

The Scranton Tribune Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition. Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

The Tribune management acknowledges with pleasure the many kind things said by our esteemed contemporaries in reference to The Tribune's Political Handbook for 1897.

The Washington Star in a recent editorial calls attention to many of the fine points of law bearing upon the limits of the power of the president, which may be brought out before the Cuban question is finally settled.

"Suppose," says the Star, "the Cameron resolution should pass by a two-thirds vote over the president's veto. Suppose Great Britain, or Germany, or France, through its representative at this capital, should enter a protest at the state department, taking pro-Spanish ground, and what in effect would be an intimation of the president's own position. What would the president do? Give assurance through Mr. Olney that nothing would come of the resolution? And thus deal with the protest himself, without calling the attention of congress to it at all? Would congress in such circumstances, according to the president's ideas, have any right to be heard about the matter? Congress, it is true, would have incurred the criticism, and would be the real object of the foreign attack, but would not the president feel himself entirely competent to deal with the question without reference to congress? Why should he care for congress when the foreign power addressing him would be taking its cue from his own utterances and attitude?"

But suppose congress should refuse to be ignored. Suppose it should take cognizance of the protest without having its attention called to it by the executive. Suppose it should pass a resolution rebuking the foreigner, and calling on the president to hand the representative his reasons. Would the president recognize such a resolution? Would he allow in that case the right of congress to a voice in foreign affairs? or would he hold toward that as he now holds toward the Cameron resolution, that congress has nothing to do with foreign affairs; that this government in its dealings with other powers is represented by the executive, and by him alone? Would Mr. Cleveland in such circumstances paraphrase, or boldly apply, the famous dictum of the French king? "The United States? I am the United States!"

The question raised by Mr. Olney in the president's name possesses an interest outside of local circles. The lawyers are likely to be most occupied with it, and several senators of eminence in the profession are now preparing to discuss it at length when congress reassembles. But the people of the whole country have reason to want to know just how great the power of the executive is, and how limited that of congress, in matters of such importance as the government's relations to other nations.

If there are any boiler-plate and paste-pot editors about the country who have not allowed their thoughts to escape in original leaders on the corruption of politics in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, they should improve the opportunity offered at once.

Inspect the Bake Shops. If Dr. Benjamin Lee, the secretary of the state board of health is to be believed, bread which has long been known as the staff of life, may often be considered an instrument of disease and death. In a recent speech to the Women's Health Protective association at Philadelphia, Dr. Lee talked on the unsanitary condition of the bake shops of that city, and noted the fact that many of the places where bread is wont to be made are in a filthy condition. To cleanse them, he said, is of greater importance than the need of providing pure and wholesome milk.

The speaker also stated that it is notorious that the outbreaks of cholera in Europe have first attacked the bakers, and that the mortality of these unhappy workers is greater than that of the average of artisans. This is due to the vitiated atmosphere of the cellars wherein they work. Better bake shops are demanded for the protection of the bakers, if for no reason else. But there are many reasons else, the chief of which is that bread baked in such environments must be infused with disease, and ill health must be sent out into the community with the fruit of the baking. Foul bakeries may not be so prevalent in this country as in Europe, yet there is a horror in the realization that some American bake shops are centres of filth and sources of disease.

All readers will doubtless agree with the health officer. It makes one shudder to think that white, wholesome appearing bread that forms the staple article of food, was moulded and baked in a filthy cellar reeking with germs of disease. There is no question that in many cities, if not in Scranton, the bake shop should receive the same attention from the health officers that is given the sewer and fish market. And there seems no reason why the ingredients should not also be known in every instance by the food inspectors.

Colonel Mapleson, the operatic manager, has been sued by the Boston Sabbath Protection league for holding so-called "sacred concerts" in the city of culture and baked beans. Of course there are others, but Colonel Mapleson's enterprises has been selected as a test case, as it is probably nearest a sacred concert than anything on the boards at the Hub at the present time. Religiously-inclined Boston-

ians have decided that it is time to determine whether anything from an operatic chorus to a boxing bout or dog fight can by law be permitted to hold forth on Sunday under the title of "sacred concert." The decision in the case of Colonel Mapleson will no doubt eventually close up numerous Sunday evening enterprises in Boston that can well be spared.

Senator Wolcott's Mission. The result of Senator Wolcott's mission to Europe in the interest of bimetalism will be awaited with more or less anxiety by those who are mildly favorable to a double standard as well as by the silver-enthusiasts. Senator Wolcott, who is chairman of the committee to promote international agreement on bimetalism, has gone to London, for the purpose of sounding English bimetalists as to the expediency of an international conference, and it is understood that Senator Wolcott has the sanction of the president-elect for his negotiations. The senator said, on the eve of sailing, that the only official character he has in this matter, is as an envoy of the Republican senatorial caucus, by which the committee of which he is chairman was named. He says that he is authorized to represent the Republican senators who desire to see the provisions of the St. Louis convention, respecting the promotion of bimetalism, lived up to, and he goes abroad to ascertain just what the feeling abroad is with regard to the subject. He undertakes to gain information respecting the prospects of an international agreement.

Speaking of prospective legislation by the present congress to promote international bimetalism, Senator Wolcott said: "A bill is being prepared by the senate caucus committee which will in due course come before the caucus for discussion, amendment and approval before it is introduced in the senate. It is the wish of the committee to give President McKinley the opportunity to call a conference himself, or to act jointly with the executive authorities of European countries, as may appear most expedient. He will be authorized to appoint five commissioners to an international monetary conference whenever it may be called, and sufficient appropriation will be made to pay the salaries of the commissioners and whatever share of the expenses of the conference may be due from the United States."

Senator Wolcott is very hopeful that good will come from his visit of a month or so in Europe. It is appreciated that nothing effective in the promotion of bimetalism can be done by this country alone, and consequently the effort is made to bring the powers of Europe into co-operation on a general plan. Great Britain has stood in the way of success, but latterly there is reason to expect that favor may be gained from that quarter.

William Jennings Bryan has not been a howling success in the lecture field, but there is reason to believe that he might be able to play Hamlet.

One Real Danger

The Washington Post points out a weak spot in our present system of public instruction when it shows that in many states having compulsory education laws—our own among the number—there are cities grossly lacking in adequate facilities to accommodate even the average attendance. It adds, with equal pertinency: "In many cities this evil is exaggerated by spending large sums of money on the high schools, fitting them with all the equipment required for a higher education than can be obtained at some of the small colleges that call themselves universities. But the Philadelphia common council has wisely called a halt in this misapplication of school funds. It has defeated a proposed appropriation of \$25,000 for an observatory for the Boys' high school, and directed the sum to be used in the erection of a new school building for the lower grades. There is no objection to the erection of an observatory or the purchase of astronomical instruments. There is no reason for finding fault with the curricula of high schools because they contain foreign languages or the higher mathematics. It appears to be the will of the people that such facilities for education should be furnished at all public cost. Many states furnish a free collegiate course. But it is altogether wrong to rob the lower grades in order to save money to build an observatory for a high school. If there must be any pinching or lopping off, it should be at the top."

These remarks do not at present apply to Scranton, because while our school rooms in the lower grades are crowded, rapid provision is being made to relieve the strain. Their truthfulness as general principles, however, cannot be disputed. Probably no other danger is so great in American education as that the cart will be located in front of the horse—in other words, that more time and money will be devoted to the trimmings of a public school education than to the foundation essentials.

A decision of the Idaho Supreme court has placed that state in the woman's suffrage column, which includes Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. The court decides that a majority of all the votes cast were not required to carry the amendment. There were 12,126 votes for woman's suffrage and 6,282 against, while the total vote was 25,192. The woman's suffrage victory is due to the women's activity, for the politicians were apathetic or hostile.

According to a recent ruling of the New York court of appeals street car conductors in that city are not compelled to make change for any bill over \$2. Therefore, any passenger with no bill smaller than a five-dollar one will have to get off or be put off the car unless the conductor is courteous enough to make the change for him. This decision was secured after eight years of litigation.

The anthracite tonnage for the year just closed aggregated 43,319,895 against 42,292,443 tons in 1895 and 41,391,139 in 1894. The percentages agreed upon for the various companies for the year's

output follows: Philadelphia and Reading, 26.50; Lehigh Valley, 13.65; Central of New Jersey, 11.7; Delaware Lackawanna and Western, 13.35; Delaware and Hudson, 9.5; Pennsylvania Coal company, 4; Erie, 4; New York, Ontario and Western, 3.1; Cox's Bros., 3.5, and New York, Susquehanna and Western, 3.2.

Mr. Wanamaker's letter of recommendation to Marshal Barringer, published in another column will no doubt prove interesting reading in connection with the recent publications bearing upon the senatorial fight. It is but one of the many proofs of the errors made by Mr. Wanamaker's lieutenants in attacking the motives and character of those who have been instrumental in unmasking their campaign methods.

Princess Chimay eloped with the Hungarian fiddler because her husband played poker and stayed out late nights. If all American women who have the same provocation should follow the course of the princess, it is evident that some would have to be content with bass drummers.

Another case of the misplaced label is furnished from New York. A clerk who had been known as "Honest Henry" for forty years turned out to be a defaulter to the extent of \$3,000.

The man who imagines that there are no virtuous women or honest men in the world should be given the wide berth that is accorded a pest house.

THE AMERICAN FAMILY.

From the Philadelphia Press. As the family is the foundation of the state any facts as to its progress and its present condition are compared with past years is of general interest. The census of Massachusetts, taken last year, the published reports of which are now appearing, affords a limited insight into the subject in that state. It gives the total number of occupied rooms in the state and in each county, the average number of rooms occupied per family and the average number of persons in a room. A comparison of these by cities and towns. Tenement houses are also treated in the same way. Dwelling houses are enumerated according to the number of stories and the material of which they are built. Families are also treated as to the number of males and females in each and a comparison of the area of the state in respect to population in 1885 and 1895 is added.

The total population of the state is given by the census as 2,500,783, the number of families as 427,285, and the total number of rooms occupied in dwelling houses as 3,268,285. This would allow 6.52 rooms to each family and 970 persons to each room. This shows that the population of Massachusetts is not crowded. This seems to be true of the cities as of the towns, for the former have 1,655,577 of the state's population with an average of 6.21 rooms per family and 976 persons per room, while the towns have 864,106 population, an average of 7.06 rooms per family and 931 persons to a room. The greatest crowding is found in the manufacturing cities, Holyoke having an average of 4.33 persons to a room, Fall River 6.89, Chicopee 6.87 and Lawrence 6.83, and Gloucester, a fishing village, has an average of 6.88 persons to each occupied room. All these are above the average in Boston, where, notwithstanding the restricted limits of the city, the average number of rooms occupied by each family is 5.59 and the persons to each room are 6.93.

The effect of the increase of population on the average space to each person, on each city and dwelling in the state can be gathered from the following table which gives a comparison between 1885 and 1895: Classification. 1885. 1895. Area square miles..... 8,949. 9,949. Persons to a square mile.... 241.26. 316.97. Families to a square mile.... 62.79. 68.08. *Willingness to a square mile. 46.39. 52.29. Acres to a person..... 2.05. 2.29. Acres to a family..... 12.12. 9.19. **Acres to a dwelling..... 15.81. 12.91. Square feet to a person..... 114,419. 89,659. Square feet to a family..... 528,121. 409,478. *Square feet to a dwelling..... 699,694. 723,093.

*Land surface only. **Includes both occupied and unoccupied houses. With the growth of population the average space to each individual has diminished, but with an average of two acres to each man, woman and child, there does not appear to be much fear as yet of crowding in Massachusetts. The average number of persons to each private family in the state is 4.39, but the largest number of families consists of three persons each. There were 35,450 such families, and they made up 18.89 per cent. of the total number of families and 12 per cent. of the total population. The next largest number of families consisted of four persons each, of which there were 62,090. It is a singular circumstance that 16,723 families of only one person each were found in the cities and 1,022 such families were found in the towns, a total of 21,539 in the state, and of these families of one person only 7,257 were males and 14,282 were females. There were also 2,252 families of two males each and 12,759 families of two females each in the state. Wood continues to be the favorite material for building dwelling houses in Massachusetts, there being 355,333 such dwellings existing in 1895 as compared with 284,995 in 1885. Brick comes next there, being 24,011 houses built of that material. But looking into account the length of time Massachusetts has been settled it is surprising to learn that there are only 85 dwelling houses in the state constructed of stone and that 248 of these have been built since 1885.

Considering the density of its population and the fact that two-thirds of its population lives in the city of the state, families in Massachusetts and the number of rooms to each family compare well with similar conditions in other states. The national census of 1895 showed that the average number of persons to a family in Massachusetts was 4.99. The average appears to have diminished as the state census of last year found only 4.39 but even with this average Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont rank below it. The average number of persons to an occupied dwelling was also found to be greater in New York state and Rhode Island than in Massachusetts in 1895. Social conditions in Massachusetts are as well settled as in any state in the union and the family is a index of the general condition of the community. Judging from the census of last year the people of Massachusetts are well housed and on an average not overworked. And as these are the most evident proofs, social conditions, so far as regards comfort and convenience, may be pronounced favorable.

FOR A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

From the American Economist. The report that the protectionists on the ways and means committee have already taken steps to prepare a tariff bill which will protect the industries of this country, and the prospect that an extra session will be called to pass such a tariff law, was as welcome a Christmas present as the people of the country could have received. It is doubly gratifying, first, because it means a speedy end to the foreigners' friend-the anti-American Wilson-German law; and secondly, because it means that the new tariff law will have a fair trial before the next presidential election. The success of the Free Trade party four years ago was due wholly to the misrepresen-

tations which were made and the falsehoods that were told about the McKinley bill. The two years of unparalleled prosperity which followed its enactment were not even sufficient to counteract the fabrications spread broadcast by the free traders. The new law, if passed in extra session, will have fully three years of trial. There is no doubt but that it will stand the test. A protective tariff always stands an honest test. It will have another advantage over the McKinley bill, of even greater value—viz: the comparative history of the McKinley bill and its successor, the Wilson-German law—the remembrance of the upbuilding of industries, the activity of business, the rise in wages, the unexampled prosperity under the McKinley law; the menial and prostration of fact which led to its repeal; the stagnation of business, the closing of factories, the loss of wages and the general paralysis of industries under the partial free-trade of the German bill. On the whole the people of the country should have set down to their Christmas dinners in peace and thankfulness that the era of prosperity is again so near at hand with the coming of a new year. Let us hope it will be a happy and prosperous one for all of us.

TRIBUNE POLITICAL HANDBOOK.

Of Value to the Reader. The Scranton Tribune has issued its annual "Political Handbook" which makes a handsome book of over 200 pages. It has many excellent features, among which we may mention a daily resume of the occurrences in Scranton during the past year, a full account of all the more important political events, political tables relative to the state and entire country, legal information, population, pensions and a hundred other things, all of which will be found of great value to the general reader. The Tribune deserves much credit for its enterprise.

Praiseworthy Departure.

Several fine publications from the newspaper offices of this region have been received by the Leader. One of the best of these is the Scranton Tribune's Political Handbook for 1897, a praiseworthy departure from old methods, containing political, census and other statistics of nation, state and county, with a wealth of other information. The book contains over 200 pages, is indexed, and represents a vast amount of painstaking labor.

The Best Yet Seen.

With all due respect for our metropolitan contemporaries, we must in candor say that the almanac issued by the Scranton Tribune is the best we have seen. It is a political handbook and not a book of facts, containing a mass of information, local and general, which will make it a constant companion of the editor's paste pot and ink stand.

It Improves with Age.

The political handbook issued by The Tribune is one of the best that has reached this office. It contains a vast amount of information, local and general, which makes it a welcome annual visitor. Like good wine The Tribune handbook improves with age.

An Innovation.

The Scranton Tribune has done itself proud with its "Political Handbook," a publication filled from cover to cover with the sort of stuff which is so much wanted in the field of annuals, and will be all the more valuable on that account.

The Greatest Production.

The Scranton Tribune's almanac is the greatest production of the kind that has been issued by a provincial journal. The Tribune's almanac, like The Tribune newspaper, leads.

Systematically Arranged.

We are the recipients of The Tribune's political handbook. The book is very neat and systematically arranged and reflects much credit upon the publishers of this paper.

THE SCORCHER.

He tumbled from his weary wheel, And set it by the door; Then stood as though he joyed to feed His feet on earth once more; And as he moved his rumpled head, His face was wreathed in smiles; "A very pretty rub," he said; "I did a hundred miles!"

"A hundred miles!" I cried. "Ah, think! What beauties you have seen! The reedy streams where cattle drink, The meadows rich and green, Where a breath of country air; Through lofty woodland aisles? He shook his head. "I cannot say; I did a hundred miles!"

"What hamlets saw your swift tires spin? Ah, how I envy you! To lose the city's dust and din, To reach the heaven's blue; To get a breath of country air; To lean o'er rustic stiles!" He only said, "The roads were fair; I did a hundred miles!" —Youth's Companion.



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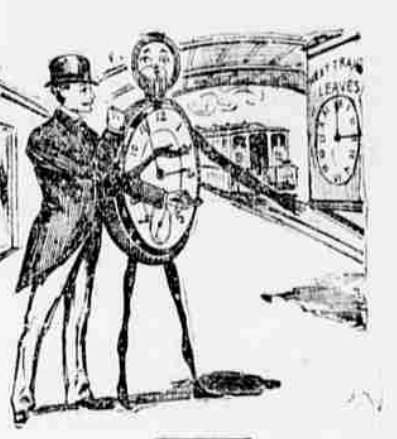
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