

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 16, 1897.

If the city of Pittston can afford to boycott outside enterprise, outside enterprise can afford to be boycotted.

Incredible

The report seems, and we prefer to believe, is incredible that a sufficient number of senators at Washington will undertake to get even with President Cleveland and Secretary Olney by defeating the arbitration treaty. It does not need to be pointed out that such a defeat from such a motive would in no wise abate the triumph which these two men have won in the treaty's successful negotiation. It could only injure on the heads of the senators who should have encompassed it. They, and not Cleveland and Olney, would have their plumes clipped.

We look at the treaty itself with less reverence than we do. We do not think it utters in the millennium of perfect peace. We do not fancy that the world has seen the last of war. We are not possessed by the idea that it is time to begin the disbanding of standing armies; to turn warships into coal barges and to let our coast fortifications become the unchallenged abiding places of the bat and the owl. In other words, we cannot deceive ourselves into imagining that one short treaty has wrought any miraculous transformation in the chemistry of human nature, precipitating the passions and unfeathering the graces.

Yet we recognize that in its educational significance it is a great forward step, leaving, to be sure, great bloodless victories yet to be won, but pointing out, as no prior instrument of statecraft has yet done, the direction in which those victories may be won. It is a harbinger of the coming time when the appeal to force of arms will come last instead of first. For this reason the American senator who interposes factious objections to its ratification brands himself as a public enemy.

In a sense it may be said that congress is going to seed. Despite Secretary Morton's protests, the house committee on agriculture has just increased from \$135,000 to \$150,000 the appropriation for the government seed bureau.

A Congress of Mothers.

In these days one must be prepared to expect all sorts and conditions of congresses, covering every avenue of associated effort; but it is doubtful if any pioneer movement of this kind during the past decade has offered richer promise in its prospectus than is afforded in the literature put out on behalf of the National congress of mothers, which is to assemble Feb. 17 in Washington. The very idea of asking women into conference, not for the purpose of gaining a foothold in politics or in the breadwinning vocations, but with a view to promoting the beneficent and fundamental influences and interests of motherhood is so novel, amidst all the contemporary "new woman" nonsense, that one has to study oneself in order to comprehend its full import.

A national congress of mothers, never having been held before, will naturally be somewhat tentative and experimental, but we learn from remarks made by Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, of Washington, who is foremost in arranging for the forthcoming convention, that the present movement "is not a reformative one; it is a formative one," the aim being, in short, to strengthen the agencies which make for better and cleaner and more wholesome home life. "It is proposed," says Mrs. Birney, "to have the congress consider subjects bearing upon the better and broader moral and physical as well as mental training of the young, such as the value of kindergarten work and the extension of its principles to more advanced studies, a love of humanity and of country, the physical and mental evils resulting from some of the present evils of our schools, and the advantages to follow from a closer relation between the influence of the home and that of institutions of learning. Of special importance will be the subject of the means of developing in children characteristics which will elevate and ennoble them, and thus assist in overcoming the conditions which now prompt crime and make necessary the maintenance of jails, workhouses and reformatories. These matters will be presented to the congress by men and women foremost in such work, and whose names are everywhere known and revered."

That Mrs. Birney is in earnest need no further proof than this:

It is the expectation to have such a gathering of representative workers for the benefit of the human race that the divine fire of enthusiasm will warm the hearts, not only of all mothers, but of all kindred, to an appreciation of the sacred obligations owed to the race through the children of today and the generations to come. The average mother is but indifferently equipped with knowledge for the moral, mental, and physical training of childhood. And is it strange, when throughout the whole period of her education, there has been perhaps not a single hour in which the subject was presented to her as one most worthy of her attention? What a satire upon our boasted wisdom of today, when dead languages and higher mathematics take precedence over that knowledge which should stand pre-eminently in a woman's education. What deplorable ignorance do we not see on all sides, ignorance not only of the varied temperaments of childhood, but ignorance of their physical needs, with results too disastrous to detail. A gardener does not treat all plants alike. He carefully considers the organism with which he has to deal, and fosters the conditions favorable to their highest development; but not so do we, in the child garden of the world. He gives study, patient watchfulness, to his task, but what do we, in many instances, bring to ours? Some thrashers maxims, some erudite generalities, and an indifference which, considering the importance of the subject, is appalling.

The value of such a congress as the one under notice cannot be determined in advance. The work of the congress itself must be its own indorsement. But it can be said at once that the purposes outlined by Mrs. Birney command unqualified approval and call

emphatically for serious consideration. It is well in this time of fluent talk about woman's ampler sphere to have the minds of sensible women turned occasionally toward a studious and sympathetic contemplation of the duties and responsibilities of that sphere which bears commission from Divinity itself—the sphere of motherhood.

The remodeled Chap-Book today makes its first appearance in the new size. When it lately declared its intention to expand into a serious review which would, to the limit of its ability, "subject contemporary literature to the highest standards," there were some smiles of sarcasm and not a little shaking of the head. But the introductory issue in the new guise demonstrates that its ambitious prospectus was no boast. Five more interesting book criticisms would be hard to find anywhere; and one of them—that of Barric's "Sentimental Tommy"—although a trifle luxuriant in rhetoric, is nevertheless a masterly analysis, and worthy to be taken for a model. If the Chap-Book can maintain this level, its warrant for existence cannot be questioned.

Outgrowing Its Clothes.

It is indicative of an unfortunate state of affairs when the executive departments of the city government, in order to get through councils sufficient appropriations to cover actual expenses, have each year to resort to the threadbare makeshift of inflating their original estimates anywhere from 20 to 50 per cent. The evil of this is two fold. It involves deception and it has a tendency to encourage the estimates committee in the bad habit of knocking estimates in the head, on general principles, whether justifiably or not.

The detailed comparison of amounts this year asked for with amounts last year granted, which we printed yesterday, brings out this evil prominently. Against \$752,311.19 requested for 1897 we have \$747,877.43 granted for 1896, with the moral certainty that this year's grants will not be in excess of \$300,000. When, therefore, in the neighborhood of \$75,000 is deliberately hacked out of current estimates, it follows either that there has been a good deal of false representation or else that legitimate and urgent municipal needs must be ignored. Either horn of the dilemma is quite as bad as the other.

Of the items of notable increase no one need expect that the street commissioner's department will receive \$28,018, or that \$19,678.18 will be voted for the improvement of Nay Aug, Connell and Woodlawn parks. Yet these sums might both be invested to the city's decided advantage, in ways that would in course of time return the investment many times over. The parks especially merit liberal attention, since every year of neglect of them simply robs the city's poor. In similar fashion, there is genuine necessity for an enlarged police force and for at least one new engine house and regular company. That either will be awarded this year seems doubtful. We would it could be otherwise.

The fact is, this city is fast outgrowing its clothes.

Mr. Choate was certainly as able a man as Mr. Wanamaker; yet where the latter got seventy-five votes the former received only seven. If the difference was not of brains, was it of "bairl"?

The Indianapolis Convention.

The monetary conference at Indianapolis laid down these three fundamental propositions:

(1) That the present gold standard should be maintained.

(2) That steps should be taken to insure that the ultimate retirement of all classes of United States notes by a gradual and steady process, so as to avoid injurious contraction of the currency or disturbance of the business interests of the country, and that, in such retirement, provision should be made for a separation of the revenue and note issue departments of the treasury.

(3) That a banking system be provided which should furnish credit facilities to every portion of the country and a safe and effective circulation, and especially with a view to securing such a distribution of the loanable capital of the country as will tend to equalize the rates of interest in all parts thereof.

The first proposition is conceded, pending the adoption of safe bimetalism by international agreement if possible. The objections to the second proposition are well explained by Senator Sherman, who shows that it would substitute an interest-bearing for a non-interest bearing currency, without adequate advantage to warrant the increased cost.

Concerning the third proposition it may be said that the people of the United States are looking for such a banking system, and when they find it they will eagerly adopt it. The Indianapolis conference seems to have left conditions where it found them.

The Irrepressible Mr. Platt.

The prospective return of Thomas C. Platt to the United States senate after an absence of sixteen years recalls the singular chain of misfortunes which followed the Blaine-Conkling feud, in which Mr. Platt first became a political character of national renown. The manner in which that unhappy affair reacted on the political and personal fortunes of Mr. Blaine himself, causing not only the loss of the presidency, but also intensifying personal losses and hastening disease and death, is too well known to warrant reviewing; but other details are thus summarized by a writer—Mr. George A. Benham—in the Chicago Times-Herald:

governor of New York. Then, during Blaine's incumbency of that office, Mr. Windom, secretary of the treasury, dropped dead in his chair, after a brilliant speech on finance at a banquet in New York. A fire in the house of general Tracy, secretary of the navy, at Washington, roasted his wife and daughter, and he himself had a close call from death. To cap the climax of disaster, after Blaine's sudden exit from Harrison's cabinet in 1852, Mrs. Harrison died, and soon afterward her husband was overwhelmingly defeated by the man who profited most from the memorable fight between Blaine and Conkling.

The freshened knowledge of this singular sequence of ills has led some persons to fancy a premonition of new disasters in connection with Mr. Platt's probable return to the senate. But this certainly rests on no solid foundation. The fact is that Mr. Platt, as politics goes, has thoroughly earned a re-election to the body which he quitted, not without reason, fifteen years ago. Against great odds he has unwaveringly maintained his leadership and pulled victory after victory out of seemingly inevitable defeat. He is, too, a leader whose dominance rests in most cases on the willing consent of the led; and besides that, he is, without question, a man of extraordinary ability. We have never learned to like or to trust him, but there is no sense in trying to belittle him. As a senator of the United States from the first state in the Union, enjoying to a large degree the personal favor of the active forces in Washington official life, Thomas Collier Platt, whatever his past sins, will assuredly be a factor of large influence in the national politics of the next quadrennium.

Copies of the Philadelphia Times and of the Philadelphia Ledger almanacs for 1897 have been received. Both are issued gratuitously to the readers of these papers, and both contain valuable information for reference purposes, being especially complete in matters pertaining to Philadelphia.

In a modest letter of less than one hundred words, J. Pierpont Morgan donates \$1,000,000 for a new lying-in hospital in New York. It is well when men like Morgan begin to appreciate the proper use of wealth.

As Quay is going to Florida in a few days the question arises how will the state of Pennsylvania get along in his absence.—Pittsburg Times.

"Pshaw! Isn't Senator Magee on deck?"

Mr. Platt probably appreciates the fact that vindications, like misfortunes, when they come at all come fast.



I notice that the ghost story which originated in Scranton ten years ago bids fair to go on forever. The fall of '94 a yarn was started to the effect that a mysterious woman clad in black garments had been seen near the air shaft of one of the abandoned mines to take great delight in relating the manner in which she fooled the innocent residents in the vicinity of the old rolling mill. Although the Scranton "woman in black" no longer troubles the timid youths and maidens at night, the residents of other towns and cities still seem to have faith in the latest to-day, Factoryville is one of the latest to

be troubled by the "woman in black." The story of the "woman in black" soon spread over the country and in a few weeks the town that could not boast of a sable spectre did not amount to much. The late Adam Matichman, a waggish cigar-maker of upper Lackawanna avenue, claimed to have been the original inventor of the "woman in black" hoax, and used to take great delight in relating the manner in which he fooled the innocent residents in the vicinity of the old rolling mill. Although the Scranton "woman in black" no longer troubles the timid youths and maidens at night, the residents of other towns and cities still seem to have faith in the latest to-day, Factoryville is one of the latest to



THE "MAN IN BLACK."

report a dark wanderer. The Factoryville ghost, however, is a man, and is even more terrible in appearance than the Scranton "woman in black." It is thought that close inspection would reveal the fact that he is of flesh and blood, but no one dare venture near. As will be seen by the accompanying sketch, the Factoryville mystery is an individual of snappy appearance and a man who should be given credit for his nerve. It is evident that Factoryville is the stamping ground of a most unspiritly, or else there is need of temperance work in that beautiful little village.

Perhaps I am mistaken, but it seems to me that the temperance and other good people of the city made a great mistake in allowing the ordinance abolishing lunch wagons to be passed in the council without a protest. The well-to-do and wealthy citizens probably had little idea of the boon that the cheap lunch wagon has been to the homeless unfortunate who may ease the craving for a dinner at nightfall at a trifling cost. The sandwich that can be prepared for 5 cents at the lunch wagon window costs 10 cents at most of the saloons that are open all night. I do not believe in these days of business depression, when the fields of labor are over-crowded, that every tramp who wanders from town to town in search of food does so from choice. I believe that the majority who are classed among the beggars would rather purchase their food than beg it from door to door if places were provided where it could be secured at a trifling cost. The night lunches are encouraged and supplied in other cities by temperance people. It should be so in Scranton. Instead of hanting the wagons, the city should give the beggars a good opportunity for the hungry to secure food without being tempted to waste their mite for intoxicants. The idea that the waltzers from town to town in search of midnight "banquets" is ridiculous, and such talk should make the head of every reputable citizen hang with shame.

Theatrical people have decided to add new torture to patrons of delicate nerves, in the way of music lantern shows that have been introduced as an accompaniment to the 15-stanza songs that lead long-vocalists are wont to recite upon audiences that venture near the "high-class" vaudeville entertainments. Not content with pronouncing the harrowing details of the fall of some temple; the fate of a lost child, or of a lonesome drummer, to slow music, the song fount has seen fit to emphasize his awful work by the aid of the sheet and calcium light. No song of laudatory inspiration is now considered properly rendered unless accompanied by a lot of grotesque music lantern slides that are manipulated at the proper instant by a trained assistant. At the last exhibition of this kind given in Scranton the audience complained. Whether it was applause of approval or applause of relief that the agony was over, it is impossible to determine, the latter theory seems the more probable.

Readers will doubtless observe that the whilst fever has threatened to become epidemic this winter. What is not as dangerous to life and limb as football, or even tennis and golf, yet there is something suggestive of intense prostration in the at least expression of a player who holds a good leading hand that commands admiration. By all means let the "high-class" vaudeville entertainments encourage them. They are not apt to become agitated to a degree that would bring on heart failure when engaged in a game of cards from the prospect of picking up late nights they usually have few bad habits.



Weather and Other Predictions for the Coming Week.

Sunday, Jan. 17.—Second Sunday after Epiphany. Weather cold and stormy. A child born on this day will marry a wife who will be a source of trouble and sorrow. A child born on this day will have a restless and unsettled career. Buy and ask favors.

Tuesday, Jan. 18.—Mars an evening star. Weather unsettled. A child born on this day will be clever, but restless and unsettled. Travel and push business in the afternoon.

Wednesday, Jan. 19.—Moon sextile to Neptune. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will probably have a quiet career. Look out for business.

Thursday, Jan. 21.—Moon in conjunction with Jupiter. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will be fortunate if born before 10 a. m.; otherwise it will encounter much sorrow and trouble, especially if a female. Push thy business in the afternoon.

Friday, Jan. 22.—Moon in conjunction with Mercury. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will be careless, fond of pleasure and generally poor. Avoid women.

Saturday, Jan. 23.—Venus an evening star. Weather milder. A child born on this day will be steady, persevering and will rise in life. Seek employment in the morning.

GOOD, SOUND SENSE.

From the Carbonate Herald. The Scranton Tribune voices good, sound sense when it says: "We see no reason to doubt that Cleveland's re-election will observe precedent by reappointing Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer superintendent of public instruction. He has been a first rate official in every respect, his position should be kept free from political influences, and one good term in that office certainly merits another." If there is any one political department which should be free from politics it is the school system, although there are those in this city and elsewhere who are strenuously endeavoring to make the school department a political machine.

A PRETTY GOOD COUNTRY.

From the Philadelphia Record. This is not the worst country in the world to live in. We have our troubles, of course—our silver crazes and our cyclones, and used to take great delight in relating the manner in which he fooled the innocent residents in the vicinity of the old rolling mill. Although the Scranton "woman in black" no longer troubles the timid youths and maidens at night, the residents of other towns and cities still seem to have faith in the latest to-day, Factoryville is one of the latest to

FACTS AND HISTORY.

Montrose Democrat. The Scranton Tribune 1887 Almanac is crammed full of facts, figures and current history in its field.

BARGAINS

Odds and Ends, we find while taking stock, are being sold at greatly reduced prices to make room for new spring goods.

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Ladies' Seamless Fast Black Cotton Hose, full length, fine gauge, Sale Price, 12 1/2c
Ladies' Forty Gauge Hermsdorf Dye, full regular made, Sale Price, 22c
Ladies' Genuine Lisle Thread Hose, guaranteed fast black, Sale Price, 22c
Ladies' Shrunken Flannel Skirts, full size, the usual \$1.00 kind, Sale Price, 55c

Gent's Furnishing Counter.

- Men's All Wool Cashmere Hose, seamless, Sale Price, 17c
Men's Natural Wool Shirts and Drawers, Sale Price, 25c
Camel's Hair Shirts and Drawers, perfect goods, Sale Price, 57c
Men's Jersey Shirts, a very good quality, Sale Price, 37c
Men's Silk Neckwear, Tecks and Four-in-Hands, Sale Price, 19c
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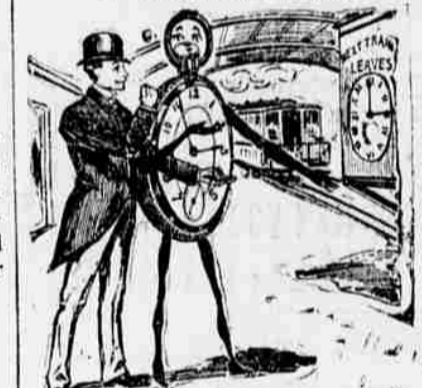
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