

The Scranton Tribune

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It is really very silly in the Republican press of Luzerne county to be envious of Lackawanna's superior prominence in state politics. Being envious won't help Luzerne's prospects a bit.

Holier Than Thou.

One James Pollock, of Philadelphia, who as a duly accredited representative of the National League of Business men—in other words is the Wanamaker senatorial syndicate—is traversing the state for the purpose of organizing local Wanamaker branches, spoke in Erie on Saturday of last week, and in the course of his remarks, as reported in the Pittsburg Times, said: "We are willing to have one man like Quay in the senate, but we want one man who won't be playing cards, who will not be away fishing or drunk, when important measures are up concerning our welfare."

It is unfortunate for Mr. Wanamaker that this outburst of his representative challenges a comparison between himself and the man his minion attacks—a comparison which, if made in full, may yet require a lifting of the veil with which hypocrisy and the quieting influence of wealth sometimes surround men who enact one character in public and quite a different one in private. It is to be said for Senator Quay that he does not profess to be other than he is. He plays cards, he fishes and he drinks, although rarely to excess; but if Mr. Wanamaker could acquire Quay's brains by copying Quay's faults, he would be justified in instantaneously exchanging the better-than-thou pose, which he has in late years affected, for some of the unassuming exactness and honest ability of the junior senator.

It is to be regretted that the senatorial canvass should have elicited offensive personalities; but if the Wanamaker forces desire that kind of an argument we have reason to believe they can be accommodated to the full.

Tom Platt is to visit Canton. Would we could be a mouse in the corner while he is there.

Another Cuban Plan.

One of several current rumors relative to Cuba has it that President Cleveland will ask congress to ratify a tripartite agreement whereby Great Britain is to furnish the money to buy the independence of the island on Cuban bonds guaranteed by the United States, Spain's assent having already been practically assured to the proposition. The commission which is to perfect these plans and see that they are carried out is to be composed of three members. The United States, as the representative of the Cubans, is to choose one, Great Britain, as the representative of Spain, is to select another, while the third member is to be chosen by agreement between the United States and Great Britain together.

We do not believe that there is any truth whatever in the statement that negotiations to this end have been considered by Spain. There is nothing in the history of that country to indicate the remotest probability of a settlement of the Cuban rebellion short of the utter defeat of one of the parties to it. The foregoing plan is moreover objectionable in that it enlists in the controversy a nation in no wise involved in it—Great Britain. No doubt the purchase from Spain of Cuba's independence by either the Cuban people themselves or by the United States government would be an economic victory which it should be commensurate at any price within reason. But it is too remote a possibility to merit serious consideration. The thing for this government to do is to recognize Cuba's independence and thus let American sympathy for Cuba have a free vent. That is all that is needed.

The Wanamaker forces have apparently ceased to fight Boyer for speaker, and the latter's selection is expected by a unanimous vote. He will make by far the ablest and most experienced presiding officer that the house could choose.

Jumping at Conclusions.

The "harnessing of Niagara" has led to a vigorous jumping at conclusions. Because the Niagara Falls Power Company has succeeded in delivering 1,000 horse-power a distance of twenty-six miles to the Buffalo Street Railway Company and because that company only utilizes one-seventeenth thousandth of the 17,000,000 horse-power of the great cataract, the opinion is unhesitatingly advanced by various journals that within a few years the trolley-car systems, as well as other electrical plants in cities within a radius of 500 miles will be propelled by power generated at the falls.

But this depends, Niagara power will undoubtedly supersede other power in Buffalo. This is assured from the fact that it already costs from one-hundredth to one-third the cost of steam power. The contract price for Niagara power in job lots of 1,000 horse-power is \$36 per horse-power for a 24-hour service. While there is no sure way to estimate the cost of steam power, because it varies greatly according to circumstances, approximate figures based on the experience of actual users of steam in Buffalo have been published from time to time, and they put the cost per horse power up to \$55.10 for a 10-hour service, thus clearly giving to Niagara power a marked advantage in respect of economy.

It remains, however, to be shown that it is commercially feasible to transmit Niagara power a much longer distance than twenty-six miles. The teaching of electricians is that beyond a distance of twenty-five to thirty miles every additional mile involves a large waste in transmission. The question, of course, is, How large? This has been settled many times in theory but never satisfactorily in practice. Until we have an actual test of it at Niagara it would be premature to become en-

thusiastic in praise of the utilization of once-wasted power which is now in progress there. Above all, it would be unwise to go hunting for waterfalls in this locality while the unsightly culm banks hold out the promise of possible millions for those who master their secret.

Colonel Robert P. Porter has retired from the editorship of the Cleveland World and the World is temporarily in charge of a receiver. Mr. Porter will doubtless re-enter politics.

Senator Chandler has contributed to an English review an article in which he takes the position that the election of McKinley was a clearing of the way for rather than a defeat of genuine bimetallism. He truthfully says: "The Bryan proposition was seen by the American voters to be simply that the United States should adopt silver monometallism; should deliberately give up all attempts to keep gold and silver at all parity; should send gold to a premium and thereby make it merchandise merely, and should base all American prices upon silver only. It can hardly be considered, upon reflection, by any true bimetallist, that such action on our part would have helped the cause of bimetallism in any country of the world."

Further than this, as the senator also explains for the benefit of his English readers, the Bryan campaign for spurious "bimetallism" was complicated by other issues which would have lost the election for him even had every voter in America believed that the way to hasten the international adoption of the joint standard was for the United States itself to fall to a silver basis. "That the United States is opposed to the single gold standard and is in favor of retreating in due course and with careful regard to the national honor the steps taken in the demonetization of silver until both gold and silver shall be admitted to free coinage at the ratio of 15 1/2 to 1, and made the standard money of the world, and the measures of values of the world—is a proposition," adds Senator Chandler, "which would receive the suffrages of four-fifths of our voters, if this proposition alone could be fairly presented to them, even without further debate."

There is now one clear way to international bimetallism. That is for the United States to develop its commerce until it shall attain financial primacy among the nations. Then instead of tagging after them for co-operation in the broad restoration of silver, we can wait for them to offer the first overtures, confident that when we control the gold situation they will speedily find it to their interest to work for silver's uplifting.

It is doubtless noticed that the president-elect is meeting all elements in his party more than half way. It will not be his fault if the next administration shall not strengthen instead of wreck the party.

The next congress will be asked to enact a law which will prevent the destruction of the Palisades of the Hudson and insure the preservation of this magnificent and historic bit of natural scenery for future generations. At present several gangs of men are at work blasting thousands of tons of the rock which forms the Palisades and turning the fragments into paving stones. Not only does their activity deface a natural beauty which when once gone can never be replaced, but it also is a gross wrong to the people of the entire country who have a right to be protected against such vandalism.

The bill which is to be urged upon congress for the remedy of this evil provides for the appointment by the president of a commission of six members. This commission, under the direction of the secretary of the interior, is to survey the Palisades region, and recommend the boundaries of a national reservation. Upon the report of the commission, the secretary of the interior is directed to proceed with the purchase at private sale or by condemnation of such lands within the reservation fixed by the commission as he shall deem advantageous to the United States, for present or future use.

The hands so acquired are declared to be available for the military, naval and other national uses of the United States. The bill then provides for the care of the reservation, its use by the National Guard of the states of New York and New Jersey, and free access to it by the people of both states, limited only in so far as the actual occupation by the United States may require. The legislatures of both states have passed legislation authorizing such a cession to the federal government and all that delays the consummation of the plan is the wait for formal action by congress.

It needs no extended argument to establish the wisdom of such a federal reservation. There is really nothing to be said adverse to the proposition. The Palisades bill ought certainly to pass, and that speedily.

The biennial story of a Republican combine to down Tom Reed for speaker has made its appearance. Such stories as these keep active minds out of more serious mischief.

Honest Tariff Reform. The recommendation of ex-Governor Flower in his recent New York speech that the tariff question be entrusted in future to a permanent commission of specialists voices a general and a growing sentiment among business men. Such a commission would not be supreme, but rather executive, as in the case of the civil service or the interstate commerce commissions. The latter do not make laws; they simply take charge of the details of their enforcement, make expert study of changing conditions, and formulate such advice to congress, the immediate source of their authority, as will be most likely, in their judgment, to promote the public welfare. There does not appear to be any valid reason why a commission sitting continuously and making a systematic observation of changing economic conditions ought not to be better prepared to suggest detailed changes in our tariff legislation than a committee of congress for its first purpose the promotion of party ends. It would depend a great deal upon the personnel of the

commission, of course, but as the present ways and means committee of congress is a creation largely of political expediency an speakership prominent in this locality while the unsightly culm banks hold out the promise of possible millions for those who master their secret. We agree thoroughly with the opinion of the Pittsburg Dispatch, a journal which is as staunch an advocate of Protection as there is in the country, that such a reference of the tariff question to a board of experts would not and could not take it beyond the control of the people by political action. "Even if such a thing were possible it would not be wise to take from the people the power to express their disapproval, or secure the remedy of serious error. In that sense no subject affecting the welfare of the nation and all of its people can be safely removed from politics. But in the case of the tariff the people have repeatedly and emphatically declared their belief in the great principles that the tariff should give ample protection to American industries and that it should yield sufficient revenue for government purposes, including internal improvements. There is no legislation respecting those principles and there should be no issue, any longer, over the specious pleas of contending politicians who try to cloud the chief principles by extreme perversion. Protection is a fixed American principle. It is equally a fixed principle that the chief revenues of the government should be raised, indirectly, by means of customs duties. It is wholly consistent with these principles, indorsed and approved by the American people, to create a permanent board of experts to revise and amend the tariff schedules. These principles have been affirmed and re-affirmed during more than two generations of discussion and it is because they have been thus affirmed, after the most exhaustive discussion, as the deliberate judgment of the whole people, that they are ready to be transferred for execution to a board possessing expert knowledge of the conditions involved."

THE DUTY OF THE PRESS. Upon the question of the printer's mental condition and responsibility. This latter tribunal cannot be swayed by passion or prejudice or influence by sympathy. It has to do with the testimony, the proof, the evidence, not of scientific men or organized standing, who give their evidence after thorough and impartial study of the mental condition of the convicted person. Under such a system of investigation guilt does not go unpunished through mawkish sympathy, and criminals are not adjudged to have been insane at the moment their crime was committed, though perfectly sane before and after it. This system is the only just system and our legislators might well adopt it to the great advantage of justice.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention. It has been estimated by one of the trades unionists of the city that if the home-made cigars, 150 additional hands could be employed steadily in cigar-making. Estimating that each of these 150 workmen would on an average earn \$300 a year, we have a total of \$45,000, which would be added annually to the volume of local trade and find its way sooner or later back into the pockets of the men who smoke. The work of the city is that the foreign cigars which are sold in Scranton are made for the most part in similar cities, like Birmingham, Reading, Lancaster, etc. Why Scranton takes a back seat in cigar manufacturing before any of those places? The chances are not one smoker in ten ever thought along this line before.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention. The regulation complaint is again heard from the Luzerne county press at Lackawanna's political prominence. Says the Pittston Gazette: "With Farr out for the speakership of the house and Watkins for re-appointment as reading clerk, Colburn a candidate for United States district attorney, Penman seeking re-appointment as revenue collector and Congressman-elect Connell's eagle eye hopefully fixed on the gubernatorial chair two years hence, it cannot be said that Lackawanna is at all modest about asking for things." Perhaps the Gazette doesn't stop to think that the man who has been in the state and by every reason entitled to generous consideration. But to relieve its mind of part of its load, we hasten to assure it that Congressman-elect Connell has no present gubernatorial longings.

Put not too much faith in the man of oily tongue. The smooth man is usually shallow. For the shoppers will generally part with their "dough." When the weather is seasonable, don't get out of the Lackawanna jury it is all right for a man to hug his own wife. Married men who are bashful when around home will blush themselves purple when out.

Put not too much faith in the man of oily tongue. The smooth man is usually shallow. The face of ye merchant with pleasure would glow. At continued cold weather and beautiful show.

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MEN AND WOMEN. Mrs. Augusta Evans Wilson, the author of "Beulah," has been in feeble health since the death of her husband, five years ago. She has left her country home, near Mobile, Ala., and is now living in that city.

Major Edward Scoble, the governor-elect of Wisconsin, is the son of a Pennsylvania farmer. At the age of 16 he became a printer and later became a typesetter. He served through the war with great gallantry, coming out as a major. At the close of the war he went into the lumber business, and is now one of the most successful lumbermen in northern Wisconsin.

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