

The Scranton Tribune
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Spain, after all, will not be able to get much comfort out of the message. The president doesn't exactly balance a chip on his shoulder, but he gives the Weylerites several vigorous punches in the ribs, and intimates they may look for more.

The President's Message.

It will be the general judgment that Mr. Cleveland's last message as president of the United States was his best. There is breadth, dignity and self-possession about this state paper which will command for it on all sides a most respectful hearing and add greatly to the good opinion in the midst of which Mr. Cleveland will close his official career.

Very naturally the part of it which refers to foreign relations will receive the most eager attention. The president with dignity sets clear the course of this government with reference to Turkey and between the lines administers a merited rebuke both to those at home who by intemperate speech embarrass and injure the government's efforts for the protection of its citizens and to the dilatory powers of Europe who are letting mutual jealousy act as an accomplice to unspeakable brutalities.

But it is in his review of the Cuban problem that Mr. Cleveland is at his best. The one who will read this part of the message with care and fairness will find in it no lack of sympathy for the rightful aspirations of the Cuban people, but also no wavering, in deference to uninformed clamor, from the straight line of executive duty. We are entirely free to say that we regard the president's statement of the case as all that can with reason be asked for and quite all that the United States government at this time is in duty bound to fulfill.

Mr. Cleveland has evidently been improved by adversity.

Mr. Bayard has shown wisdom in declining to be put on the British public's already large dead-head list.

Fake Enterprise.

The Tribune agrees with Newspapers and many other prominent authorities on such matters that the padded special edition, put out simply because during the holiday season merchants are accustomed to spend money liberally on advertising, is a form of newspaper enterprise more honored in the breach than in the observance. It was itself at one time guilty of this mistaken activity, but one year ago it repented and neither this year nor in a future year will it solicit advertisements from the business men of Scranton for a sham purpose.

Of what possible value to the advertiser is a sprawling advertisement stuck somewhere amidst twenty to thirty pages of similar advertisements all of them sandwiched in between boiler-plate reading matter or "chucked together" miscellany? Why should any advertiser pay to have his announcement lost in such a waste of dross and unread extra pages? Why should any newspaper properly sensible of its obligations to its patrons ask any business man to sink his money in such transparent foolishness?

During the next three weeks the Tribune will find room for its advertisers as well as for its news and literary features without tax upon the popular patience. If it has to print twelve instead of eight pages it will print twelve, but they will be as carefully edited and as regular in contents and arrangement as any other daily issues of this journal. Merchants who wish to advertise in such a way as to reach the buying public will appreciate the advantage of space in regular issues and shun the sham boiler-plate special edition which represents nothing but a waste of money and a perversion of enterprise.

For a Tariff Commission.

Some very sensible and timely views in favor of a permanent tariff commission are advanced by Senator Culom, one of the ablest men in congress. "It seems to me," says he, "and I know that many friends of protection think with me, that it is high time we should do something to put the tariff system on a stable basis. We are old enough and strong enough, and so well understand the science of government, and have at our disposal a vast array of such statistics, that we should be able to arrive at some conclusion, taking due account of both the revenue and protection view of the question, that would avoid the derangement of trade and commerce that rises from the constant interjection of opposing theories into the national legislation. This partisan hippograding with the tariff has been of immense damage to the country, and my constant wonder is that the evidences of the disastrous effect of it have not been made more apparent. We all know, however, that it has been replete with evil results, and I for one am determined to do what I can to prevent the tariff question from being used as a party football for any longer in the future than can be avoided.

"What is my plan? It is this: I would create a perfectly non-partisan commission. I would make it permanent. Its duty should be to keep itself thoroughly informed regarding the difference in rates of wages paid in this and other countries, the nature of our commercial relations, gathering all statistics bearing upon the question, sifting arguments of tradesmen and manufacturers upon all sides of the subject, and making a report to congress at the beginning of each session, with such deductions and recommendations as they, the members, choose to make.

The commission should be composed of experts, who, no matter what theory they might hold in the abstract, would engage in the work in a practical manner, having in view existing conditions and the highest interests of the whole country. It goes without saying that the committees of congress which have usually performed the task of framing the tariff cannot give that study to the subject which it demands, if legislation is to be thorough and intelligent. Even while they are engaged in the work their attention is diverted to a thousand other things, and much of the result of their labor gives evidence of carelessness or ignorance. After the passage of a tariff bill, and when congress is not in session, no thought whatever is given to the great question.

"Inconsciously to them, conditions change, new relations spring up, new industries are created, old ones take new forms, and for the discovery of all these things committees must plunge into the question blindly, in the midst of the maelstrom of legislation upon a myriad of subjects, and give such perfunctory study to the matter as is possible. With a question so vital as the tariff, this is a policy that must constantly keep the industrial and commercial interests of the country in a condition of alarm. One party may set up a system ever so good, but no investor or producer can know at what moment another party may come into power and disarrange everything that has been done; and so factional organizations go on, alternately playing shuttlecock with the problem and capital is kept always in a condition of nervousness and timidity. With the question in the hands of a commission, though that commission would be in a way only advisory, the case would be entirely different. The commission would sit permanently. All of the arguments of the various interests could be heard by it. There would be no complaint from citizens that their views had been unheard or ignored. The whole system could be reduced to a science. The commission would stand between extremists of all parties. It would make the arguments of the mere theorist, the dreamer and the ignorant, blatant demagogues of no effect. While congress would, of course, review and analyze the commission's work and legislate according to its own judgment the way to an intelligent legislation of the country has never yet enjoyed would be blazed, the labors of the committees and of congress vastly relieved, and the country would be satisfied that conclusions were thoughtful and impartial, and not for the purpose of sustaining a mere party cry."

A provision for the appointment of such a commission should be incorporated in the next tariff bill.

Mr. Cleveland's "say" is interesting and in places valuable, but it would have attained a far larger audience had it been conveyed in one-third its number of words.

"Money in Politics."

"Fighting Jack" Robinson, of Media, addresses a breezy reply to the Philadelphia Times in reply to some strictures which that journal had volunteered with reference to the recent Blair county senatorial primaries. The Times had intimated that the irrefragable Median had been instrumental in attacking John Wanamaker's character. Mr. Robinson denies this with characteristic energy and then adds:

While on this subject, there is a graver peril even than scandal-mongering. This can only hurt individuals. The matter I refer to affects the state and goes to the very foundation of our government. It is the inordinate, enormous and princely sums of money that are being expended, and will be yet spent to secure the prize, of the entrance of the "business man" in politics is to mark and emphasize the fact that no one who cannot command the wealth of Ormuz and of India has any show in such a race. It will be a grievous hour for the commonwealth, as a candidate for the "Millionaires' Club" I may never reach the goal, but I will have the satisfaction of knowing, if defeated, that the race was not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that he who conquered did so by the exercise of the sword of justice, and not by the purchase of a dukedom on the other side of the Atlantic. Nor do I say this in any chargin form of probable discomfiture, for I recognize the necessity of very large legitimate expenditures in a campaign for the United States senate in a state like this. But, Mr. Editor, are not you and your good patriotic citizens bound to preserve the virtue of the state, to sound the alarm for good government when we believe that all which makes for it and for the continuance of our liberties under the constitution, are endangered; to smite the foe, who, in any guise, much less the hypocritical guises of business methods, shall speak the lure and bait of the golden hand before those who shall have voice in deciding the composition of the so-called American House of Lords?

Those who have had opportunity to examine the inside of the present senatorial struggle do not need to be told to what Mr. Robinson alludes nor with what justice and timeliness his words are freighted. But we cannot think with Mr. Robinson that he "golden hand" despite its manufactured sentiment adopted ostensibly by influential business men's organizations, stands yet in much likelihood of winning the race.

The total amount paid by the government in pensions and the cost of disbursing the same for the last thirty-one years is \$2,034,817,769. This lacks only a little over \$46,712,500 of being equal to the high-water mark of the interest-bearing public debt. But no decent American begrudges the money.

Lax Citizenship Laws.

In speaking of the success of a recent proposition to amend the constitution of Minnesota so as to restrict the right to vote in that state to those who have resided in the United States at least five years, become American citizens and resided in Minnesota more than six months, the Philadelphia Press mentions a fact not generally known when it says there are 17 states in which an immigrant fresh from Europe could arrive within just a little more than twelve months of a presidential election, declare his intentions and vote in the following national election for president. Four years later he could vote a second time for president and then if he chose he could change his plans and return to Europe without ever having become a citizen of this country, although he had exercised one of the

highest privileges it grants, namely, the right to help elect its chief magistrate.

The Press is easily within the truth when it says this laxity of state legislation upon so vital a subject is not only a public scandal, but also a gross injustice to American-born citizens who are compelled to reside in the United States twenty-one years before they acquire the right to vote. When the reformers next work for uniformity of state laws with reference to bankruptcy, marriage and divorce, let them also include in the list laws conferring upon aliens the use of the suffrage. It is manifestly an outrage that the present discrepancies should exist.

In Michigan this winter an effort is to be made to abolish the office of coroner and put its duties, when any duties are necessary, under the jurisdiction of the district attorney. This appears to be an eminently sensible proposition and it might well receive consideration at Harrisburg.

A new cabinet dark horse has been trotted out in the person of Joseph Choate, whom the boomers propose for secretary of state. He is not our preference, but he would undoubtedly make a good one.

The Scranton Tribune seems to derive great enjoyment from indulging its sniping, snarling propensities at the Record, Wilkes-Barre Record.

Not at all. It only rips open sham when impelled to do so by duty, and then never with relish for the task.

Mr. Bryan will lecture and write a book, but it is hoped he can yet be dissuaded from undertaking to elevate the stage.

Those who say the tariff cannot be taken out of politics forget that the party which fools with it can.

It is a pity Mr. Cleveland didn't strike his present gait earlier in the race.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

A gentleman who had recently had arrested in this country from Germany entered the West Side police station the other night. He wanted to communicate with Dr. Penberg, of the central city. "That physician who took the telephone and Lieutenant Williams, of the police, turned to the man from Germany."

"Here's the doctor, now; speak to him," said the lieutenant.

"You better let it," said the gentleman from the Rhine. "I can't talk English." He thought that the machine wouldn't accept any other language.

The man who hammers the snare drum in Bauer's band—we can't mention his name out of respect to his recent marriage—was riding on a street car towards Hyde Park some time ago in company with a number of equally light-hearted West Side riders. They were talking stolen this and that as the car jolted along on Lackawanna avenue and Ninth street (the old line was in operation then) Mr. M., of the band, began to contribute his part of the conversation. "What's that, Mr. M.?" said the gentleman from the Rhine, "I can't talk English." He thought that the machine wouldn't accept any other language.

He referred to the street.

They who had heard the story saw the humor of the coincidence and the laugh turned from the story to the snare drummer. He was checked.

And as the conductor reached his hand to the rope and gave the go-ahead signal the snare drummer, referring to the conductor, exclaimed: "He not only snars my story, but he has to ring the bell on it."

And the car rolled on.

One of the candidates for allerman of the Fifth ward is earnest, but he isn't much on orthography. While at work in the mines one day this man chafed "Daugh" out of his tongue. "Daugh?" Some one corrected him.

"That's not right, Benjamin; he should spell it Manger."

"No, Ben, as he changed the spelling, of course; I was thinking of 'stranger'."

Rev. Thomas De Busby surprised his audience at the Jackson Street Baptist church Sunday night, when he preached his first sermon to the Hyde Park public.

His audience, on the whole, was good. He told his audience that short sermons would be the rule and he encouraged laughter and light-heartedness in the house of prayer.

It is that when leaving the church everybody seemed to be greatly pleased with "the new minister."

A novel race was witnessed in the Twelfth ward Saturday, Patrick Tuffy and Dick Ryan are the "Two Johns" of the ward, the one weighing 21 pounds and the other 95. They were met to meet at Morgan Sweeney's barn about 5 o'clock and found there a group of admirers and a new team of stewart chargers that Morgan had just purchased. "The 'Two Johns' got into a dispute over horseflesh in general, and Morgan's team in particular, and the upshot of it was that they agreed to put their relative judgments to a test by racing the two horses. Tuffy led out the animal he held to be the better and Ryan took his choice to the middle of the road. With the aid of the crowd and sundry barrels and boxes they managed to mount, and started around the block at the word from Morgan. But the crowd never got the treats which were bet on the result. Both horses refused to make the circuit of the block. The race had to be declared off and the "Two Johns" had their estimate of the worth of Sweeney's horses greatly lessened in consequence.

That there is something in a name is shown by an incident narrated a day or two ago by a local cigar dealer. Several months ago a certain manufacturer of cigars who was also somewhat of an expert on prize-racing subjects, conceived the idea of naming a brand of smokers after a famous or infamous pugilist. The stock in the cigars was first-class. It was made to sell for \$99 per thousand and retail at 10 cents a piece; but the picture and the name of the fighter on the lid "quarered" the trolley car in a favorite lot of cigars had to be auctioned off to the highest bidder, who got them so cheap he is now selling them for a nickel apiece.

Number one of Dunmore's new paper, the Standard, has a journal, with D. Fairley as editor. In its secretary the Standard says: "Local Journalism, which a few years ago was made a lull of ridicule by metropolitan and urban newspapers, has at last become a great necessity as its collateral advancements made by electrical science. The electric light now competes with gas mantolines and oil lamps; the trolley car is now a favorite rival to the railroads, in a local way; and there is no reason why local journalism, when competently conducted, may not make its presence indispensably to the business interests, as well as to the moral soul, of all within its naturally prescribed limits. We do not hope to reduce the subscription list on any other journal, however remote, nor is our intention to become a destructive rival to any paper, however near. All we want and hope for is the patronage of our own people, and no decent effort on our part will be spared in order to secure this. We wish the Standard success."

THE SPECIAL EDITION.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Newspapermen today regard the "special edition" as a confession of weakness. It is usually issued on some such anniversary as Decoration Day, the Fourth of July, Easter, or Christmas, entirely irrelevant to the paper or its history. The first step in its making is to send forth an army of advertising solicitors to loiter the life out of every actual, or possible advertiser within reach with efforts to coax or bulldoze them into taking extra space at extra rates. Every victim is freely offered any inducement that seems likely to "fetch him." Promises that cannot be kept are kept; promises that are made by solicitors working for "a record." Marvellous yarns are told about the enormous size of the edition to be circulated. Every advertiser is told to have the best position and the newest and handsomest display type. A is assured that his rival in business, B, has taken a half-page, and, after he has thus been deluded into renting space that he doesn't want, the fact is used as a lever to pry the half-page order out of B. So, by hook and by crook, a "special edition" is secured, and then, save for the labor of retouching and dusting the cobwebs off of old and forgotten display type, all the real special work on the "special edition" is done.

When the "special edition" finally appears it is generally a ridiculous illustration of "vaunting ambition that oversteps itself," the worst-looking, worst printed, most carelessly made up, most unworkable, most unuseful, and, for advertisers, the most worthless ever issued by any publishers. Appearing on a holiday, when people have less time and thought than usual for newspapers, its genuine circulation is apt to be rather less than greater than the normal circulation of the paper. If an attempt is made, by gratuitous distribution, to ostensibly keep the promise of enormous circulation, the increase of circulation is, of course, bogus. The paper is so bulky, awkward and unhandy that nobody attempts to read it through, nobody cares to log it through, nobody takes any notice of it. It is glanced at, thrown aside and quickly finds its way into the ash barrel. It never comes up to the expectations of either advertiser or publisher in any respect. It is a disappointment to every one interested in it, especially to its advertisers, for no one of them ever gets quite the position or distinction which he expected, and an advertisement in a "special edition" was never known to produce any recognizable results. The "special edition" is pretty thoroughly played out.

SAFEGUARD STATE FUNDS.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Would it not be wise and proper for the legislature in making appropriations to charitable institutions to require that vouchers in detail for the expenditure of every dollar be returned to the auditor general? Such vouchers are required from the heads of the various state departments, but in the least responsible expenditure, which money is appropriated out of the public treasury, no vouchers are required for the expenditure, and to give money for just what purpose the money has been used? We cannot see that there could be the slightest objection to a law that should require the managers of an institution properly using the money given it by the state, those unwilling to return vouchers to show how they propose the money was spent, would at once declare themselves as not entitled to any consideration from the state.

These vouchers for any one year would be a great help to the legislature in determining the needs of any particular institution. They would enable the legislature to discriminate with greater justice, to give more where there was real need for it, and less where it was shown that less would be enough. These vouchers would also serve as a protection to the state and to the institutions; they would protect the state in cases where the money, or any part of it, has been improperly expended—if there are such cases—and they would protect every institution from the possible injustice of charges of extravagance or dishonesty, because the vouchers would show whether such charges are held or not. From both points of view, therefore, the application of such a method of accounting seems desirable, quite as much so as in the case of state departments where the strictest accounting is required for the expenditure of every dollar.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Do not wait until the last minute but come and select your gifts before the rush.

Fine China, Bric-a-Brac, Silverware, Lamps, DINNER, TEA AND TOILET SETS All Make Nice Presents.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO.,

122 LACKAWANNA AVE. OPEN EVENINGS.



Cure the Buttonholes!

Even Santa Claus would do it, if he had to tussle with the shirts that some men wear.

Be a sensible little Santa Claus. Buy your buttons something that he really needs. For instance, a half-dozen good shirts, and a really pretty tie, instead of the monstrosity he wears. Zero prices.

CONRAD, HATTER 305 Lack Av.

OUR LINE OF Holiday Books

Booksellers, Clubmen and Parties like to see the "New" and "Best" every shown in this city. Our

Forty-Six Cent

Leaders now in the windows are POSTER SHOW AND HOLIDAY BRANCH 211 Washington Ave., Opp. Court House Tower.

BEIDLEMAN, THE BOOKMAN 427 Spruce Street.

GOLDSMITH'S  **BAZAAR.**
Holiday Merchandise
And Holiday Buyers

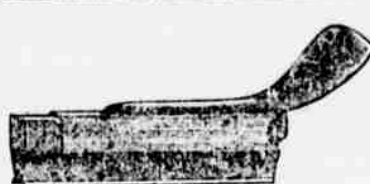
Are in complete possession of the store. Wonderful Activity and delighted patrons are the result. The potent factors creating it run from Handkerchiefs to Cloaks--from Dolls to Dress Goods--from Carpets to the richest creations of the publisher's art--and so on through the long, varied and interesting category of goods that find a fitting representation in each of our twenty-four departments--all marked at prices that cause wonderment by reason of their extreme lowness.

Store Open Evenings Until Christmas.
Every Street Car Stops at the Door.

THERE ARE OTHERS

BUT NONE IN SCRANTON which can compare in any way with our mammoth tailoring establishment. Our line in Suitsings, Trouserings and Overcoatings is as complete as you will find in any city. Our patterns and fashions are up-to-date and the very latest--only. Should our prices be too low let us know and we will make the necessary correction. Our work and fit we guarantee. We don't allow a garment to leave our place except perfectly satisfactory. Buying facilities enable us to sell at much lower than lowest prices, hence here, like everywhere else, our immense success.

GREAT EASTERN SUIT AND PANTS COMPANY, D. LOWENSTEIN Proprietor.
Branch 14. 127 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa. Branch 11.



The Eureka.

If you have a good pair of skates, the next most important thing is to be able to keep them sharpened and in good condition. Any one can use the Eureka and it is impossible to round the edges or do anything but a good job. It contains a four-sided file which can be turned when one side becomes worn out or dull. Full line of skates. No better present for boy or girl. Also Carvers, Pocket Knives, Cutlery, etc., wholesale and retail. Retail department open evenings from 7 to 9 during holidays.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.,

118 WASHINGTON AVENUE.

SPECIAL

Offer for December. Our prices already the lowest in Scranton, greatly reduced. Take advantage of this, our greatest offer, and make yours a Xmas present of value.

Made to Order Suit or Overcoat for \$14.00

Or at Least a Pair of Trousers for \$3.00

We show whole rolls of cloth. Not short length samples.

GREAT ATLANTIC PANTS CO.,

Branch 25 319 Lacka Ava.

CALL UP 3632.

WALLOEY OIL AND MANUFACTURING CO.

Oils, Vinegar and Cider

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, 44 TO 121 MERIDIAN STREET.

M. W. COLLINS, Manager.

DR. C. W. GREEN,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

Electrical Treatment a Specialty. Offices, 607, 608 and 609 Meigs Building, SCRANTON, PA.

WOLF & WENZEL,

231 Linden, Opp. Court House.

PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS

Solo Agents for Richardson Boynton's Furnaces and Ranges.

SKATES

Our Line of **Holiday Goods**

With every pair of skates we will give a ticket . . . which will entitle the purchaser to one . . .

Chance on a Spalding Bicycle, 1897 Model.

We have a full line of indoor Games for the Holidays.

Florey's, Wyoming Avenue, Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

HILL & CONNELL,

131 & 133 Washington Ave.

Sewing Machines,

Why pay Fancy Prices for Sewing Machines when you can buy our "ANTHRACITE" FOR \$19.50 with all the attachments. Fully guaranteed as having no superior.

PRAYERS AND BOUCLE JACKETS, dressiest effects, silk lined; latest effects, equal to the best \$7.50 coat ever retailed; marked by us . . . \$3.98

FINE ASTRACHAN CLOTH JACKETS--dressed effects, new checked fronts; silk lined; splendid \$2 value; marked by us . . . \$4.98

ASTRACHAN BOUCLE AND KERSEY CLOTH JACKETS, best tailoring, silk lined throughout, most correct styles, equal to the regular \$5 value; marked by us . . . \$7.98

SPECIAL LOT OF LADIES' DRESS WAISTERS in stylish checked effects, cross-market, made, all lined, usually \$1.49; this week . . . \$.98

EXTRA FINE SILK FLUSH CAPES, full sleeves, trimmed with Thibet, 24 inch length lined with Rindam silk; good value at \$15; our price . . . \$7.98

Very fine curl Astrachan Cape, lined throughout, trimmed with Thibet fur, cheap at \$12; our price . . . \$5.98

Are now ready for your inspection.

Prang's, Dutton's, Tusk's lines of Calendars and Booklets.

Gold Pens and Penells, Book Stands, Celluloid Goods, Leather Traveling Cases, Mounted Card Cases, Etc.

Reynolds Bros.,

Stationers and Engravers, 139 WYOMING AVENUE.

Philadelphia Manufacturers of Cloaks and Suits

HAVE YOU VISITED

OUR WIDE-AWAKE STORE

Where new and attractive goods are offered every day at prices exceptionally low. If you want to buy a good, sensible Christmas gift you can find it here.

NO CHARGE for Alterations

Z. WEINGART, Proprietor.