhabitants of many other lands. Altogether, it was a notable service and one that testified eloquently to the virility and practicality of Mr. Partridge's pastorate.

A novel way out of the postoffice problem is suggested by President Proctor, of the United States Civil Service commission, but it will hardly commend itself to the political workers of either party. Whenever there is a vacancy he proposes that every patron of the office be asked to fill out and sign a blank petition addressed to the postmaster-general, and setting forth, first, the distance of his residence from the postoffice; second, the average number of letters he is in the habit of receiving per week; third, the number of newspapers he takes, and, finally, the name of the man he prefers for postmaster. This would be equivalent to an election, and would give the patrons of the office the privilege, as well as the responsibility of selecting their postmaster. If he turned out to be a bad or inefficient man it would be their fault, but it would, Mr. Proctor thinks, remove the mail service from politics.

Editor James P. Taylor, of the Montrose Republican, is one of the most enthusiastic fishermen in this section of the state, and takes great interest in the preservation of fish in our mountain streams. Editor Taylor has on many occasions distributed trout fry, procured of the fish commissioner, in the Susquehanna brooks, and he also assisted in the experiments with landlocked salmon in the lakes in the vicinity of Montrose. Editor Taylor has landed some of the finest specimens of bass that swim in northeastern Pennsylvania waters, and like the average disciple of Isaak Walton can always relate a good fish story at a moment's notice.

Another rise of 25 cents a ton in the price of anthracite is expected soon. The restriction of production practiced during the past few months has permitted surplus stocks to dwindle and the present cold snap is expected to do the rest. It is now believed that this year's production will approximate to 42,000,000 tons as against 46,451,445 tons last year. If this forecast is verified the trade will begin the new year in good shape and ought to have a recurrence of its old-time prosperity.

POLITICAL POINTS.

Controller Lloyd, of Luzerne, has refused to allow the jury commissioners $5 a day for clerk hire.

Senator Arthur Kennedy, of Pittsburg, denies that he wants to succeed Colonel W. A. Stone in congress. He is a candidate for president pro tem. of the state senate.

Another story goes that Governor Hastings may be proffered the mission to Russia.

Secretary of the Commonwealth Reeder and Bank Commissioner Gilkeson will have charge of Governor Hastings' senatorial interests when the legislature convenes.

The Penrose mathematicians in Philadelphia are claiming a total Quay force of 101 Republican representatives and 34 Republican senators, which would leave to the other side 70 Republican representatives and 16 Republican senators.

Says the Patriot: "The general belief in political and official circles on capitol hill is that Senator Penrose will succeed Cameron and that the governor will take the place of Senator Quay if he should resign to enter McKinley's cabinet as secretary of the navy."

The Philadelphia Record truthfully observes: "There are a number of stalwart and capable Republican gentlemen in Philadelphia of large experience in affairs and of undoubted character who are making no effort to get themselves chosen as the next United States senator. Now if the choice of the party could by any fortune fall upon one of these men what a happy thing it would be! But the Goddess of Liberty seldom calls to her high seats those who modestly sit on the low benches."

Frank Willing Leach has engaged a suite of four rooms and the parlor at the Commonwealth hotel at Harrisburg and has secured an option on several other apartments at the same hotel. Former Lieutenant Governor Watres will also be at the Commonwealth with his candidacy. Senators William Flinn and Chris. L. Magee have engaged a suite of rooms at the same place. Senator Penrose and his friends will have quarters at the Lochiel within easy reach of Senator Quay's apartments. Governor Hastings will not have headquarters at any of the hotels, but the latchstring will be on the outside at the executive mansion, just as it always is to his friends.

The United Mine Workers in session last week at Pottsville adopted resolutions strongly denouncing the senatorial candidacy of Hon. John Wanamaker, for two reasons; which were cited as follows, "First, he has proven himself unfriendly to labor by his action toward the street carmen of Philadelphia, during their trouble last winter by promises made to them which were not redeemed, thus making himself obnoxious, not only to street car men, but to other workingmen and fair-minded citizens. Secondly, because of his having been convicted in the United States district court, in the city of Philadelphia, April, 1896, of the offense of importing contract labor into the United States, in violation of the Act of congress, passed in 1885."

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Who doesn't smile
With intent to beguile,
The heart of a nice young man.

O for the voice of a Summer girl,
Whose rhythmic language flows
By day and night,
In endless flight,
But who never talks of her beaus.

O for the name of a Summer girl,
Enrolled with a golden pen,
Who will confess
She hasn't said "Yes,"
To a dozen or more young men.

O for the heart of a Summer girl—
But I'm talking through my hat,
Whoever heard
Of a thing so absurd?
She hasn't any use for that.

—Detroit Free Press.

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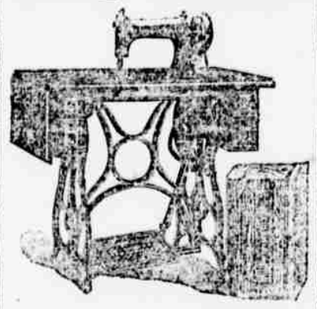

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