

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.

The 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.

It has in a general way long been the public impression that the artifices of strategic diplomacy Spain has enjoyed throughout the Cuban controversy a decided advantage over the United States.

The purpose of it all, of course, has been to gain delay. This has been achieved so far as President Cleveland is concerned. Will it be true with reference to President McKinley?

At last serious effort is to be made in Luzerne county to abolish the toll bridges. We congratulate the indefatigable editor of the Pittston Gazette.

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 commercial failures of 1896 averaged \$14,992 apiece; the banking failures, \$201,196. By means of a system of classification it appears that the manufacturing failures of last year averaged \$28,896, against \$28,053 in 1895.

Table with columns: Year, Stocks and Bonds, No. Failures, Amount. Rows for years 1884-1896.

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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.

It is suggested that if the present license 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.

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 unit 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.

Inordinate Court Costs. The Luzerne county grand jury last week returned to court the following recommendation:

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 exert more effort to secure payment of costs in petty cases before returning them to court.

This recommendation was in response 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 \$200,000 in that one year in Luzerne county for justices' and constables' fees.

It has been suggested that the quickest way to solve this problem is to pass a law authorizing the placing on the committing 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 insistently expand the county expense accounts.

In Kentucky primary elections are conducted under the same stringent laws that govern general elections and use is made of the secret ballot.

The recent characterization by Justice Mitchell, of the Pennsylvania Supreme court of one of the grave evils of the day warrants recollection. In his opinion in the Smith-McClure libel suit he said:

The license which the press assumes to itself in the ruthless hunt for sensational news, and in the unsparing invasion of private affairs with which the public has no right to concern, is the disgrace of modern journalism.

In line with this opinion are the remarks made upon the same subject by John P. Altgeld in his farewell message as governor of Illinois. The latter says:

The legislature owes it to the people of this state to devise some reasonable protection against the outrageous newspaper license of the past of great journals, of which the people are now victims. Newspaper abuse terrorizes the people and deprives many of our best citizens from taking part in public affairs.

The pronouncement of Justice Mitchell, it will be observed, is dispassionate and general, as befits the bench, while that of the recent governor of Illinois exhibits personal feeling, not perhaps wholly unjustified, but in both deliveries 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 papers which are frivolous, flippant, impudent or sensational in tone.

The point we wish to emphasize is 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.

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ments of American government should 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 proprietors.

Governor Hastings' objections to taking the National Guard of Pennsylvania to Washington to attend the inauguration ceremonies at state expense are certainly well founded.

More important than civil service reform or any other political reform at this time is the reform that takes the base element out of politics. On this reform depend the safety and perpetuity of Republican institutions.

On Wednesday, January 20, the original promoters of the Republican party, which was organized in Lafayette hall, Pittsburg, February 22, 1856, will hold a reunion in old city hall, Pittsburg.

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' rooms.

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

SPAIN'S CUTE TRICK.

Walter Wellman, in the Times-Herald. Semi-official advices from Cuba present a startling picture of the condition of affairs in that unhappy island. The facts which I shall recite in this dispatch are given, not upon the authority of either the Spanish or the insurgents, but yet upon trustworthy sources.

The Spanish government, through General Weyler is perpetrating a huge fraud upon the people of Spain and upon the world, and especially 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 Matanzas provinces.

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.

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 press. The country nor upon that of any of its agents or sympathizers.

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 administration to follow promptly in the footsteps of the Cleveland administration in this matter.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The board of law examiners of this county will meet soon for reorganization and the adoption of a course of study which will be the basis of the examinations of candidates for admission to the bar and for permission to study law.

The deep, sonorous, basso profundo voice of Uncle Jacob Snyder was misused when the Superior court opened yesterday morning. "Judge" has a style peculiarly his own in opening court and so firmly has it become fixed in the public mind.

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 Butler, John J. Butler, John 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. Hahn, N. H. Edwards, J. A. Lynch, F. W. Wheaton, Thomas Darling, M. W. Donnelly, George S. Ferris and John Shea.

Frank J. McAndrews and P. E. Timlin were yesterday admitted to the bar on motion of their preceptors, O'Brien & Kelly. Mr. O'Brien acting as sponsor for Mr. McAndrews and Mr. Kelly for Mr. Timlin.

The impending change of administration 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, representing every part of the county and every shade of political belief.

SUGGESTIVE FIGURES.

Man is the slave of his heredity, the prisoner of his environment. The annual consumption of alcohol in this county, according to the report of Mr. McAndrews in other forms, \$200,000,000; a total of \$1,500,000,000. There are 7,000 saloons in Chicago. Averaging their receipts at \$3,000 per saloon per year, that is \$21,000,000,000.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ainechus The Tribune Astrologer.

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 impetuous employees into the street on such a day, must have blood like strawberry ice cream.

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, evidently 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 jail down there.

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 inner man alone—the eye should be pleased, too.

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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. Annual Clearing Sale Begins Today---Bulletin No. 1.

- Lots Once Sold Out Cannot Be Replaced. 5-cent Apron Gingham, staple patterns, sale price, 3c. 6-cent Apron Gingham, best quality, sale price, 4c. 6-cent Calicoes, best styles, sale price, 4c. 5-cent Yard Wide Muslin, sale price, 3 1/2c. Genuine Fruit of Loom Bleached Muslin, sale price, 6c. Unadilla 4-4 Bleached Cotton Straight, sale price, 5c. 5-cent Cream Domet Flannel, sale price, 3 1/2c. 10-cent Fancy Dress Plaids, sale price, 5c.

Housekeepers Will Certainly Be Interested IN THE GREAT SALE OF READY-MADE SHEETS AND PILLOW CASES. Lockwood Pillow Cases, 45x36, sale price, 9 cents. Lockwood Cases, Hemstitched, sale price, 11 cents. And all of the better grade of Sheets and Pillow cases in the same proportion. Table Linens, Towels and Napkins at Unheard-of Prices.



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THIS WEEK ONLY Our Great Offer. Prices Reduced on All Goods. Suits and Overcoats to order. \$14.00. Pants to Measure \$3.00.

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HILL & CONNELL'S NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Our Holiday Display of useful and ornamental articles was never so large as this season's exhibit. The advantage of having so large and varied an assortment to select from will be apparent to all who contemplate giving presents of a substantial and artistic character, or buying for their own use.

Writing Desks, Dressing Tables, Cheval Glasses, Couches, Rockers, Reclining and Easy Chairs, Music Cabinets, Parlor Cabinets and Tables, Work Tables, Curio Cases, Tea Tables, Vernis-Martin Cabinets, Parlor and Fancy Inlaid Chairs, Gilt Reception Chairs, Parlor Suits in Gilt, Pedestals, Jardinieres, Book Cases, Shaving Stands.

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100 Cents TAKES ONE "YANKEE DOLLAR WATCH!"

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E. ROBINSON'S SONS' Lager Beer Brewery

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