

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 20, 1897.

It begins to look very much as if Secretary Olney had bluffed all the fight out of the United States senate.

Senator Penrose.

The new senator from Pennsylvania will go to Washington facing one of the brightest prospects that ever greeted an American legislator. He will enter the senate at an age offering the promise of more than thirty years of active usefulness, yet already equipped with twelve years of valuable experience gained at the capitol of his native state.

The cordial admission by the state press, representing all shades of political belief, that State Superintendent Schaeffer merits a reappointment presents gratifying evidence that partisanship in educational matters is on the decline. May it speedily disappear entirely.

The Pure Food Problem.

The decision by Judge Hemphill, of Chester county, that the present pure food law is unconstitutional confirms a suspicion previously very general among laymen. Excellent in intent, the law was grossly defective in detail and opened the door as often to perjury as to justifiable prosecution. One of its worst features was that it made the retail dealer liable to arrest for selling a rotten egg or a pound of adulterated coffee, although in both instances he might be entirely the victim of misrepresentation.

Now that this whole subject will come again before the legislature it may not be amiss to point out how this problem of food adulteration is treated in certain European countries. In France, for instance, the law reads: "Those who shall sell or expose for sale food substances or commodities or medicines which they shall know to be adulterated or spoiled" shall be adjudged guilty. Instead of relying upon convictions, just or unjust, to deter adulteration, they have in Paris a carefully evolved system, embracing a laboratory of chemistry in connection with the department of police, a part of the work of which is to analyze free of cost samples furnished by citizens.

The difficulties in way of an adjustment of the law which, while being adequate for the punishment of all dealers who deliberately impose impure articles on the public, will yet fall short of being a possible instrument of oppression in the hands of enemies, are many. It is not strange that the first effort of the legislature to solve so complicated a problem should result disastrously. The second attempt will profit by experience and doubtless achieve success.

The report from Canton that Major McKinley will prefer ex-President Harrison the ambassadorship to the court of St. James lacks confirmation but is plausible. General Harrison has announced his wish and purpose to remain in private life; but in view of the exceptional usefulness to which his talents could be directed in the foremost diplomatic mission of his country at a time when negotiations affecting the whole future of civilization are pending, it is possible that he would reconsider. Under present circumstances the embassy to England amounts to a trust of first importance; and there would be manifest appropriateness in selecting for it the man who shares with the president-elect the highest respect of his party and his country.

John Sherman's Foreign Policy. It is recalled that in 1887, after a visit to Cuba, Senator Sherman said: "I don't think we want Cuba as an appendage of the United States. I would not favor annexation. In spite of the drains upon her, Cuba is enormously rich in resources, and is a large consumer of our products, on which at present the heavy Spanish duties rest. What I would favor would be a reciprocity treaty with Spain, so that we might send our goods there, instead of forcing the Cubans to buy of England, France and Germany. We could do the island much more good by trading with her on an equal basis than we ever can by annexing her."

In his recently published book of memoirs occur certain passages which further tend to foreshadow his probable attitude as secretary of state. One relates to a speech made by him in 1886, in which he argued for the annexation of Canada. The Memoirs say of this: "This was my opinion then, but further reflection convinces me that the annexation of Canada to the United States presents serious difficulties, and that the best policy for the other English speaking countries is that Canada should constitute an independent republic, founded upon the model of the United States, with one central government, and provinces converted into states with limited powers for local government. The United States already embraces so vast a country, divided into forty-four states and four territories, exclusive of Alaska and the Indian territory, that any addition to the number of states would tend to weaken the system, and the conversion of the province of Canada into states of our Union would introduce new elements of discord, while with Canada as an independent and friendly republic we could, by treaty or

concurrent legislation, secure to each the benefits of free trade and intercourse with the other, and without the danger of weakening the United States.

The same idea, more fully and eloquently developed, provides the closing paragraph of his Resolutions, which follows: "The events of the future are beyond the vision of mankind, but I hope that our people will be content with internal growth, and avoid the complications of foreign acquisition. A family of states is already large enough to create embarrassment in the senate, and a republic should not hold dependent provinces or possessions. The annexation of Canada and Mexico as independent republics will be more valuable to the United States than if carved into provinces. The United States already embraces dissident elements without adding others. If my life is prolonged I will do all I can to add to the strength and prosperity of the United States, but nothing to extend its limits or to add new dangers by acquisition of foreign territory."

It would be possible by other quotations to show that the coming secretary of state, while not a "lingo" as the word is commonly used, is nevertheless a man of robust and assertive patriotism, indignant at tyranny and outrage, proud of American institutions and of the emblem thereof, and ready to speak or act with emphasis whenever necessary for the protection of legitimate American interests; but such quotations are not necessary. Upon this point public opinion is already at ease. We suspect that Senator Sherman in the matter of annexation is more conservative than are the majority of his countrymen, but that, after all, is at this time relatively a small matter. The United States want no new territory if it has to be won by force or enter the Union reluctantly. When requests for admission shall be made, it will be time to consider them on their merits.

Life doubtless never before presented so bright an outlook to the Hon. C. C. Kauffman, senator from Lancaster county, as it has since the organization of the Wanamaker syndicate's war on Quay afforded him an opportunity to become genuinely prominent. Senator Kauffman is improving the passing hours in a manner which does credit to his industry.

An Auspicious Occasion. Many of the churches in this city will give up their usual services this evening in order to attend the inter-denominational rally in the Elm Park church.

The subject to be discussed is one upon which there ought to be no difference of opinion among Christians, and it is very pleasant to have the opportunity which such a gathering offers to say: "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

One thing is certain, the principal speaker, Dr. A. T. Pierson, will do the great subject justice.

Amendment of the Anglo-American peace treaty by the senate may be necessary in many particulars. No one has argued against that, provided careful examination shall prove the need of it. But amendment is one thing and rejection is quite another. We will not believe that this splendid opportunity to advance the higher interests of civilization will be permitted to lapse because of senatorial prejudices.

A permanent census is quite as necessary as a permanent treasury. Where so much depends upon statistics as does in a government like the United States, no effort should be spared to get prompt and accurate statistics.

It is a noteworthy fact that the prospective appointment of General Russell A. Alger as secretary of war meets with the unanimous approval of the Michigan delegation in congress. They ought to know the man.

And now France is reported to be desirous of negotiating an arbitration treaty with the United States. A good example is always sure to bear good fruit.

Senator Quay now ceases to be the Junior senator.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The Lally children of this city, John and Nell, are creating a sensation in Philadelphia amusement circles by their clever dancing and violin playing. They are more miles of humanity but are well content and have for the last two years been the leading attractions of numerous local entertainments. A year ago last spring they appeared at Klax & Erlanger's "Brownies" company at the Frothingham for one performance and were such an addition to the special feature of the company that the management endeavored to at once close a contract with their father for their services for the remainder of the season. He declined the offer on account of the extreme youth of the boys. They are now appearing at the Bijou theater in Philadelphia and the newspapers of that city are quite enthusiastic over their work. The children reside with their parents on Phelps street. They are grand nephews of Michael Davitt, the father of the Irish Land League.

There are nine municipalities in the United States bearing the name of Scranton. Besides the only and original there are: Scranton, Walworth county, S. D.; Scranton, Orange county, Kan.; Scranton, Jackson county, Miss.; Scranton, Hyde county, N. C.; Scranton, Williamsburg county, S. C.; Scranton, Eastland county, Tex.; Scranton, Tarrant county, Texas; Scranton City, Greene county, Ia. Scranton, Miss. is a county seat, and the Scrantons of Kansas, South Carolina and Iowa are all good-sized towns. Sixteen miles above Scranton, Kan., it might be mentioned as a remarkable coincidence, is a small town bearing the name of Carbondale.

Attorney J. S. Fisher, of Mauch Chunk, was being introduced about the court house Monday by former M. A. McGlinchey, who, in his Carbon county days, was a protégé of Mr. Fisher. Like some of our local legal luminaries, Mr. Fisher started life as a breaker boy. He served two terms as district attorney and is recognized as one of the leading practitioners of the "lower regions," as we in the northern atmosphere of this field are wont to term the locality from which Mr. Fisher hails. He is a man of commanding presence and impresses one even at first meeting as having something more than the ordinary in his make-up.

Wilkes-Barre's new hotel project has fallen through. Music Hall, which was to be torn down to make room for the new hotel, was yesterday leased for five years for amusement purposes and the company of aggressive capitalists who were thereupon to build the new hotel have decided to put their money back in their respective socks and let

Wilkes-Barre get along with an addition to the Wyoming Valley hotel.

Deputy Postmaster Myron Karpson left yesterday to spend the winter in New Orleans. We would advise our New Orleans subscribers to cultivate Mr. Karpson's acquaintance if they can appreciate reading good stories. Yankee wit and a mighty good fellow, Postmaster Karpson will have to do double duty as a story teller or the office will put by the postmaster's office at all for the rest of the winter.

The superior court judges unhesitatingly pronounce the Hotel Jermyn the finest hotel in the state, not excepting the Wallton, of which Philadelphia is wont to proudly boast. We sustain the opinion.

HASTINGS AND THE CABINET.

From the Altoona Tribune. Rumor says that Senator Quay spoke to President-elect McKinley last Saturday concerning the expediency of recognizing the banner Republican state by a cabinet appointment, a very judicious and sensible suggestion. It is likewise said that the senator strongly urged the claims of Governor Hastings. We do not know that the governor has any ambitions in that direction. But if he has Major McKinley could select no other Pennsylvanian who is more deserving or whose appointment would give more general satisfaction. A state of the world and importance of Pennsylvania deserves some recognition, aside from the unprecedented majority it gave the president-elect. Governor Hastings represents the whole party and not a faction, and has honorably discharged every duty that has confronted him. If chosen as the representative of this great Republican commonwealth in the cabinet, he will measure up to his opportunities.

Would Make a Good One.

From the Syracuse, N. Y., Post. Governor Hastings has had a brilliant career in Pennsylvania politics. Eight years ago he was adjutant general of the state. He first came into national prominence when he made one of the nominating speeches at the Chicago convention in 1888. A little later his prompt, efficient and faithful service in command of the troops and the relief work at the Johnstown flood made him a very popular man through the state. In due time he was elected governor and he has filled the position so far with dignity and general acceptability. He is a large, handsome looking man and would make a very imposing cabinet officer, having the martial air of a first class secretary of war.

PISCATORIAL EXPLOITS.

From the Nicholson Examiner. Here are two good fish stories: A certain hotel fisherman of this place said that he had once caught the best one he had ever seen. It was a bluegill and he kept it himself. The night of the story the fish was running thick, and the teller of the story was taking the trout from the boat when he found a nice one, he would stuff it in the lining of his coat. When he got home he emptied his coat, and he found he had two bluegills, one of which he had caught in the morning. A man standing by said he knew that there were big eels down there, for he had seen them. One night he was watching the same lake, when he saw a monstrous eel come over it. As it passed he jumped upon its neck and rode there until he reached a place within a couple miles of Tanktown, and nearly six miles from the starting point. At the time he got off the eel it was half-past two. When he got back to where he started he asked the man what time the eel was out of the water, and he said at half-past three. You can judge for yourself as to the truth of these stories.

RESTRAINT UPON BLACKMAIL.

From the Philadelphia Times. When it is remembered that two-thirds of the libel suits for damages are purely speculative, most of them inspired by lawyers who expect to receive the bulk of the amount recovered for damages, and that it is remembered that the newspapers of this country are now taxed not less than \$200,000 a year to defend civil actions for damages in which there is no recovery, the necessity for some restraint upon frivolous libel suits may be justly appreciated. We can conceive no more just method than to permit the courts in their discretion to require in advance security for costs in all actions which are not clearly warranted by the circumstances connected with the case. All such actions are merely a small gamble at the cost of journalism.

ONLY ONE QUAY.

N. E. Hulse in Hawley Times. There are hundreds of men in this state, apparently better fitted to lead than Quay, so far as appearance indicate, but there is but one Quay. Alert, shrewd, sagacious, experienced, courageous, swift to take advantage of his opponent's errors, constantly springing surprises, though never surprised or caught napping himself, this matchless leader and silent man can be written down as the peer of any political leader.

ONE OF THE VERY BEST.

From the Honesdale Citizen. The Scranton Tribune almanac for 1887, is one of the very best issued by any office, city or county. It is filled to repletion with an immense amount of most valuable information on a great variety of subjects. You cannot afford to do without a copy.

BARAINS

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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From 11 to 12 o'clock--Whatever there is left, Your Choice at \$6.00 Each
From 12 to 1 o'clock--Whatever there is left, Your Choice at \$5.00 Each
From 1 to 2 o'clock--Your choice of 150 Ladies' and Misses' Jackets, worth from \$8 to \$12, At \$4.00 Each
From 2 to 3 o'clock--Your choice of 100 Ladies', Misses' and Children's Coats, At \$3.00 Each
From 3 to 4 o'clock--Your choice of 75 Ladies', Misses' and Children's Garments, At \$2.00 Each
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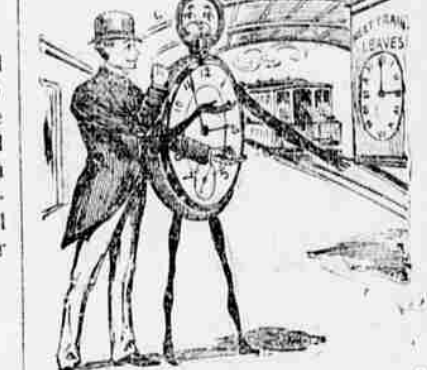
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