

The Scranton Tribune

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Is it not the appointed duty of the pulpit to preach against a condition of morals which perceives no impropriety in expending a great fortune in a fancy dress ball while hundreds, perhaps thousands, of human beings are being starved to death within the shadows of that social pomp?

Arbitration Up-to-Date.

In its present form the Treaty of Arbitration enables the submission during the next five years to a joint tribunal of arbiters, by and with the consent of the treaty-making powers of the two governments, of all questions which shall become in serious dispute between Great Britain and the United States, save questions of domestic or foreign policy, which latter shall be submitted to arbitration only by special agreement.

This adjustment of the treaty renders it widely different from the wide-open instrument negotiated by Secretary Olney. We do not concur in the opinion that it necessarily robs the treaty of vitality. Where there is a will for arbitration the treaty in present form provides an equitable way; where there is no will, or only a faint one, no treaty, however appealing, could avail.

Concerning the probabilities of its ratification we have never had a moment's doubt. There is no immediate hurry. We have five months' margin in which to consider the matter in all its bearings. The good sense of the senate is certain to prevail in the end.

Propositions are before congress to consolidate United States Circuit and District courts and give to the judges a uniform salary of \$6,000 a year. These two nominally different classes of courts are now practically one in jurisdiction and duties, consequently it is not reasonable that they should longer be differentiated in point of name or judicial pay.

The Climax of Speculative Idiocy. One of the most absurd ideas put forth in many a day is that of a foreign naval officer who, in the North American Review, lays down the conjecture that if the United States were to recognize the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents and Spain were in turn to make that recognition a pretext for war, the powers of Europe would join with Spain in punishing us for our presumption.

This theory overlooks, to begin with, the fact that England, Russia and France, without whose co-operation no anti-American concert of European powers could hold together over night, are on terms of marked friendliness with us. England has already pledged herself to a policy of arbitration directly opposite in all its tendencies to the notion of a sympathetic alliance with Spain.

That is the first fact which the foreign naval officer overlooks. Another thing which has escaped his attention is that in addition to the innumerable enormous investments in American securities which are held by Europeans and which such a collusion would imperil, the principal continental countries are nowadays dependent to a very large extent upon the food supplies which they receive by importation from the United States. Should they cut these off, where would they look for cereals and meats to take their place?

A third point seemingly omitted from the calculations of this ingenious commentator is that, in order to make an anti-Yankee coalition effective the powers of Europe would have to send their ships 3,000 miles across the seas and do their land fighting at our front doors, giving us every conceivable advantage. Apart from the destruction which they might effect on our unprotected coasts—and we wish to express a doubt whether even this would be considerable—they could harm us in very small proportion to the loss which we could inflict in retaliation. The exposure with regard to merchant vessels is now almost wholly on Europe's side.

made the blood of every American citizen boil with indignation. If, then, after doing all that it was in honor bound to do in recognition of its treaty obligations to Spain, the United States should at any time after two years of Cuban war see fit to accord such recognition to the opponents of Spain as Spain, during our civil war, within sixty days after the firing on Fort Sumter, gave to our rebels in that conflict, it would be clear to the world and to history that we had acted honestly, fairly and uprightly, and we could well afford to welcome the consequences.

It is probable that as a result of recent developments in steel rail trade, the next tariff law will considerably lower the present duty of \$7.84 per ton on steel rails. An industry which can make rails for \$12 a ton evidently does not stand in need of much tariff protection.

The National Congress of Mothers.

We have already spoken in terms of approval of the National Congress of Mothers which is to assemble this week in Washington. Its object, in brief, is to evolve by discussion the best thought and methods bearing upon the proper training of the young, and to develop, if possible, among the women of America a higher realization of the duties and responsibilities of motherhood. This purpose is illustrated by mention of the subjects which are to be considered during the congress's three-day session:

The first session will be opened at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning by the Rev. W. H. Milburn, of Washington, D. C. Following this will be the address of welcome by Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, of Washington, president of the society. The response will be made by Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, of New York city, president of several clubs and one of the most prominent club women in the United States. At the close of the morning's meeting Mrs. Cleveland will receive the members of the Congress of Mothers at the White House.

On Wednesday afternoon the first number on the programme will be a lecture on "Mother and Child of the Primitive World," by Frank Hamilton Cushing, of Washington, D. C. Mr. Cushing is a noted ethnologist and the author of many works upon this subject. After his address Mrs. Lucy S. Banbridge, of New York city, will talk upon "Mothers of the Submerged World" and "Day Nurseries." Then will follow a talk on "What the Kindergarten Means to Mothers," by Miss Amalie Hofer, of Chicago, Ill., one of the well known kindergarteners. Mrs. Rebekah Kohut, of New York city, a prominent member of the National Council of Jewish Women, will close the afternoon session with a talk upon "Parental Reverence as Taught in the Hebrew Homes," Wednesday evening there will be two lectures. One by Mrs. W. F. Crafts, of Washington, D. C., on "Mothers and Schools," and the other by Rev. W. A. Bartlett, of Lowell, Mass., on "The Value of Music in the Development of Character."

There is an interesting programme for Thursday also. Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth will conduct the devotional service at the opening of the morning session. A talk by Mrs. Louise E. Hogan, of Germantown, Pa., will follow this. Her subject is "Dietetics." Next, Mrs. Jenness Miller, of Washington, D. C., the celebrated dress reformer, will talk upon "Mother's Relation to the Sound Physical Development of Her Child." Two other subjects of the morning will be "Reproduction and Natural Law" and "The Moral Reformer"; the former topic to be discussed by Mrs. Alice Lee Moque, of Washington, D. C., and the latter by Mrs. Helen H. Gardner, of Boston, Mass.

The first talk on Thursday afternoon will be given by Miss Frances Newton, a prominent kindergarten of Chicago, Ill., and principal of the Chautauqua kindergarten. Her address will be upon "The Mother's Greatest Needs." Miss Constance Mackenzie, of Philadelphia, will discuss "Play Grounds," and the afternoon session will close with "Some Practical Results of Child Study" by Dr. G. Stanley Hall, the well known writer on psychological and educational subjects, and president of Clark university at Worcester, Mass. Thursday evening Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, editor of Harper's Bazaar, will be one of the speakers. Her subject will be "Reading Courses for Mothers." Anthony Comstock will also be present and talk on the cause in connection with which he is so well known, "How to Guard our Youth Against Bad Literature."

Friday morning the programme includes a talk on "Hereditry," by Mrs. F. H. Felton, of Cartersville, Ga.; one on "Physical Culture," by Miss Julia King, of Boston, Mass.; "Character Building versus Education," by Mrs. Ellen Richardson, of Boston, Mass., and "National Training School for Women," by Mrs. Sallie A. Cotton, of Palkland, N. C. On Friday afternoon, Miss Anna A. Schryver, of Ann Arbor, Mich., will discuss "Nature Studies in the Home"; Mr. Hamilton Mable, of New York city, will read a paper entitled "Importance of Bringing the Youth in Touch with Great Literature," and Dr. Walter L. Hervey, also of New York city, will discuss the subject of stories for children. Friday evening Mrs. Stanton Blatch, of New York city, a daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, will address the congress on "How Shall the Nation Secure Educated Mothers?" Another speaker of the evening will be Mrs. Ellen M. Hentrott, of Chicago, Ill., one of the foremost of club women.

It is demonstrated by this programme that the congress will possess not only widespread interest but also decided importance. It will, we trust, inaugurate a permanent organized movement toward the lifting up of the ideals of the home.

According to Mr. Graham Wallas, an educated Englishman now lecturing in this country, Americans take too much for granted. "It is everywhere assumed," says he, "predominantly in the newspapers, that society is composed of single individuals, each of whom is equally well informed on all matters of which he is expected to know anything. The assumption implies that all eyes can see the stage of public action, and, consequently, that each voter can at any moment pronounce an unbiased opinion on any point required. Historically considered this is very in-

teresting; it recalls the 18th century, when we took our politics ready made. But to one interested in America not merely in the historical and scientific view, who comes here rather as a friend, and whose affection for the country doubles about every three days, this assumption has the disadvantage of seeming absolutely and entirely wrong. We should like Mr. Wallas to explain how much better it would work to substitute the doctrine of Carlyle that mankind, severally and collectively, are a pack of fools.

The Reading Times again twits Scranton with its lack of a market house. The attempt of Reading to imagine itself in Scranton's class reminds us of the fable about the fly and the ox.

Governor Black is determined that New York's white elephant "new" capitol shall soon reach completion. And Pennsylvania is determined to profit by New York's example.

Public interest on public deposits ought, with seemingly everybody for it, easily to carry the day. Let us hope that appearances in this case are genuine.

"Is Spain Should Attack Us" is the name of a magazine article. If Spain should attack us Spain would regret it.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

Senator Quay's fiery declaration of war on Senators Magee and Flinn was much talked of among politicians this morning. The opinion prevailed that while Magee and Flinn had a right to receive a vindication in the form of a jury verdict in criminal libel, they should have let the matter rest there and instructed their attorney to move for a suspension of sentence. To follow this one verdict up with a dozen lawsuits is not only unnecessary, but who understands the inevitable exaggerations of bitter factional warfare very much like persecution. There might be excuse for it if the persecutors had done anything of the kind themselves, but having for years fought Quay and Quayling through the press as savagely as they have ever done, they are now attacking their opponents, the idea is general that they are exhibiting unexpected vindictiveness in forcing to a legal conclusion a series of ill suits not necessary to establish their character or to keep them in meat and potatoes.

It is possible that before Senator Quay completes the "gentleman" of his ideas about legislation to the gentleman of the state senate and house, and concludes the campaign of education which he has commenced as senator in Allegheny county, not only will Magee and Flinn regret having pushed their case beyond the limits of manly fighting, but also Mark Hanna may be made to receive the undesirability of further alliances with the anti-Quay faction in Pennsylvania. With Senator Quay a light is over when the curtain is rung down; but if the other side forces a resurrection of the past, he is usually able to accommodate it. It is worthy of note that the defendants made no defense. There are those who say that their reticence was voluntary and had origin in a desire not to offend the new administration. But if Hanna's allies force a show of evidence, then the defendants will be acquitted of responsibility for whatever scandal may develop.

The news comes from Philadelphia that Luther C. Darte, of Wilkes-Barre, is favorably considered as a candidate for auditor-general. Darte is a brother of Judge Darte and a political fighter of excellent strategy and intelligent generosity. He has frequently shown his ability to do effective work in the interests of others, but it is not known whether he is inclined to enter the state arena on his own account.

The announcement last week of Speaker Boyer's candidacy for governor, while not made officially, sufficed to attract general attention. Boyer's prominence and popularity in the Quaker city were both shown during the recent senatorial fight. It was generally expected that he would be a candidate for speaker against him. If the next gubernatorial nomination shall go to Philadelphia, it could not be a more fitting honor than to have in that office a man who has done so much for the state house of representatives. In this connection we understand that Hon. John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, is to be an anti-Quay gubernatorial candidate next year.

HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

From the Sun. Brave little Greece would rather fight powerful Turkey who would destroy her, than the sufferings of the Christians in Crete. Now look across the way from our shores at General Weyler, cruel as a Turk, and sword of bloody Weyler. The spirit of liberty that leads little Greece to challenge the mighty Turk to combat has no place in Cleveland's administration of the government. Whether that spirit is a recent people by the thousand, and ravaging Cuba as the Turks never ravaged Crete. And look at the powerful United States separated from Cuba by a hundred miles, regardless of the sufferings which the Cubans, struggling to establish their liberty, have endured for years at the hands of Spain.

Turkey has a great army made up of troops as ferocious as any in the world. Greece has but a small army, recruited from a population not much larger than that of the city of New York. Yet Greece is ready to take up arms against Turkey in behalf of the brave people of the outlying island of Crete. The United States, with more than three times the population of Spain, and able to raise an army of millions, stands unconcerned, utters not even a word of reproach to Spain, while desolate Cuba shrieks as she shrinks from the fire and sword of bloody Weyler. The spirit of liberty that leads little Greece to challenge the mighty Turk to combat has no place in Cleveland's administration of the government. The commissioners estimate the cost of the present bill to be \$1,000,000, and the summing up of extra jurors and the new building law going into effect has required additional outlays of money, yet these have all been fully provided for and met. During the past year the court has had a great improvement in the court house building at an expense of \$75,000, yet with this extraordinary outlay they closed the year with a balance on hand of \$1,000,000, and as money received by the county in excess of the expenditures for the year. All of this has been accomplished at an extremely low tax rate, considerably lower than prevails in most of the counties of Pennsylvania, especially the larger ones, and this condition is the result of a judicious and honest administration of the trust that the people have reposed in them. The summary of the financial condition of the county shows the assets to be \$2,355,235, and the liabilities \$120,000, leaving the assets of the county in excess of all liabilities almost \$2,235,000. The commissioners estimate the expenses of the current year at \$247,000, and with receipts approaching the figures of last year there should be a fine balance at the end of the year. The Messrs. Roberts and Demuth are well deserving of the confidence of the people, and their second term will be a credit to the county. In the summer the children of the rich can make up their studies, for they are able to buy books, but it is a great hardship for the poor man to supply these.

A WELL-MANAGED COUNTY.

From the Providence Register. Since the present board of county commissioners first took office there has been a considerable increase in the court work of the county, necessitating the holding of more courts and the summoning of extra jurors, and the new building law going into effect has required additional outlays of money, yet these have all been fully provided for and met. During the past year the court has had a great improvement in the court house building at an expense of \$75,000, yet with this extraordinary outlay they closed the year with a balance on hand of \$1,000,000, and as money received by the county in excess of the expenditures for the year. All of this has been accomplished at an extremely low tax rate, considerably lower than prevails in most of the counties of Pennsylvania, especially the larger ones, and this condition is the result of a judicious and honest administration of the trust that the people have reposed in them. The summary of the financial condition of the county shows the assets to be \$2,355,235, and the liabilities \$120,000, leaving the assets of the county in excess of all liabilities almost \$2,235,000. The commissioners estimate the expenses of the current year at \$247,000, and with receipts approaching the figures of last year there should be a fine balance at the end of the year. The Messrs. Roberts and Demuth are well deserving of the confidence of the people, and their second term will be a credit to the county. In the summer the children of the rich can make up their studies, for they are able to buy books, but it is a great hardship for the poor man to supply these.

STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Harrisburg, Feb. 11.—The destruction of the capitol building and the biennial talk of cutting down the state appropriation to the public schools has led to a movement for an increase in the state revenues. Three bills have been introduced in the house of representatives by Ward R. Bliss, of Delaware. They are founded on the principles of existing revenue laws and do not require a legal mind to interpret them. The bills will be taken up for discussion at the next meeting of the ways and means committee.

The governor's message and the report of the state treasurer for 1896. Mr. Bliss said, "show that the revenues of the state are about \$2,000,000 a year less than enough to pay the ordinary expenses of the state government. To scale the expenses down to the ordinary figure would be disgraceful parsimony. Even now the condition of the insane asylums and prisons is a disgrace to a state as rich as Pennsylvania. Necessarily these expenses will increase from year to year. Now comes the sudden necessity of building a new capitol building, which will cost a million dollars a year for the next three years.

Where is the necessary money to be found? On this point Mr. Bliss suggested that we get it by reducing the state appropriation to the public schools and by cutting off all the appropriations to charitable institutions. This is a time-saving suggestion. It is, in effect, a proposition to put upon the unfortunate victims of accident and disease, and upon the rest of the school children, the cost of building the new capitol and of making up the present deficiency of revenue. The people will not condone such a proposal and the proposition cannot command the votes of one-third of the present house of representatives. The Republican party will not support such a proposition as expressive of its highest wisdom and ability to meet a great emergency.

On the other hand, there have been made certain suggestions that have been embodied in my three revenue bills. They propose emergency taxes only, continuing for this condition. The bill and calendar files were destroyed and they have not yet been replaced. The metallic cases used for storing bills have been taken from the rooms of the building and placed in the basement of Grace church. The senate records were preserved intact, the books not even getting wet. The cases were erected recently by the Pennsylvania Construction company, of Marietta, and are in good condition. The files will be complete when the house reconvenes Wednesday evening. The senate will not meet again until the evening of Feb. 22. The senators are so far ahead of their colleagues with their work that they can afford to take a longer holiday. Captain DeLoane, superintendent of public buildings, is taking advantage of the recess to put the finishing touches on the legislative halls in Grace church. Handsome new carpets have been put down in the senate and house chambers and committee rooms. The senators' dinner sets were decorated and placed in the basement of Grace church. The senate records were preserved intact, the books not even getting wet. The cases were erected recently by the Pennsylvania Construction company, of Marietta, and are in good condition.

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The leading events of the coming week will be the proposed inquiry into the state treasury and auditor general's office under the Mitchell resolution and a conference of state officials on the public revenues. The investigation will begin Thursday with the treasury department, Mr. Haywood being the first witness. Senator Mitchell will be the chief inquirer. Governor Hastings, Attorney General McCormick, State Treasurer Haywood and Chairman Marshall and Mitchell of the finance and public revenues committee, will come together Wednesday for a talk on state finances.

John F. Keator, of Philadelphia, has prepared an important piece of legislation which he will introduce at the next session of the house. The purpose of the proposed law is to prevent the purchase of the loan, gift, sale or distribution of indecent and immoral writings, printings, pictures, photographs, or representations of any kind, and to prevent the advertisement, exhibition or publication of the same and to authorize the seizure and destruction of all such matter.

A SOLEMN WARNING.

From the Atlanta Sun. In every town there are broad-shouldered, stalwart men leading idle lives and complaining that they can get nothing to do. Their ruin dates back from a little federal office, which unfitted them for useful work. They lost their places, and will stand around for the remainder of their lives like unemployed friends and waiting for an appointment.

A HAPPY CONJUNCTION.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph. It is gratifying to note the interest taken by the president-elect in the proposed new federal department of commerce and manufactures. This scheme is a happy combination of business and politics, and should wherever be pushed along.

"WELSH RABBIT."

A sparrow on my window ledge Flayed loudly at the moon; Can you see that rabbit's nose? That snags a robin's nose; And even as it flayed it grew As big as a balloon; And then it thrunk it until it was A fre-fly in the gloom; But on a sudden came to be An arc-light in my room. The bird with his tongue and said: "I am the crack o' doom!" And then it grew a purple blot, Which changed to a vivid red; From that a blue rabbit came And sat upon my head, And with his lobster-claws it pinched The blood flowed down and filled the room. Until the bed did that; The rabbit struck the head of the bed; The rabbit struck the head of the bed; But, somehow, suddenly, it was A solemn bearded goat! And then the sea changed by degrees, Till it became a flock Of crimson blackbirds, cracking jests, "I'm a yellow neck, my friend; On which we stranded suddenly; And I woke with the shock. —H. H. Bennett, in the Philistine.

GILSMITH'S BAZAAR.

Embroideries, Laces and Ruchings.

All of the Novelties now in and ready for inspection. "Dame Fashion" says that these three articles will enter more into Ladies' Dress this coming Spring and Summer than ever before. Our buyers have taken great pains in selecting the newest productions of England, France, Germany and Switzerland.

Don't lose sight of our Great February Sale of Muslin Underwear.

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A single one has been advanced faster than first reading in the other branch. The capitol fire is in a degree responsible for this condition. The bill and calendar files were destroyed and they have not yet been replaced. The metallic cases used for storing bills have been taken from the rooms of the building and placed in the basement of Grace church. The senate records were preserved intact, the books not even getting wet. The cases were erected recently by the Pennsylvania Construction company, of Marietta, and are in good condition.

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