The Scranton Tribune

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The friends of Mr. Choate in New York are claiming that he will get 4 votes in Thursday's senatorial caucus at Albany, against 147 votes for the Hon. Thomas C. Platt. This is not quite so large a showing as was made recently by Brother Wanamaker at Harrisburg, but Mr. Choate, on the other hand, has not expended so much

The Foxy Spaniards.

We direct attention to the statements copied elsewhere on this page from the Washington correspondence of Walter Wellman, They derive their importance not a little from the man who communicates them. Mr. Wellman is rarely deceived into publishing false news. His general reputation as a he has printed this story of Spain's duplicity in good faith and upon authority which commands his respect.

It has in a general way long been the public impression that in artifices of strategic diplomacy Spain has enjoyed throughout the Cuban controversy a decided advantage over the United law authorizing the placing on the com-States. Her minister at Washington, Senor Depuy de Lome, has apparently handled this administration as he The one branch of our government with whom he at first seemed unable to cope-congress-be rendered for the time powerless by a dexterous substitution of issues, achieved over Secretary Olney's head. If the Cubans had had one-third the strategy employed in their behalf that has been put forth to enable the executive branch of the American republic to evade the wishes of the American people in this matter. Cuba would today be an independent state. One is really forced to bow homage to the magnificence of the Spanish minister's adreitness at intrigues.

The purpose of it all, of course, has been to gain delay. This has been cedent would appear to be worthy of achieved so far as President Cleveland is concerned. Will it also be true with reference to President McKinley? In other words, is the cause of Cuba to be permanently sacrificed through American ingenuousness?

At last serious effort is to be made in Luzerne county to abolish the toll he said: bridges. We congratulate the indefatigable editor of the Pittston Gazette, to whom this reform when it comes will be chiefly due.

The Failures of 1896.

A classified record of the commercial failures of 1896 has been prepared by Dun's agency. It enables some interesting comparisons to be made. The habilities of \$226,096,834, exceeding those of any other year except 1893 when there were 15,242 commercial fallures with liabilities of \$346,779,8889. The banking failures of 1896 were 198 with inhilities of \$50.718.915. In 1895 the commercial failures were 13,197 and the liabilities \$173,196,060.

The commercial failures of 1896 averaged \$14,992 apiece; the banking failures, \$261,106. By means of a system of classification it appears that the manufacturing failures of last year averaged \$28,806, against \$28,053 in 1895; while in trading the average was \$9,-606 against \$8,934 in 1895 and in brokure in 1895 was only \$156,900. Thus it appears that the principal reason of 1896's bad showing was because of increased speculation, that causing by far the greater part of the banking and brokerage mishaps. The fact that 1896 was a presidential year with an issue that greatly menaced business stability must be taken into large ac-

In this connection the Rallway Age's statistics of rallway receiverships and foreclosures have interest. They are conveniently tabulated as follows: RECEIVERSHIPS.

41004		1999	197-0110	20/10/4/000
1890	************	26	25,9403	195,007,000
1891	*************	26	2,159	84,479,000
1892	*************	26	10,508	257,692,000
1893	*******	74	29,340	1.781,046,000
1894	************	38	7,025	395,791,000
1895	*************	31	4,089	369,075,000
1896	Andanaene en en en en	24	5,441	275,597,000
		-	Minor.	
To	tal for 13 yrs.	412	90,876	\$4,916,044,000
	FORE	LOS	URES.	
				Stocks and
Yea	r.	No.	Mil'ge.	Bonds.
1884	PROFESTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF	15	710	\$ 23,504,000
1885	************	22	3,156	278,494,000
1886		315	7,687	374,109,000
1887	**************	31	5,478	328,181,000
3838		19	1,596	64,555,000
1889	***********	25	2,930	137,815,000
1890	************	29	8,825	182,495,000
1891		21	3,223	168,009,000
1892	**************	28	1,922	95,898,000
1893	************	25	1.613	79,924,000
1894		42	5,643	318,999,000
1895		62	12,831	761,791,600
1896		58	1,373	1,150,377,000

Total for 13 yrs, 412 51,987 \$3,904,211,000 It will be noticed that liabilities of defaulting railroads have been larger in the past four years than in the preceding nine years. Railroad defaults alone in 1896 slightly exceeded commercial and banking together. The foreclosure sales in 1896 covered one-fifth of the defaulted stocks and bonds for the past twenty-one years. It is the general belief, however, that business, having now been pretty well ridden of Its deadwood, will undergo steady and substantial growth from this time forward. Panies are like purgatives; they hurt while they last, but they lay the foundations for healthy convalescence.

It is suggested that if the present Hcense law were amended to read, "The courts shall grant or withhold liquor licenses in accordance with the number of signers for or against," this would relieve the judiciary of its chief objections to exercising the licensing power. It might, in some localities; but it would not remove the people's

objection to the turning of the courts into a kind of liquor census bureau. The fact is that the whole license business is a business unfit for the courts.

One year ago Senator Sherman was the most determined foe that Spain had in the senate. Today he appears as virtually its friend. It would be interesting to know what has caused him to change his mind.

Inordinate Court Costs. The Luzerne county grand jury last

week returned to court the following recommendation: In regard to the enormous amount of

In regard to the enormous amount of justices' and constables' costs, collected from the county, the grand jury believes that much of this ought to be saved if the committing magistrates were required to ture so that the laws may be amended in this respect and also that better means be provided for cutting down unreasonable charges through multiplying the causes

This recommendation was in respons to the recent remarks of Judge Lynch who directed the grand jury's attention to the fact that the auditors' report for 1895 shows payments of over \$66,000 in journalist is a sufficient assurance that that one year in Luzerne county for justices' and constables' fees. It deserves to be said that the figures for Lackawanna, while much smaller, are yet far beyond reason and add emphasis to the call for reform.

It has been sugested that the quickest way to solve this problem is to pass a mitting magistrate of all costs in ignored cases. This is of course not proposed seriously; but it is evident that if serious effort be not soon made to checkmate the legal harpies who fatten on the ignorance of the foreign element in these counties and inordinately expand the county expense accounts, the public will one day rise in wrath and apply drastic remedies.

In Kentucky primary elections are conducted under the same stringent laws that govern general elections and use is made of the secret ballot. The method is cordially indorsed by the leaders of both parties. If Senator Brown, of Westmoreland county, is sincere in his wish to reform the primaries in Pennsylvania, the Kentucky pre

It is the Public's Fault.

The recent characterization by Justice Mitchell, of the Pennsylvania Sufreme court of one of the grave evils of the day warrants repetition. In his opinion in the Smith-McClure libel suit

The license which the press assumes to itself in the ruthless hunt for sen-sational news, and in the unsparing in-vasion of private affairs with which the public has no rightful concern, is the disgrace of modern journalism, and one f the greatest menaces to free institutions. It may well dispose juries in a proper case to give large damages both empensatory and punitive.

In line with this opinion are the remarks made upon the same subject by failures of 1896 numbered 15,688 with John P. Altgeld in his farewell message as governor of Illinois. The latter

The legislature owes it to the people of this state to devise some reasonable pro-tection against the outrageous newspaper. The Spanish will not offer the insurgents cense on the part of great which the people are now victims. Newsers many of our best citizens from taking part in public affairs. No measure can be considered which will in any way interfere with the fullest publication of the news or with full comment on current events, and there must be reasonable allowance for mistakes honestly made. What should be almed at is to do away with the anonymous and dark-alley fea-tures of modern newspaperism. This is 606 against \$8,034 in 1895 and in brok-crs' and other commercial failures not included in the foregoing general heads the average was \$58,448 against \$36.-296 in 1895. The average banking failof publishing the news fairly they make it their daily business to garble and misstate it. This in itself is perhaps not a proper subject for legislation, but when men who are ashamed to give their names hide behind a newspaper hedge and throw mud at people who are walking on the highway, then the public has a right to complain, and has a right to insist that this be stopped, or, if it is impossible to stop it, that then it should be known to the world who are the offenders. * *
There is a principle involved here, and
that is, that no man can be permitted to set himself up as a public censor and pro-ceed to wrong those whom, for any reasons, he does not like. The mere fac-Stocks and not give him any more rights than are

possessed by other people. The pronouncement of Justice Mitch-70,346,000 ell, it will be observed, is dispassionate 90,318,000 and general, as befits the bench, while 185,814,000 that of the recent governor of Illinois exhibits personal feeling, not perhaps wholly unjustified; but in both deliverances there is much of truth and justice. No one will more readily admit this than the fair-minded newspaper editor himself. We have yet to meet a journalist of mental breadth and intelligence who does not deplore the fact that a large majority of the readers of newspapers appear to prefer to give their business support to which are frivolous,

flippant, impudent or sensational instead of to papers conducted with aced after the New York World and Journal can almost in every city gain large circulations and profitable advertising patronage while papers like the New York Evening Post and the Philadelphia Public Ledger apparently cannot hope to make both ends meet outside of the special and unique conditions which render those two admirable enterprises self-supporting.

The point we wish to emphasize in simply this-that American journalism on the whole is a faithful reflex of the predominant tone of American society. It could not exist in England, because it would not receive pecuniary support there. Neither could the impersonal and heavy British type of newspaper, despite its superior cleanliness and punctiliousness, find readers in America sufficient to avert a visitation from the sheriff. We concur fully in the remark of Colonel McClure that "reputable journalism will heartily cooperate with the judiciary in main-

overlook the fact that the readers of America can themselves very rapidly elevate the tone of American journalism whenever they shall see fit to discontinue their patronage of newspapers that regularly and as a matter of course offend the proprieties.

Governor Hastings' objections to taking the National Guard of Pennsylvania to Washington to attend the inauguration ceremonies at state expense are certainly well founded. So is his decision that "the guard will not attend the inauguration unless there is a practically unanimous sentiment among them favorable to it, and unless the troops are willing to subsist themselves, and to put up with the quarters which may be assigned them by the inaugural exert more effort to secure payment of costs in petty cases, before returning them to court. They recommend that this subject be urged before the legislaand return free of charge." There is getting to be entirely too much red tape about the installation into office of our successive presidents. It is time to

More important than civil service re-form or any other political reform at this time is the reform that shall take the boo-dle element out of politics. On this reform depend the safety and perpetulty Republican institutions,-Syracus

Let the legislature of Pennsylvania pass and the courts of Pennsylvania fearlessly enforce the Pennsylvania Civil Service Reform association's draft of a corrupt practices act. On Wednesday, January 20, the original promoters of the Republican party,

Times have changed since Fremont's day, but the Republican party has proved itself equal to each new emer-Wilkes-Barre's present new-hotel project is to cover the Music hall property plus the Judge Wells lot with a seven-story structure costing in all \$150,000 and containing 170 guests'

Governor Leedy of Kansas, has been asked to champion an anti-corset law That would probably do less harm than some other measures which it has become the custom for the governors of Kansas to bawl for.

rooms. It should be added that this

SPAIN'S CUTE TRICK.

Walter Wellman, in the Times-Herald. Semi-official advices from Cuba presen startling picture of the condition of at fairs in that unhappy island. The fact which I shall recite in this dispatch ar given, not upon the authority of eithe the Spanish or the insurgents, nor ye upon newspaper reports, but are gathere from private letters recently received in in this city from a man who is in the interior of the island, and in an admirable position to know what is going on. "It has now become a war of extermination." says this gentleman. The war will go on for about another year, and then Spain will be compelled to give up the island. But there will not be much left. The population is already rapidly decreasng, and death and migration will clean out one-third of the remainder during the next twelve months. There is no possibilanything which they can accept, and the nsurgents will not accept anything which Spain can offer. It is a deadlock, an absolute deadlock. Meanwhile the Spanish troops are butchering peaceable people and reporting their bloody deeds to Madid as victories over the rebels.

The Spanish government, through Ger eral Weyler is perpetrating a huge fraud upon the people of Spain and upon the world, especially upon the United States. General Weyler has already reported his success in "pacifying" the province of Pinar del Rio. Now he is ready to "pacify" Havana and Mantanzas provinces But how has he pacified Pinar del Rio Phese are the facts: He found in that province about 5,000 insurgents, roaming impecuations employes into the street on about in small bands. During his alleged a day like yesterday, must have blood like campaign Weyler has killed less than 200 strawberry ice cream, of the insurgent troops, and has not taken a single prisoner. He has not had an encast their ballots it is gasement worth speaking about. He has made no serious effort to follow the in-surgent bands into the hills and to meet them face to face. He has done practically nothing of which any military commander could be proud. But this is what he has done. He has killed all the way from 1,200 to 2,000 "pacificos" or noncompatants, farmers and their employed Against these poor people he has waged a brutal war of extermination, and al these achievements have been heralded to Madrid as Spanish victories. Having marched his troops up and down a few times, killing many innocents and rarely getting even a shot at the armed rebels, Weyler returns to Havana and report Pinar del Rio pacified. Yet all the 5,000 armed insurgents are still in that province.

This is a fair sample of the Spanish programme of trickery and brutality. Having "pacified" Pinar del Rio, Weyler now says he is going to "pacify" Havana province and Matanzas. "Heaven help the unarmed Cubans in those districts," wrote a planter to a friend in this city a few days ago. It is easy to see what all this means. It is all part of a deliberately planned programms to deceive the people of Spain, to deceive the people United States and to influence the Ameri-can congress. It is all done to prepare the way for the bogus reform schem which the Madrid ministry is ready to spring. The plan is that as soon as Wey part of the island Spain is to say to the insurgents: "You see, we have suppressed the rebellion in the west end of knowledgement of their moral responsibility. The fact is nowhere more earnestly regretted than among such journalists that publications patternious the New York World and States is expected to step in and help open up negotiations with the insurgent chiefs, Spain's proposed reforms are as ing for its life. Something must be done and be done quickly, to make the people believe progress is being made in Cuba. Wevier's farcical maneuvers in Pinar del Rio, and his proposed similar performanc-es in the other provinces, are the means employed for fulling public opinion to

> I would not make such serious charges as these against the Spanish government and the captain general of Cuba upon the authority of the Cuban junta in this country nor upon that of any of its agents sympathizers. My information comes om wholly trustworthy sources, and I dieve it accurately represents the situatin as it is in Cuba today. There is gen-eral regret here—that the Cleveland ad-ministration has been hoodwinked by this trick, this combination of alleged military successes with proposed reforms which are a mere mockery, into giving the Span-

the people of Cuba. I am also able to say that efforts are being made, through various channels, commercial, political and other, to induce the McKinley also ministration to follow precisely in the footsteps of the Cleveland administration in this matter. A deliberate plan is on foot to commit the United States just far enough in Spain's scheme to make it difficult for President McKinley to withdraw ficult for President McKinley to withdraw als support therefrom.

Just a Word or Two

The board of law examiners of this county will meet soon for reorganization and the adoption of a course of study and the adoption of a course of study which will be the basis of the examinations of camidates for admission to the bar and for permission to study law. It is thought that a course will be mapped out more nearly approaching the standard in New York and New Jersey than the present one does. There is belief in legal circles that it is too easy to become a lawyer in Pensylvenia and there has lawyer in Pennsylvania and there has been for several years a tendency all over the state on the part of the more promi-nent members of the various bars to en-deavor to change the courses of study with a view to requiring more thorough preparation on the part of those who seek to practise law. In sympathy with that purpose it is probable that the Luckawanna examiners will map out a radically dif-ferent course of study.

ferent course of study.

The deep, sonorous, basso profunds voice of Uncle Jacob Sayder was missed when the Superior court opened yesterday morning, "Jake" has a style peculiarly his own in opening court and so firmly has it become fixed in the public mind as the only proper and disnified manner of setting courts of justice in motion that he has become the model for all of the criers of this part of the state. The method of the Superior court crier is a radical departure. He is a small man, physically, and he makes his little speech in a curt, business-like way that was very distressing to those accustomed to Mr. Snyder's deliberate manner and well-rounded periods. which was organized in Lafayette hall, Pittsburg, February 22, 1856, will hold a reunion in old city hall, Pittsburg. well-rounded periods.

The Luzerne county bar was well rep The Luzerne county bar was well represented at the meeting of the Superior court in the Federal building yesterday. Among those present were: District Attorney Daniel Fell, John T. Lenahan, J. Butler Woodward, G. L. Halsey, Isaac B. Hand, E. G. Butler, Joseph Moore, C. O. Stroh, A. C. Campbell, C. F. Bohan, D. L. O'Neill, Gustav Hahn, Edward A. Lynch, F. W. Wheaton, Thomas Darling, Lynch, F. W. Wheaton, Thomas Darling M. W. Donnelly, George S. Ferris and John Shea.

Frank J. McAndrews and P. E. Timitr pretty project consists as yet wholly of were yesterday admitted to the bar on motion of their preceptors, O'Brien & Kel-ly, Mr. Brien netting as sponsor for Mr. McAndrews and Mr. Kelly for Mr. Timlia. They have entered into partnership and opened an office on the fifth floor of the Mears building. Mr. Timlin, who is a esident of Jermyn, will also have an of

The impending change of administration has had the effect of swelling the list of entries for the local civil service examination to four times its usual size. There are over 100 applicants all told, repre-senting every part of the county and ev-ery shade of political belief, even including Free Silver Democrats. Their are fiv-ladies and four colored men on the list The examination takes place Feb. 2.

SUGGESTIVE FIGURES.

From the Chicago Tribune. Man is the slave of his heredity, the prisoner of his environments. The antry amounts to \$1,200,000,000; of cigars and tobacco in other forms, \$600,000,000; a tota of \$1,800,000,000. There are 7,000 saloons is Chleago, Averaging their receipts at \$3,00 each, it shows a total of \$21,000,000, 95 per cent. of which is paid by those who toi with their hands. The wage-workers spend about \$600,600,000 a year on intoxi-cating liquors, and \$300,000,000 on nicotine. This deadly drain on carnings is only part of the harm done. The rest consists of deterioration, physical and menta degeneracy, fault-finding, discontent, de struction of industrious inclinations, an general good-for-nothingness.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

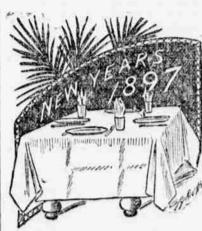
Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 1.11 a, m., for Tuesday Jan. 12, 1897,

J. (9) It will be apparent to a child born on this day that a man who could without a moment's warning turn a half hundred impecuations employes into the street on

Now that the electoral colleges have cast their ballots it is probable that even Mr. Bryan will concede the election of McKinley and Hobart. Luzerne's missing jail bird, Shafer, evilently sat for his newspaper portraits in a patent medicine art gallery. Wilkes-Barre is getting so dull that people do not even care to stay in fail

lown there. Ajacchus' Advice. Do not become disconsolate over the idea that you may have been forgotten When all others have forsaken thee, the

collector will still remain faithful.



There Is Something Lacking In the feast that provide for the inne man alone—the eye should be pleased, too. Dainty Glass and Beautiful China are halt chiefs. Spain's proposed reforms are as the dinner, a cracked plats or chipped or mod-gauzy as her "pacification" of the west-ern provinces. It is all a trick to tide of China and Glassware give unlimited scope over the winter without interference from the United States and without revolution in Spain. The Canovas ministry is fight-

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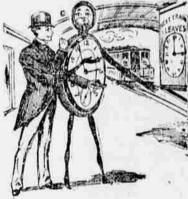
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