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The ordinance introduced last evening by Select Councilman Chittenden requiring all applicants for inspection of public works, before being appointed by the mayor, to pass practical examination under the supervision of the city engineer and providing other safeguards for efficient service is a commendable step forward in a matter heretofore open to serious abuses.

The Occasion Is at Hand. Through every avenue of official expression the Republican party in Pennsylvania has pledged itself to effect certain reforms and it must keep these pledges.

It is pledged to do away so far as possible with the corrupt use of money in politics. It is pledged to promote genuine civil service reform in state, county and city governments, to the end that servants of the people in subordinate position may be free from political dictation and not subject to the orders of any clerk, class or boss.

It is pledged to make a general revision of the laws relating to private monopoly in public necessities, to the end that corporations shall not transgress their stipulated rights. It is pledged to introduce in every department of the government economy, efficiency and business principles.

It is within the power of the present legislature to make a considerable start in this direction. It can rest assured of popular support for honest performance of duty.

Mr. Bryan's decision not to worry about the nomination in 1896 shows that he is gaining wisdom with age.

A First-Rate Investment.

There probably is no other city in the United States with so large an area of valuable residences unprotected against fire as the city of Scranton has in the portion known as Sanderson Hill. The men who occupy these residences are as a class probably the wealthiest taxpayers in the community and on business principles it would seem that they ought to have from councils at least as much consideration in return for their taxes as is bestowed upon any other portion of the city of corresponding size.

The blaze on Vine street yesterday emphasizes the need of special fire protection for the hill. By the time the chemical engine reaches a point above Madison avenue the horses which haul it are utterly exhausted and cannot proceed more rapidly than at a walk. In a rainy day on any asphalted grade, like that on Clay avenue between Vine and Mulberry it is next to impossible for a team of horses to pull the chemical engine at all.

A proposition is understood to be before a council informally for the establishment of an engine house, chemical engine and regular fire force at a location near the summit of the hill, so that the members of the proposed company may readily respond to calls within a radius of one mile.

Mr. Penrose will, it is true, be our youngest senator, but he is by no means an infant in either brains, stature or experience.

Open to Suspicion.

Senator Coyle of Schuylkill county has introduced already his widely heralded bill to create a state department of mining, with a superintendent at \$5,000 a year and five clerks at various salaries, as for the ostensible purpose of securing a better inspection of mines. The bill is framed in response to a sentiment that the way to secure better results in mining is to multiply the machinery and expense of state interference with a private industry.

Under the present law, the mine inspectors, while required to make an annual report to the secretary of internal affairs, are not made accountable to any common head for the faithful discharge of their duties. There is no community of effort required among them and no uniformity in their reports. Neither is there any supervisory or directing power conferred by law on the secretary of internal affairs or other officer, nor is there any provision by which the causes of accidents may be investigated and responsibility determined.

They (the supporters of Mr. Wanamaker) have enlisted in this war until it ends in the restoration of popular government, in the downfall of those who sneer at religion and at religious men, and in the permanent retirement to private life of all whose characters are saturated with immorality.

vigilant and frequent inspection of mines no sensible mine-owner can or will wish to interpose objection. The right of the public to security from loss by avoidable accident is a sufficient warrant for reasonable state supervision of mining, although in this connection it should not be supposed that the owners of mines are themselves in-eligible to the cause of possible accidents.

The Washington Post makes a very pertinent response to the free silver movement at McKinleyism when it says: "If the friends of a very sick man should decide to change his doctor, they could not expect the mere fact of that decision, in advance of its consummation, to set the patient on the road to recovery. The people of the United States have decided on a change in the personnel and policy of the administration, but under our very conservative plan of government a long time elapses between the making and carrying into effect of such a change."

Civil Service Reform. Some time ago the Civil Service Reform association sent to Senator Penrose and John Wanamaker a letter mentioning the fact that fourth-class postmasters remain as yet outside the provisions of the civil service laws, and requesting a reply to the question whether each would, if elected to the United States senate, use his influence to effect an extension of the civil service rules to cover these and other positions.

Mr. Wanamaker made no response, but Senator Penrose wrote: "While I am not prepared to state at this time that I favor the extension of the provisions of the civil service law to all fourth-class postoffices throughout the country, I will say that I am pledged to support and advocate the enactment of stringent civil service laws, which will absolutely divorce the civil service, especially of our municipalities, from politics and insure the people an honest administration of public affairs."

In this connection it is not uninteresting to recall the provisions of the bill "for the establishment of the civil service of the commonwealth and of cities and counties of more than 150,000 inhabitants" which has twice been introduced by the Republicans of Pennsylvania in state convention and which Senator Coyle will press for enactment during the present session of the legislature.

It provides for the appointment by the governor of three civil service commissioners, to serve three-year terms. They shall receive salaries and traveling expenses. All officers in cities and counties of more than 150,000 inhabitants shall be under civil service rules and are to be classified by the commission, the only exceptions being officers elected by the people, officers whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the senate, the private secretary, stenographer and messenger of the governor, clerks and other officers and all employees of the senate and house of representatives, assistants to district attorneys and city solicitors, private secretary, stenographer and messenger of the mayor of any city, heads of departments of the government of any city, and one person, deputy, assistant, cashier or chief clerk, to be designated by the head of each department. The commission shall prepare rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the act, and may from time to time amend or rescind the same, but all such rules and amendments shall be subject to the approval of the governor.

The rules shall, as nearly as the conditions of good administration will warrant, among other things, provide for open competitive examinations, practical in their character and relating solely to matters which will fairly test the capacity of the persons examined. All officers shall be filled by the officer having power to appoint by selection from among the three persons graded highest. Where practicable, vacancies shall be filled by promotion. Promotions from the lower grades to the higher grades in the classified civil service shall be on the basis of merit and competition, and in appointments to all grades above the lowest due credit shall be given for good conduct and efficiency in previous service. Preference for original appointment, preference in appointments and promotions shall be given to those applicants who shall have served in the army or navy of the United States and have been honorably discharged therefrom. Non-competitive examinations shall be held in all proper cases, when competent persons do not compete. Examinations of laborers shall be as to their capacity for labor, their habits as to industry and sobriety, and their experience in the kind of work for which they apply.

It will be perceived that the foregoing measure is simply an expression of business-like common sense as applied to the public service. The time is ripe for its enactment and also for its courageous enforcement. They (the supporters of Mr. Wanamaker) have enlisted in this war until it ends in the restoration of popular government, in the downfall of those who sneer at religion and at religious men, and in the permanent retirement to private life of all whose characters are saturated with immorality.

als, let him who is without sin cast the first stone. Says the Washington Post: "Mr. Quay and Mr. Wanamaker are agreed on one point, and that is that about three-fourths of the members of the Pennsylvania legislature ought to be in the penitentiary. That is drawing it a little strong. Say one-fourth."

Gas Versus Hemp. Some time ago, as we learn from the Medical Record, the Allegheny county Medical society appointed a committee to make an extensive investigation of the present methods of executing condemned criminals, and to recommend a substitute for hanging or killing by electricity. The committee has now concluded its investigations, and will recommend that gas be substituted for the rope and electric chair. It is claimed that condemned prisoners could be put to death by this agent painlessly during sleep. It is proposed that the society draft a bill for presentation to the Pennsylvania legislature this winter providing for the change.

No doubt this recommendation will command approval. It is a step upward from the barbarous level of precedent in capital punishment. If the state is to go into the homicide business at all, it ought in decency to take to its heels with as much regard for the humanities as the circumstances will permit. When to the moral crime of taking a prisoner's life is added the aesthetical one of taking it in a crude, rough and painful manner, the result, one would think, ought to receive general condemnation. For this reason we concur in the Allegheny county Medical society's recommendation that death by gas be substituted in capital punishment for death by hanging, strangulation or death by the roasting process of electrocution.

But before too much energy is employed to solve the problem of how the state may most humanely commit murder, suppose we direct more attention to the problem of reclaiming the criminal without forfeiture of his life.

Up in Canada it seems that when an archbishop doesn't like the tone of a newspaper's editorial page, he proceeds to close the printing shop. They have several things yet to learn in Canada.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

R. F. Daniels, the former proprietor of the Wasg, the Pittsburgh Welsh paper, died New Year's eve. He was 51 years of age. Mr. Daniels was well known in Scranton. He was for a number of years foreman of "Banner America," a Welsh paper of much prominence twenty-five years ago. Judge Edwards was its managing editor for some years, being suc-



ceeded by W. S. Jones and D. J. Evans, of the West Side. The "Inlayners" of the "Banner" in those days were the "Inlayners" of the Tribune, John Courier Morris and Ed J. Davis, also of the Tribune. A few years later Mr. Daniels and Mr. Morris started a Welsh paper in Pittsburgh, which was a great success for some years. The deceased was one of the best-known Welshmen in the country. He was an excellent musician and served as an adjudicator in many of the large eisteddfodau.

Mr. — is fond of a practical joke as many of his friends have discovered to their great sorrow and annoyance. He is never quite so happy as when having a little quiet fun at the expense of some luckless individual. One of his recent victims was an attorney from up the valley who, on several occasions, had to smile and appear to enjoy the jokes perpetrated at his expense. His revenge came yesterday. He dined with Mr. — and during the progress of the meal confided in him the fact he had been retained as counsel in the Brodhead-Grant trespass case and an expert testimony would be required he had taken the liberty of handing in Mr. —'s name to the other attorneys in the case as a person specially qualified to testify to the value of kisses, stolen or otherwise obtained. Mr. — was dumb with surprise for an instant, but when he recovered his use of speech he protested most savagely against the unwarranted assumption that he would be willing to testify in such a case. The up-the-valley attorney was sorry, extremely sorry, that his friend so seriously objected to going on the witness stand, but said he was powerless to interfere as he had handed the name in and it had been approved by the other attorneys as that of a person highly qualified to give expert testimony on such a delicate subject. He advised Mr. — to see the attorneys at once and have them excuse him, otherwise a subpoena would assuredly be issued for him. Mr. — waited not to finish his dinner, but started post-haste for the office of Mr. Brodhead's attorney and besought him not to ask him to testify. He pointed out that he is a conspicuous figure in the community and while admitting that he is somewhat of an expert on matters osculatory he did not want to have that fact blazoned forth, as it would be calculated to do him irreparable injury. The attorney for Mrs. Brodhead looked at the matter for a moment, then his recital and as he concluded told him that he had no intention of calling upon him to testify. About this time Mr. — realized that he had been hoaxed. Now the up-the-valley attorney wears a flemish smile of satisfaction and Mr. — is in search of him.

J. D. Williams has returned from a trip to Florida where he spent some time hunting, of which sport he is a most enthusiastic disciple. Besides bringing a number of wild birds and mammals, Williams had the satisfaction of bringing down a fine specimen of the deer family. On his way north he spent several days hunting in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina.

Theater-goers who enjoy forms of the drama unassociated with back and wing sets, fire engines and death by electricity are beginning to do a great deal of growing over the class of theatrical performances offered in this city this season. They say that they are not being treated fairly; that they are denied the privilege of seeing the better class of actors who were wont to visit Scranton an-

nually or semi-annually. This complaint is in part true, but it is probable that the fault, after all, lies mainly with the people who do not do a little of the complaining. They do not give proper encouragement to the theatrical manager when he offers really meritorious performances. At the same time even the theatrical manager will have to admit that the mechanical drama and those closely allied to it have been seen altogether too frequently in this city late.

The marriage of Mrs. Frances B. Swan, which was so quietly solemnized in Chicago Tuesday, was one of the chief topics discussed about town yesterday and there were many surmises about her future course with reference to the poor board. That she will serve out her term seems to be the impression of many who were well acquainted with Mrs. Swan, although no one seemed to be able to speak authoritatively on the subject. That she has made a valuable member of the board will be generally conceded by those who have watched the work of that important body. She is seemingly a tireless worker and devoted far more time to the duties of the office than any of the other members. A well-known official of the city, in speaking of Mrs. Swan, said yesterday: "When I was appointed to the board a great mistake had been made, but I have since been forced to admit that I was mistaken. I have not exactly been made a convert to the line of aiding women generally speaking, in such office, because I believe they often tend to demoralize system and business methods, but Mrs. Swan seemed to be a woman peculiarly suited to perform the work she was appointed by the court to perform and she did much to wipe out the prejudice that existed in the public mind towards women filling public offices. She is a woman of marked business and executive ability, who does not shrink the duties imposed upon her. There is a field for her in the office of a woman on the poor board, too, but the average person never thinks about this. Fully one-half of the charges at the farm are women and nearly all of them children in body or mind. Who can better understand their needs than a woman and who is better qualified to suggest how they shall be treated and cared for than a woman who is a woman? I believe her official actions have at times been most unjustly criticised."

According to the Philadelphia Bulletin, "State Senator E. B. Hardenberg, of the Susquehanna-Waynes district, is a candidate for auditor general to succeed Amos H. Mylin, of Lancaster, the present incumbent." Senator Hardenberg is a member of the investigating committee, of which Senator Andrews is chairman, and is well and popularly known throughout the state. He was a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Republican county committee for the years 1881 and 1882, and was elected to the senate in November, 1884. A formal announcement of his candidacy may be expected from Hardenberg in a few days. The same paper says: "Another interesting item of news is to the effect that William Connel, the millionaire coal and iron operator of Scranton, is desirous of succeeding Governor Hastings, in Congress next year." There is no active part in state politics, and is in close personal and political relations with Senator Quay. He is influential in Lackawanna and Adams counties, and during the recent proceedings in Harrisburg which Mr. Connel attended, his availability as a candidate for governor was favorably commented upon. There is no doubt that Mr. Connel will encounter any serious opposition from the senator."

AN ACCOMPLISHED WRITER. D. R. Williams (index), formerly of Bradlocks, this state, is in the city. He has written a book, entitled "The Brotherhood." The book is a splendid specimen, typographically, of the excellent work that is being turned out of "Y Drych" office, Utica, N. Y. It would not be necessary for us to read the volume to be convinced of the value of its contents. We know what the accomplishments of the author are. He leads in the front rank of the literateurs of his country. He has a master mind and his style is fascinating. The present production ranks with the best of his former efforts, and in some respects is better. The humorous vein throughout the work is of a finer, gentler and more charming kind than is usually found in the writings of Welshmen of the present day. Our neighbor, Rev. R. S. Jones, of the North End, reviewed the volume at great length in a recent number of "Y Drych," and he was unstinted in his praise. Judge Edwards speaks highly of it, and the same praises are bestowed upon it by the leading writers of the present day. Mr. Williams has probably won more eisteddfod trophies than any one man in this country today. He won one of the chief literary prizes at the World's fair eisteddfod, which, if we remember correctly, was a drama, and the adjudicators were the great Tudor, of Wales, and Judge Edwards, of this city. It was a victory over some of the greatest minds of his country. Mr. Williams is not only an accomplished Welsh writer, but has mastered the art of writing in three other languages. Those who have read "Rhys Lewis," the representative Welsh novel, cannot very well miss reading "Y Frawdoliaeth" by index. It is something after the same fashion and equally as charming. It is a tale well told. J. C. M.

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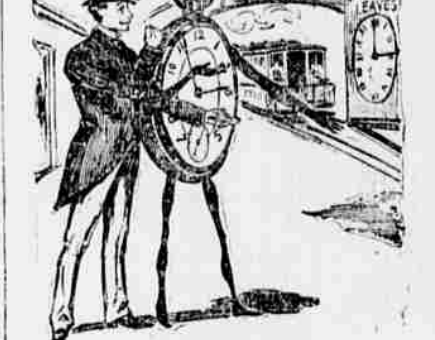
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