

The Scranton Tribune

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If the legislature is wise it will come to both its head about past transactions in the state treasury department and move conscientiously toward the enactment of a law requiring all state funds on deposit to bear interest for the commonwealth at not less than 2 per cent. per annum.

A Model City Charter.

A new charter for cities of the second class has been drafted by D. D. Bruce, esq., of Pittsburg, and is receiving much attention from municipal reformers. The widespread interest felt in all honest efforts to improve existing methods of city government in the United States justifies some reference to this charter.

The central feature of the charter is that it focuses authority and responsibility in the mayor. His term is increased to four years, and he is allowed an annual salary of \$7,000 and he has the power to appoint for an equal term and also to remove for cause the heads of the first four of the six municipal departments which are created under the charter.

No policeman or fireman shall be dismissed without his written consent, except after the decision of a court of trial, or of inquiry duly determined and certified in writing to the mayor, which court shall be composed of persons belonging to the police or fire force equal or superior in rank to those of the accused.

Such charges may be made a condition for service in which case the court shall be one of inquiry, whose decision may be for the honorable discharge from the service of the person concerned or of neglect or violation of law or duty, incompetence, disobedience of orders, or unbecoming official or personal conduct.

Concerning municipal employees in subordinate position the charter follows out the principles embodied in Senator Quay's reform resolutions, by providing that discharges must be for cause and that appointments and promotions must be for fitness as determined by open competitive tests under specified rules before a board of examiners.

Among other provisions worthy of hasty reference it may be said that there is suitable safeguarding of the honesty and fairness of public contracts; that councils are given power at any meeting, either in whole or in committee, to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers and other evidence in any case of inquiry, investigation or impeachment.

absolutely essential suggestions. The charter as it stands is a monument to patient and intelligent study of municipal evils, and it might well be put into operation, not only in Pittsburg and Allegheny, but also in Scranton.

If a street railway company sells a ride for a certain price and throws in a transfer, does it make any difference who uses that transfer? We should like to see this point passed on in a court of final authority.

Robinson on the War-Path.

Congressman John B. Robinson, of Media, has addressed a scathing letter to the editor of the Wilkes-Barre Record in which, with characteristic energy and emphasis, he sets at rest the assertion that he ever drew two salaries while serving simultaneously as a member of the state senate and of congress.

However, it is idle, vain work to attempt to answer the innumerable things you seem to delight to make about me and my political affairs. I have never thought they were of enough importance to notice until now, when you assert a deliberate falsehood and print a half column editorial in elaboration of it.

The Record makes a weak attempt to reply to Mr. Robinson by saying it understood he gave to charity one of his salaries during the period of his double tenure, but it offers no excuse whatever for its repeated petty jabs. The fact seems to be that Mr. Robinson in down on his political blacklist along with Senator Quay and certain other prominent politicians who would not in prior years respond to overtures of one of its present attaches.

The people of Chicago, without regard to party, the other evening tendered Governor Altgeld a magnificent reception, which is perhaps another way of saying that Altgeld is not half as black as he has been painted.

The State School Appropriation.

The argument that the condition of the state's finances justifies a curtailment of the biennial state appropriation for public education has no weight with us. If the state, through its legislature, has in the past contracted obligations foolishly it must retrench where its extravagances began.

But we are more disposed to consider the argument that profuse state aid is really unwise for the best interests of the schools themselves. It may be doubted if the tendency of local school boards throughout the commonwealth to depend for financial support on the state treasury at Harrisburg has not progressed further than it is compatible with local self-reliance and the wholesome spirit of self-help which used to be proverbially characteristic of Americans.

At least two things are greatly needed in Scranton now: a larger police force and a shaking up of the present force.

To Check Consumption's Spread.

The growing tendency among sanitarians to employ the police powers of society in the battle against consumption is strongly manifest in a paper recently read by Naval Surgeon Thomas C. Craig before the National Sanitary Association. This paper is reproduced in the last issue of the Medical Record and is most readable.

At first it might be merely a control over his place of residence; as, for example, where there might be a consumptive patient who was confined by personal or financial reasons to a private, and sleep in the same room with healthy persons, or where it might be impossible for him to leave his home, and necessary for him to go and from his place of business in public conveniences, or necessary for him to meet persons daily in the conduct of his business.

CONCERNING VACCINATION. Editor of The Tribune. Sir:—Referring to the case of John McLean before the Jermyn school board, in your issue of Jan. 1st, I desire to give a few facts in regard to vaccination which, if the school board knew, they would never attempt to enforce absurd laws as the one in question.

The fact is, the legislature was imposed upon by doctors who knew nothing of vaccination beyond the mere modus operandi of the inoculation syringe.

Here is wishing good luck tonight to Brothers Smith and McClure in their joint effort to enlighten the Pennsylvania legislature to the need of a revision of the libel laws.

Considering what Grover did for her while Dolé's republic was yet young, it seems to us that Queen Lill is unkind to pursue him now.

The unpleasantness over at the Frothingham theater on Saturday evening may be in the end productive of good.

Perhaps many readers will remember a presentation of the Ben-Hur tableaux that was given at the Academy several years ago for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian association gymnasium.

Several gentlemen who have been slated by the press for the navy portfolio will surely discover on examination that there are large blowholes in their political prospects.

INTERFERENCE PLAYS. From the Times-Herald. In the cabinet game at Canton some very interesting interference plays have been put up lately.

ITS FIRST DIVIDEND. From the Times-Herald. Count Castellani's western union has paid its first dividend.

Miss Minnie Jones, an accountant of Philadelphia, who had been secured at a large expense to read the "Chariot Race," a novel by the liberal, patriotic and successful entrepreneur, by the time the accountant and the lady manager and her called customers were well out of town had nothing left for the Young Men's Christian association gymnasium fund.

While the result can not always be traced in enterprises of this nature, it is safe to wager that in nine cases out of ten the fairer will get the lion's share, if not the entire profits of an amateur entertainment in the interest of charity, if given half a chance at the box office.

From police court reports I judge it is getting rather expensive to commit crime in Scranton. A charge was made on the other day for sand-bagging a drunken man. It is proper, however, to state that the drunken man was promptly placed in jail for not paying his fine.

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LYMAN J. GAGE.

From the Times-Herald. If the business men of Chicago and the northwest were to be asked to name the ideal secretary of the treasury, regardless of politics, they would be practically unanimous in selecting Lyman J. Gage.

EXCELSIOR.

The shades of night were not yet drawn. When in a mill where wool is spun, a lot of boys were told to haul away the stuff that carvers call Excelsior.

Next day some skilled mechanics come: Sharp needles ply; swift shuttles hum; Huge sacks are made with corners square, And scheming hands deposit there.

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