# THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE-FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15 1897,

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### SCRANTON, JANUARY 15, 1897.

It is reported that Major McKinley is not framing any policy with reference to Cuba in advance of his inauguration. He evidently believes that sufficient unto the day are the perplexities there-01. 

# Needed Libel Reform.

A meeting of representative newspaper publishers from the several counties of the state will be held in Harrisburg next Tuesday to consider plans for bringing to the attention of the legislature the need of a revision of the libel laws of Pennsylvania. There are today not less than \$50,000,000 invested in the publication of newspapers within this commonwealth. This money, while invested of course primarily with a view to pecuniary profit, is nevertheless continually yielding to the community inestimable benefits; yet as the law stands this form of enterprise is the object of a singular and utterly unjust discrimination. As Colonel Mc-Clure, the leader in the movement for libel reform, points out, "there is, first and very properly, a criminal prosecution for malicious and defamatory libel with the penalty of fine and imprisonment, and even when thus punished criminally, under our present laws there may be punitive damages recovered in addition. This double punishment beyond just restitution to injured parties is confined solely to the newspaper profession. No other citizen of the state could thus be punished. and in all actions for damages outside of libel, the law authorizes only restitution for actual injury sustained."

The Editorial association of Pennsylvania asks that this unfair discrimination be removed. It asks for the enactment of a law substantially as follows:

If any person shall willfully and with malicious intent to injure another, pub-lish, or procure to be published, any libel, such person shall be guilty of a misde-meanor, and on conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or undergo imprisonment not ex-ceeding twelve months, or both, or either, at the discretion of the court. In every criminal prosecution and in every divil action for publishing a libel, the defend-ant may, upon the trial, give in evidence the result of the matter contained in the the truth of the matter contained in th publication charged as libelous, and suc evidence shall be deemed a sufficient jus tification, unless malicious intention a proved affirmatively. No conviction shall be had in any prosecution for libel where the fact shall be established to the satis-faction of the jury that such publica-tion was not maliciously or negligently made, but was published with good me tives and for justifiable ends.

In any action brought for the publica-tion of a libel in any newspaper of this commonwealth the plaintiff shall recover only actual damages, if, it shall appear at the trial of such action that such publication were true, and that its faisity was due to mistake or misapprehension of the facts, and that in the next regular issue of said newspaper, after such mistake or misapprehension was brought to the counties. Here the third bill is open knowledge of the publisher or publishers to radical amendment so that state of such newspaper, whether before o ction or retra

The applogists for Spain in this countended at the same time to the United try are now with unanimity and vigor Kingdom, the probability that such a Jumping upon Senator-elect Money he basis of agreement can be reached beenuae of his publications concerning comes exceedingly small. In any the progress of the Cuban rebellion event, the interests of our northern They say that when he visited Cuba farmers and lumbermen must not be a short time ago he did not announce

sacrificed in the new tariff law as they were in the Wilson bill. On this point newspapers and that therefore he has Canada need construct no false expectations, for it is as good as settled in . advance.

If, as its opponents say, the Angio-American arbitration treaty is prac-

ple; the medium chosen by him for tically worthless, its ratification can such communication is immaterial in to no positive harm and may do much comparison with the question. Does educational good; so that even on their he tell the truth? Up to date the own ground those who oppose it are apologists for Spaln have not imrouted. As for the statement that the penched a single one of his essential treaty will be rejected because our senators dislike Mr. Olney, we decline statements; to believe that the senate of the United The Carbondale Leader appears to States will proceed to a consideration suffer from the hallucination that the of a measure of this magnitude in a city of Scranton is aching to force spirit of subordination to small perdown the throats of the taxpayers of sonal Jealousy and spite. the county a bill for a soldiers' and

### A New Good Roads Project.

Our contemporary in this view is ut-Representative William F. Stewart, terly mistaken. But if the grateful citof Philadelphia, has drafted a series of izens of Lackawanna decide to honor bills which are calculated in the main the memory of their failen heroes with to commend themselves to the people a commemoative shaft, we submit in a of the state. The first one provides all kindness that Scranton's court house that after May 1, 1897, the state treas- square is the natural place for it. The urer shall require from each bank Leader, by the way, appears to be

where state funds are deposited 2 per alone in the belief that the fallen solcent, interest per annum, and requires diers and sailors of this section are the state treasurer to deposit with any not worth remembering. bank applying for state funds not less The story that Russia doesn't want than 5 per cent. of the paid up, unim-England and the United States to join paired capital of the said bank, providing a bond in double the amount of the hands in a peace treaty may be true; money deposited is approved by the but it is hardly to be credited that president judge of the judicial district in which the bank is located. The sec-

beginning of each fiscal year, commencing in 1898, shall be distributed

among the various counties in the state in proportion to the number of square David Pritchard, who was recently apointed oil inspector by Judge Edwards, is miles of area of each county, to be used one of the most genial of men, and he is also a capital story-teller. He has a choice selection of 'yarns'' with which he is wont to regale his friends. Mr. Pritchard's success on the road as a com-mercial traveler has no doubt been due not a little to that sift which enclose him for the purpose of building and improving the public highways in the dif ferent counties.

It is believed that this series of bills would, if enacted, provide about \$100.not a little to that gift which enables him to throw a ray of sunshine now and then on the most prosaic business matters. 000 a year for good roads, or about \$2.22 per square miles. I'nder the foregoing There are not a few people who have asked Mr. Pritchard since his appointment as to the nature of the duties that deprovisions Lackawanna county would receive \$1.041.28 per annum; Luzerne volve upon an oil inspector. They knew that the county has had such an officer for some time, but whether he was paid \$2,055.72; Wyoming, \$894.66; Wayne, \$1,658,34; Susquehanna, \$1,838.16, and Bradford, \$2,580.64. It will be seen that for doing anything besides drawing his salary was something they did not know. the above theory of distribution presents objections, inasmuch as it does For the benefit of these it might be well to state right here that the office of oil inspector is no sinecure. He is charged with the inspection of every barrel of not discriminate in favor of counties

where state aid is most urgently needoil put up in the county and must certify that in quality it corresponds to the reed; but it is not probable that a better method could be successful in the legquirements of the law. islature. There would remain the seri- $- \diamondsuit -$ At the "feast of crow" caten at Will ous difficulty of getting a proper ex-

iamsport the other night by Walter Shooter in payment of an election wager made during the Crow-Ashbridge shrievpenditure of this money in the various to radical amendment so that state to radical amendment so that state money may be paid only in aid of genu-the winner, read the following letter from Sheriff Crow. "I regret very much that

ion is issued against any employer abor that when the wage claim is ills with the sheriff or constable in who

TRATION TREATY.

be reached which, without detriment to American interests, will also benefit Canada, so much the better. But when we recall that so long as Canada re-mains a dependency of Great Britain, she cannot receive from this country special tariff favors unless they are ex-traction. The apple gists for Spain in this count-

POLITICAL BREVITIES. The president-lect evidently has a correst acorestation of Charles Emery Smith, It was he who couldered Mr. Smith in connection with the new cable

in the connection with the new case net without surrection from any source, if he doesn't invite Mr. Smith to this his calinet if is probable that we will find another place of public usefulness for him inasmoch as he seems determined to that he was going to write for the broken faith. It s. rikes us that this is draft Mr. Smith into service. a side issue. He made personal investigation of the Cuban situation with

Representative Hopwood, of Fayett the avowed intent of communicating county, who voted or Waremark's against the wishes of an overwhelmist majority of his constituents, has written a public his information to the American proletter giving as his reason that he is op-posed to bossism. It will be remembered that Faystic was one of the counties in which Mr. Van Valkenberg is creditor with having done practical missionary work for Wemanaber.

Attorney General McCornick is report-d to have east his for with the anti-Quay orces. But Governor Hastings is apparitly neutral; at all events, he is reported have accepted an invitation to accompany Senator Quay and party to San Lucle, Fla., after the monitorial election on the 49th. sailors' monument to be erected here.

State Senator William H. Andrews wants to be state chairman in place of Hon. John P. Elkin, but it is extremely joubiful if his aspiration will be grati-ned, Mr. Elkin is thoroughly entitled to election if he wants one, and w redlet that he will get it, hands down.

Senator Penroze has announced his de Senator Penrose has announced as we-termination of pushing to a conclusion the case against the linerant evanuel-ists who lately underlook to polson the elergy of the state against him.

liefore Congressman-elect Counell re-turns from his New York trip it is prob-able that he will visit Washington and elect quarters for use during the Fifty fifth congress.

Ex-Congressman James S. Beacom, of Westmoreland, is forging to the front as candidate for state treasurer to succee Haywood.

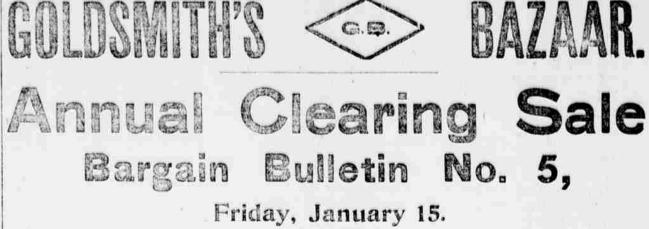
THE POWER OF THF PRESS.

The recklessness of newspapers is the direct consequence of the general reck-lessness of public life. Rampant dishon-esty among officials calls for harsh treat-ment. It is impossible to handle a notorious rogue who lives in contemptuous dis regard of the law with the circumspection essential to a discussion of Mr. Spencer's theories on sociology. There is only one weapon that can penetrate the hides of

uch men as are now prominent in stat such men as are now prominent in state and municipal affairs. If the law will not apply the lash the newspapers must and it is a great misfortune that the liberty to eastigate corrupt officials which is ap-proved by public sentiment should be misused by reckless or ill-disposed jour-nalists to torture innecent men and we-men. When public men treat office as a second trust when confidence in official sacred trust, when confidence in official life is restored to the people, conservative newspaper methods and strong laws for the punishment of libel will follow as matter of course. At present it would b futile, if it were not dangerous, to restric the only agency that seems to retain the power to send terror to the hearts of political criminals.

WHAT HE DIDN'T PROMISE. George E. Roberts, of Iowa.

McKinley did not promise that a bank which boared more than twice its capital to one borrower of doubtful credit could retain public confidence after the fac was disclosed. He did not promise that boom values in all our ambitious eities would be immediately restored, or that real estate paper in boom city banks would at once become available. He did promise that a goblen stream of h cauned money would immediately star anable to attend the unique banque again from the factory towns and sings banks of New England into the attended by so many, but partaken of lees of the numerous defunct rust companies of the west. He did no romise that the memory of a decade of vatered stock sandbank mortgages, cort field additions, boom town confidence games, and general extravagance on oth ever, I trust Mr, should will had have to pass through such an ordeal or indulge in such a fowl (foul) dinner again, and I congratulate you on not being the one for whom this particular repast is prepeople's money would immediately fail rom memory, or that the burnt chil-would not be wary of firs. ONE OF THE FINEST.



This Will Interest Every Housewife in Scranton and Vicinity. Japanese Jute Rugs at About Half the Usual Price :

Japanese Jute Rugs, 1 ft. 6 in x 8 ft., Clearing Sale Price, 30c Japanese Jute Rugs, 2 ft. 6 in x 5 ft., Clearing Sale Price, 98c Japanese Juto Rugs, 8 ft. x 6 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$1.23 . Japanese Jute Rugs, 4 ft 6 in x 4 ft 6 in., Clearing Sale Price, \$1.73 Japanese Jute Rugs, 4 ft x 7 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$1.98 Japanese Jute Rugs, 6 ft x 6 ft, Clearing Sale Price, \$2.40 Japanese Jute Rugs, 6 ft x 9 ft, Clearing Sale Price, \$3.75 Japanese Jute Rugs, 7 ft x 10 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$4.98 Japanese Jute Rugs, 9 ft z 12 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$7.98 Japanese Jute Rugs, 12'ft x 12 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$9.98 Japanese Jute Rugs, 12 ft x 15 ft., Clearing Sale Price, \$11.98

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Russian diplomacy will venture to interpose. It certainly knows better. ond bill authorizes the state treasure We wonder how much money it is to keep and maintain a separate fund osting Senor Dupuy de Lome at Washof all moneys received as interest on ington to stifle American sympathy for deposits, this fund to be known as the Cuba. public road improvement fund. The third bill directs that all moneys in the

public road improvement fund at the dust a Word or Two of Casual Mention

From the Times-Herald.

tion was published manner and place in said newspaper a was the libel. Criminal actions for libel shall

maintained for any maliciously false publication, or for a ma-licious publication not proper for public information relating to a private individual, against the writer, the editor who directs the publication, the person of ersons who furnish the malicious an alse information, and any editor or pu ligher who knowingly permitted such publication; but malice shall be proved as other criminal charges are proved, without least visual such as a second seco

that the publication is substantially true in every material respect; and if such plea shall be established to the satisfaction of the court and jury there shall be no recovery. The plea of justification, i made in good faith, shall not enhance damages. In civil actions for libel the de fendant may at any time before the tria of the case apply to the court for a rule upon the plaintiff to show cause why se-curity should not be entered by the plain tiff for costs, including reasonable sel fees; and if in the judgment of the court such security should be entered in the maintenance of justice, it shall given satisfactory to the court, before the trial of the case can proceed.

We invite public study of the foregoing provisions of a bill soon to be introduced at Harrisburg and stand ready to explain or to defend each one as being equitable to all concerned.

In the light of subsequent discle sures, it was the spectators at the Seeley dinner rather than the performers who made the biggest exhibition of themselves.

#### Reciprocity with Canada.

'It is reported that a deputation of Canadians bearing credentials from the Dominion government will soon visit Washington for the purpose of sounding the Republican leaders with reference to the possibility of reaching some understanding relative to reciprocity. The Liberal administration of Canada is semi-officially reported to be ready, with some commercial arangement of this kind as the basis, to put the North Atlantic fishery question on and connive at the social degradation a more satisfactory footing, and to of the place in which they live-in the come to a better understanding as regards wrecking in the Great Lakes, their children? the alien labor law and other matters of dispute. It is also understood to be prepared to enter into a joint scheme for deepening the St. Lawrence route from Duluth and Chicago to tidewater, and for making the lake traffic free to American and Canadian vessels allke, offering in return to give the United States joint control over the canals. In fact,-and we say this upon the authority of Major Carson, clerk of the house committee on ways and means-the head of the Canadian administration. Mr. Laurier, is ready to do anything he can do with dignity and without disloyalty to Great Britain to improve the relations of the two countries all round.

In the face of such a manifest wish men are punished only in the proporon Canada's part to befriendly, it would tion of 1 to 100." We doubt if this be unwise no less than unneighborly proportion obtains anywhere; but if to deny the visitors any reasonable courtesy. Their overtures will un-be set down as certain to be lacking in doubtedly merit respectful considera- schools, churches and good influences

tiff Crow ine road improvement. But these jections are minor to the excellence of be given by Mr. Shooter, which is i the general proposition that the state be attended by so many, but partaken of by only one. I am quite sure that no envious glances will be cast by those pres-ent at the dish prepared for Mr. Shooler, which I hope for his sake will be at least tender, if not of a delicious flavor. How-ever, I trust Mr. Shooter will not have to ever i trust Mr. Shooter will not have to deposits should bear interest for the public advantage and that in no other direction could more real good be ac omplished for the whole body of the public than in the direction of improved public thoroughfares.

One of the promising endeavors o the day aims to bring together in 1899 ared. an international scientific congress

legal presumption of guilt. In any civil action for libel, the plea of justification shall be accepted as ade-quate when it is pleaded by the defendant time would impart a decided impertu sentative scientists of the world at this time would impart a decided impetus to all forms of scientific inquiry. It is proposed to hold this congress in London, Paris or Berlin. Why not in Washington?

## Murders and Lynchings.

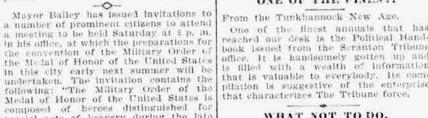
special acts of bravery during the late rehellion and the Indian outbreaks. Its resident is General Nelson A. Miles, the If we accept some statistics recentty compiled by the New Orleans Picapresent commander-in-chief of the forces of the United States. He will be present and should be accorded some sigyune, there apparently is ground for a reopening of the question, "Is civilizapresent and should be accorted some sof-nal honor. Many other soldlers of na-tional reputations will be in attendance. They have been enrolled on the roll of henor of a grateful nation and we should appreciate the honor which they have conferred on Scranton in selecting it as tion a failure?" That journal finds that in 1895 there were committed throughout the United States 10,500 murders, and in 1896, 10,652 murders. In 1895, however, there were only 132 their next place of meeting." judicial executions, and in 1896 only

122. Thus the law has disposed of but little more than one per cent, of the criminals of this class. Nor has Judge Lynch done much better, the lynchings in 1895 numbering only 179 and in 1896

with the sherin or constance in some hands the execution is, that no private sale can be made, or settlement of su is execution without the wage claim first being paid. Under the present system a creditor after execution is out can con-agire with the attaching creditors are is a subsequences. The full which Mr. only 120. "It appears, therefore," comments the Washington Post upon this compilation, "that the law and the lynchings put together do not adequately punish efeat wage earners. The bill which Mr much more than 3 per cent, of the murderers. What is society to do? If protection to the workingman. even in the law-abiding east, killings,

THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARBIhomicides, outrages upon women are punished only in the proportion of 1 to 100, upon what ground can we ex-From the Philadelphia Press. pect men with blood in their veins to The treaty provides for two tribunals One is made up of two jurists of national contemplate with equanimity so abhorrent and so alarming an arrangement? reputation, who choose a third, with pro-vision for choice on disagreement, and pass on claims of less than \$500,000 in the If they find that lawlessness, outrage, assassination go practically unrebuked pass on chains of case that contains con-aggregate as an ordinary chains con-mission would, without appeal, save o jurisdiction. In claims exceeding \$50.0 this commission passes on the issues pro-ceeding to arrivel to a new comcan they be expected to sit quietly by demoralization and debauchery of sented, subject to appeal to a new co

sented, subject to appeal to a new com-mission of five jurists, two from each country, who choose a fifth. This decis-ion is final; but at any stage of the litt-gation as to claims either country may raise the question, that the claim affects "the national rights of such party as dis-tinct from its private rights," and the case will then be transferred to the great-er tributual provided by the treaty. This itest tribunal is little more than a perma-nent claims commission, and passes "n The Post asks these questions in order to justify its belief in lynch law. Our contemporary evidently shares the old but statistically exploded belief that the way to wipe out crime is to oppose brutality with brutality. To this notion we owe the legalization of nent claims commission, and passes on the same issues which in our history have the death penalty, which has never yet neted as a deterrent but instead submitted to over forty claims con missions, usually without appeal. For disputes relating to boundaries and corritorial rights another tribunal is conhas often acted as a stimulant of crime. If those persons who reside in communities where "lawlessness, outterritorial rights another thankain a ton-stituted with the care the momentous ma-sues presented require. It is to consist of three American and three English judges, selected from mitforal courts of appellate jurisdiction in both lands, with the provision that the bench of an Ameri-can and an english colony may rage, assassination go practically unrebuked" wish to lay lasting foundations of improvement, they will need to spend less time on lynchings and more on moral education. It is not a state or of an English colony may drawn upon when the issues affects or the other. If five out of six agrees true that in the "law-ablding east killings, homicides, outrages upon woon tertilarial issues the finding of this court is final. If a more majority decide the decision shall be final, unless one party or the other within six month protests the decision. Practically this provision arranges for an appeal from the court to public opinion, and it is no rash prediction that public opinion in both tion and if a basis of agreement can generally. Crime begets crime, wheth- these great English-speaking countries



very low,

By

# WHAT NOT TO DO.



