

The Scranton Tribune

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In the year ended June 30, 1896, Pennsylvania's steam railways, with a mileage of 19,000, killed 37 persons while its street railways killed 32 with only 156 miles of track. It is evidently time for the public to insist upon fenders.

Some Comparisons.

If Dr. Ruiz had been a citizen of Great Britain and had been done to death by Spanish jailers in a Cuban prison, whether he had been conveyed without warrant and in ignorance of any charge against him, it is safe to say that no disagreement or friction would have arisen among the officials of her majesty's government, but every one of them, from the premier down to the lowest subaltern in the royal navy, would have used his best energy to expedite a demand on Spain for satisfaction, and as a guarantee that such an outrage would not be repeated, would have put a well-armed warship within shooting distance of the captain-general's palace.

If among the victims of Weyler's policy of arresting every resident of Cuba not willing or prepared to buy release, and thrusting him into some foul dungeon to be slowly starved or driven insane by the vile surroundings were numbered a score or more subjects of Great Britain, in whose behalf the British consul-general at Havana had vainly interceded with the Spanish authorities, it would be about fifteen seconds before the British secretary of state for foreign affairs would cable to Madrid a peremptory demand for the surrender into British hands of those prisoners, whether their naturalization papers were exactly correct or not.

If any nation on earth except the United States were subjected by another nation to the provocation which Spain has apparently with impunity offered to us, time and time again, in connection with the Cuban revolution, its hand would be lifted to strike back and it would be at all particular to lighten the blow. The superiority of American civilization over the civilization of Europe may perhaps be shown, among other ways, in the willingness of this republic, when smitten on one cheek, to turn the other. The differences which we have pointed out between our course toward Spain and the course which history teaches would have been England's under similar circumstances may be points in our favor. But it will require a mental struggle to get us to believe so.

The Philadelphia Inquirer concludes an editorial with the ejaculation: "God bless the woman!" We hasten to record a hearty "Amen!"

Pennsylvania and the Cabinet.

Writing upon a theme of present interest, a special contributor to the Philadelphia Bulletin remarks:

It is a fact that there are probably not more than two presidents of the United States who have not offered a Pennsylvania man a seat in their cabinets; but this time the state does not even get the compliment of an offer. And yet, let us stop to consider that this is the one great state outside of New England that has never wavered for a Republican candidate for the American presidency, and that it gave McKinley a greater majority than all the states combined which will be represented in his cabinet by Sherman, Gage, Wilson and McKenna.

With the utmost possible respect for the president-elect, for whom every honest citizen wishes a successful and harmonious administration, this treatment of the bulwark state of Republicanism—the state which literally gave more than half of Major McKinley's popular majority—has all the appearances of a mistake. It is true that Pennsylvania's devotion to the principles of the Republican party rests on a more substantial foundation than appetite for office, and is not likely to be chilled even by exclusion from the cabinet councils; yet to have the impression go forth that party service is not appreciated can hardly be otherwise than unfortunate.

It is not that Pennsylvania lacks cabinet material. No one can for an instant suppose this to be the reason of its passing by. Nor is it that the state's political, industrial and commercial interests are insufficient in magnitude to warrant cabinet representation. With Maryland in while Pennsylvania is out, this conjecture also will not serve. There remains for consideration the third hypothesis that Pennsylvania has been ignored because there has been factionalism within its borders, but there was factionalism in Illinois, and that did not militate against Mr. Gage; in New York, yet Mr. McCook was selected; and in Ohio, yet Mr. Sherman's transfer to the premiership was decided upon long before the new dispensation of harmony in that state. In each of these cases, it is worthy of notice that the invitation to cabinet honors tended to heal rather than to irritate the factional party differences, and it is our judgment that a choice could easily have been made from Pennsylvania which would have produced a similar effect.

The right of a president to choose his official advisers in accordance with his own judgment is freely conceded, and it must also be said that if the new cabinet shall ultimately be constituted as at present seems probable, it will possess many elements of strength. But the one fact remains that the backbone commonwealth of the Republican party has been rewarded for the biggest majority ever cast on any ticket in any state by what on the surface looks very like a slight. In all kindness we trust that surface appearances in this matter, as so frequently happens in politics, are deceptive.

While the course of the federal authorities in prosecuting Editor Dunlop of the Chicago Dispatch for printing vile advertisements was thoroughly justifiable and while his two years' term in the penitentiary will doubtless have an exemplary effect, it is curious to recall that the high-toned James

Gordon Bennett permitted for years a disreputable "personal" column to appear in the New York Herald, in which the lowest of traffics was unblushingly exploited, and not a move was made to bring him to account. It would be interesting to know the basis of this apparent discrimination.

Because Utah wishes to place in the capital at Washington a statue of Brigham Young, a howl is raised. Why? The privilege which Utah seeks is one that by law belongs to each state in the Union, and her selection of a subject is simply a ratification of history's testimony to Young's greatness as the conqueror of a wilderness. Grant that his religious views were out of joint, what has congress to do with them?

Protect American Citizenship.

There is some ground for affirming that the alien who wishes to acquire American citizenship ought not, after he gets it, to use it simply as a shield to facilitate intermeddling with the politics of the country whose sovereignty he has renounced. It is possible that a good many Cubans, after acquiring naturalization papers in this country, have treated Uncle Sam shabbily by rushing back to their native island to stir up trouble. In other words, their American citizenship was not as sincere as such citizenship should be, but was lightly sought and won for an ulterior purpose. We quite agree with those who affirm that if any way is open to prevent such naturalizations, it should be adopted without delay. But we must dissent from the proposition that, having granted such naturalization, it is not our duty as a nation to assume the full responsibility therefor.

Whatever the errors in our present method of adopting aliens into citizenship, one principle needs to be emphasized in our diplomacy to the very utmost, and that is that the rights of American citizenship must be protected, on every land and sea. We use the word "rights" advisedly, for it should not be our intent to encourage swaggering and offensive conduct by Americans in foreign countries. The bully is none the less a bully for being an alleged Yankee, nor is it proper to sustain in an American abroad actions which we would not tolerate in that same American at home. But in every country we have official representatives to make inquiry concerning these points, and when through official channels our state department learns that an American citizen has been ill-treated in another land, its duty is not only to exact satisfaction, but to do so with such dispatch and firmness that the incident will have educational value in preventing a recurrence of the indignity.

It is a notorious fact that for one reason or another the principle of which we have spoken has obtained in our diplomacy more often in theory than in practice. The result is that an American who travels beyond the confines of the United States, though he be ever so inoffensive, is likely in many places to be treated, if not with some conspicuous form of abuse such as can be brought to the attention of the American government, then with petty disdain and annoyances all the more exasperating because not of sufficient magnitude to court official investigation.

The fact that Americans are singled out for such scant courtesy while Englishmen, on the other hand, even when they give cause for offence, are treated with marked deference and consideration, proves that the difference arises from political grounds rather than personal, and is to be accounted for solely by the superior virility and decision with which the English foreign office punishes contempt for the British passport.

The time has come for a new deal in American diplomacy. It might better take the chance of occasionally going wrong in its insistence upon foreign respect for American credentials than, by shading its policy on the side of caution, to entail upon the whole number of Americans abroad frequent occasion for humiliation.

Now that the spirit of satire is abroad at Harrisburg, can't we also have a resolution of sympathy for Spain?

Amen!

From the Philadelphia Times. It is not surprising that the entire newspaper profession suffers greatly from the just public criticism that comes alike from the pulpit, from intelligent and self-respecting social circles and especially from the homes of the land, on the tenacity of a few persons who persist in making their columns teem with the most nauseating scandals of the day, and to mingle with their news every possible appeal to the most prurient tastes of their readers. This degradation of journalism is conspicuously exhibited in two newspapers of New York city, and unless self-respecting journalism shall vindicate itself by the manliest expressions against such prostitution of the great educating power of the nation, our journalism must steadily and rapidly decline, not only in the respect of the public, but in the proper and wholesome influence it should exert.

Two journals now leading in this reckless prostitution of one of the noblest professions of the age, have assumed the place of the pink-tinted Police Gazette of a few years ago, that never found admission into a decent American home, and of which no reputable citizen was willing to be known as a reader. Every scandal of society, important or unimportant, is magnified into columns of sensational text, profusely illustrated, and innocent homes are shadowed with sorrow by connecting them with the crimes or follies of those who happen to bear relation to them. Indeed, almost every page of these journals has the flavor of the brothel, and every real or imaginary evil of the country is portrayed in language that is fitted only to be read by those who love to revel in the degradation of every noble attribute of man and woman. It is not surprising that in all intelligent and law-loving circles there is profound disgust for such journalism, and it logically teaches disrepute for journalism as a profession and greatly lessens the power of our newspapers to perform their high duties as instructors of the American people. If the press shall become degenerate, it must mean that the people are becoming degenerate also, and the fact that two leading newspapers of the nation

can so wholly prostitute themselves to the worst possible uses and pour out each day stench and vile currents of moral pollution, fully justifies the general alarm that is felt for the dignity and integrity of the American press. There is no such prostitution of journalism in England or in any other country of the world, and there cannot be such prostitution of American journalism unless the American people are willing to submit to it. Whenever they shall demand clean journalism they will be certain to have it; but as long as they tolerate sensational vulgarly and indecency this moral misdeed of journalism will steadily extend itself until the home and the newspaper must become strangers.

Although Mr. John H. Converse of Philadelphia denies that he has been promised the new cabinet portfolio of commerce, should it be created, and intimates that he has no wish to hold public office, he cannot deny that his selection for that position would give exceptional satisfaction. He is the man for the place provided the place is opened.

The South All Right.

There were two incidents of Washington's birthday in New York that deserve to be noted. They occurred in connection with the celebration of that anniversary by the Southern society, an organization of prominent men of southern birth who have made the metropolis their home. In the first instance, the chairman of the society, Mr. Thompson, was speaking and in the course of his remarks he said—we quote from the Sun:

"We Southerners are all back in our father's house, and we are there to stay, and there will be found no one more loyal or more energetic in defense of the constitution than the members of the old Southern states." The effect of this was electrical. The entire company rose to their feet and sang in a rousing chorus the first verse of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and there was a rattling burst of applause to finish up.

A little later Theodore Roosevelt was introduced.

"Washington," he said, "was a man of peace, but he fought. If we follow Washington's example we will vote for the arbitration treaty and a large increase of the navy." The remark was unexpected, and it produced a great effect. Men rose in their seats and waved their napkins, and many of them cheered. But this outburst was nothing to the sensation he aroused when Mr. Roosevelt said that he was glad to see that the United States took no part with England, Germany, France and Italy in demanding, at the mouth of the Amazon, that Greece should stop her patriotic struggle. It was several minutes before Mr. Roosevelt could proceed. "When we think," he exclaimed, "of what the American people have suffered, you can understand why I rejoice that the navy of the United States had no part in this demonstration." There wasn't a man in the banquet hall who did not clap his hands enthusiastically. A number of the diners got upon their feet again and cheered and waved napkins frantically.

It is true that he might also have said a word for Cuba; but when we reflect upon the unanimity of sentiment among the southern senators and representatives in Washington, in favor of according to the Cuban insurgents some token of America's official recognition, it becomes apparent in connection with the incidents narrated above that in matters of foreign policy at least the south is decidedly all right. Now if it would only purify and civilize its domestic politics!

After a fair trial Captain Hart of the Lagrada has been convicted of providing means for a military enterprise organized in this country and intended to be carried on against Spain. The conviction is a result of plain evidence and the statute under which it was made is a wise and necessary one. In Hart's sympathy for Cuba he clearly broke the law and therefore deserved conviction, but the next president of the United States will find his suitable case for speedy clemency.

It is said Mr. Bryan is receiving in royalties from his book \$100 a day. When we recollect that the post Milton sold the whole of "Paradise Lost" for \$75 the backwardness of the ancients in the matter of free advertising appears additionally plain.

Senator Sherman is quoted as having declared recently that senators and representatives should be prohibited by law from seeking government places for their friends. This is easy to say when one is about to run a pie counter of one's own.

A Spanish organ at Havana eulogizes President Cleveland for his attitude toward the Cuban filibusters. There is no doubt in the world that Mr. Cleveland has earned Spain's undying gratitude.

It is reported that General Alger favors the "retirement of the greenbacks." It would be more to the point if the public were informed just what he would put in their place.

A man named Altgeld, living in Illinois, continues to charge that McKinley was elected by fraud. It is his last hope for keeping his name in print.

TO MY PIPE.

Oh, I love the merry gurgle of my pipe, Brier pipe; When the flavor of the weed within is ripe; What a lullaby it purrs, As the smoke around me curls, Mounting slowly, higher, higher, As I dream before the fire. With a flavor in my mouth, Like a zephyr from the south, And my favorite tobacco By my side— Near my side, With the soothing necromancy Sweetly linking fact to fancy, In a golden memory chain. To the sturdy, sweet refrain, Of my pipe, brier pipe, To the fancy-breeding gurgle of my pipe, Oh, what subtle satisfaction in my pipe, Brier pipe; Nothing man-like can impart Such contentment to my heart: She's my idol, she's my queen, Is my lady Nicotine; When in trouble how I yearn For the nicotine which I turn At her shrine. How I pine For the fragrance of her breath; Robber of terror 'er is death By her harmless hypnotism; Healed is every mortal schism. Fond and friend Sweetly blend At the burning of the brier; Good, quality, desire, Fade away with the smoke, In the fragrant, reezy smoke From my pipe, magic pipe, From my glowing, peace-bestowing, gurgling pipe. —Sigel Roush in the Sun.

STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

In correction of some misapprehensions which have arisen as to some of the provisions of the new fish bill introduced in the legislature by the Pennsylvania Fish commission, the Philadelphia Ledger explains that "among the vital changes in the proposed law is the fact that the minimum size of brook trout which may be legally caught from five to six inches, and of black bass from six to nine inches. It is with respect to the raising of the minimum limit of black bass three inches that some misapprehension regarding the motives of the commission has arisen. Many people, who are entitled to six inches is too small, think that seven or eight inches at the most would be quite sufficient. But the commission has ample evidence that the black bass does not ordinarily spawn until it has become eight inches long, and thus to fix a limit of less than the inch would be to afford any more protection or promote the increase of the species than the present limit of six inches. The black bass are steadily decreasing in the streams of the state, notwithstanding their wonderfully reproductive character, and the reason is that fully nine-tenths of this species of fish killed have never reached the minimum size of the law. Protection is given the sunfish. This is a new and desirable provision, for the game little 'pumpkin seed,' as the fish is sometimes called, is fast disappearing from the streams. Fishing with outlines or set lines is specifically prohibited, and persons are forbidden to ask for trout fry with which to stock private waters. By far the most important clause in the proposed bill is one to encourage the raising of brook trout by hatcheries. If this becomes a law it is estimated by the commissioners that at least 2,000,000 trout fry in addition to the 2,000,000 now annually raised will be available for distribution in the free streams of the state."

Representative Young, of Philadelphia, has introduced a bill designed to prevent the padding of the assessors' lists previous to an election. The vital provisions of the bill are: That the assessor shall be bound for \$1,000 for the faithful performance of his duty, signed by two freeholders of the election district, and to visit every house in the district at least three times to ascertain the names of the voters residing therein. The assessor is forbidden to place any name upon the assessors' list except at the information of the voter himself. He is also required to sit at the polling place on four days, eight hours per day, and three hours in the evening, for the purpose of assessing any voters who may have been missed in his previous assessments and who present themselves for assessment. In addition, the assessor is required to be present at the polls from the opening to the closing of each election, and to be considered one of the election officers. He is further required to sign an affidavit that no one but bona fide residents of the ward, borough, township or division voted at the election and to make out and file with the returning officer a list of all persons who voted, with name and address, together with copies of the affidavits signed by persons not on the assessors' lists or who voted upon the assessors' lists of other wards or divisions. The bill also provides for the opening of a public record open to the inspection of anybody of the votes cast in any division and making it possible to ferret out fraudulent voting at any time after the election has taken place. Any assessor violating any provision of this act is liable to have his bond forfeited by the court.

At least \$25,000 will be saved to the taxpayers of the state if the act presented by Mr. Nesbit, of Northumberland county, becomes a law. It provides against the piling up of costs from the multiplication of indictments by district attorneys, justices of the peace or aldermen in criminal cases. It makes it compulsory upon the district attorney to file in one criminal act in one information or return, and to include all offenses growing out of one criminal act in one indictment. The act also provides that the assessor shall be held liable for the cost of the prosecution of the persons involved in one criminal act.

Two school bills have been presented by Mr. Leh, of Northampton county. One provides that the minimum salary hereafter to be paid to teachers in the common schools shall be \$30 per month, provided the teachers shall have served for three entire terms as school teachers. The other bill fixes the minimum school term at eight months.

Two weeks after the Penrose banquet in Philadelphia the friends and adherents of Hon. John Wanamaker will dine at Harrisburg, Wednesday, March 10, is the date fixed. Messrs. Wanamaker, Dolan and many other Pennsylvania gentlemen are present and possibly some speakers from outside the state.

Senator Quay announces that he is too busy with congressional duties to be able to attend the Penrose dinner tomorrow night. Neither will he be able to call on friends at Harrisburg this week or next.

The legislative committee of the state board of education has decided to present a pure bill to the legislature which will establish township boards of health.

The judges' retirement bill is to make its reappearance at the present session of the legislature.

THE CASE OF DR. RUIZ.

From the Post-Express. According to all the evidence obtainable Dr. Ricardo Ruiz was an intelligent, law-abiding man, pursuing his profession peacefully and honorably, and earning a good living for his family by honest work. Whatever may have been his sympathies, in the Cuban struggle for independence, there is no evidence, which a court would take into account, that he has committed an overt act against the Spanish government. He held, as his most precious possession, a certificate of American citizenship, which should have been a shield and buckler against any assault upon his rights as such, anywhere under the sun. For some reason, he had taken to the habit of reading and rapacious of the mercant Ponsdeviella who charged him with having assisted Colonel Arce, on the night of Jan. 10, in detaching a train and capturing ten officers of the Guanabacoa garrison. For this, he was arrested and thrown into prison.

When the charge became known ten men in Guanabacoa went immediately to the judge of instruction and asked that their testimony be taken. They were prepared to prove an alibi for Dr. Ruiz, stating that they had been present with him, at the house of his father, at the evening of the 10th, there being a family entertainment to celebrate an anniversary. At 10 o'clock Dr. Ruiz left the house, accompanied by two of these witnesses, and the three went to his home, where they sat smoking until 11 o'clock, at which time they had a good night. Both these men are Spaniards. The train was captured three miles away at 10:30 o'clock. Upon the flimsiest pretense then, and in the face of this direct contradiction, to which no credit was paid by the authorities, Dr. Ruiz was apprehended and the vengeance of tyranny succeeded. Under Spanish law and by treaty of the United States with Spain, the accused had the right to hear the charge against him and make a preliminary statement within twenty-four hours of his arrest. This right was denied to him, and it is said that our state department was informed thereof, but that Secretary Olney acquiesced in the action of the Spanish government. Still further—under no circumstances can a man arrested under the Spanish law of 1821, which is a guarantee of citizenship by the protocol signed by Caleb Cushing in Madrid in 1875, be held in close solitary confinement

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more than seventy-two hours. This provision was violated ruthlessly in the case of Dr. Ruiz, of which fact our state department was informed promptly by Consul General Lee, but again Secretary Olney made no remonstrance.

Then followed the tortures and assassination of this unfortunate man, American citizen as he was, the torture began on Feb. 12, while Ruiz was waiting patiently the assistance of the government of which he was a citizen, and to which he had appealed for protection. No description of the horrors of the indignity, in the days of his unstrained domination, exceeds in the violetiveness of its persecution and the sufferings of its victims, that which is told of the agony of this man, immured in a Spanish dungeon, in these closing days of the nineteenth century civilization. Upon the awful punishment of the comrade we will not linger. It was repeated again and yet again, in the presence of the brutal Ponsdeviella, gloating over the cries of his victim, who added insult to injury by telling the wretched wife of Dr. Ruiz, with grim irony that she might appeal for redress to the American consul. On the night of Feb. 16, murder did its full work and the tragedy of crime was ended.

It appears that General Lee has done manfully and well throughout the whole of this sad drama. He has protested to the Spanish authorities; he has sought by every means in his power to save Ruiz; he has made the strongest appeals to our government, but all in vain. Spain has treated him with insolence, and Washington has treated him with neglect. No indignity or insult has been spared him. No wonder that, according to the latest dispatches he contemplates, if he has not already, resigned his trust, from sheer inability to protect American citizens, insulted, maltreated, assassinated. What a spectacle does the administration present! What a whirlwind of wrath against it will sweep over the country! What excuse can Cleveland and Olney make? What reparation can they offer for this crowning outrage?

WHY RECOVERY IS SLOW. From the Altoona Tribune. A single loud-mouthed, rattle-brained politician can do more harm in a day than a dozen patriotic and discreet citizens can neutralize in a month. And a company of demagogues, especially if there be a possibility that they may be in a position to carry out their threats, can destroy confidence, paralyze industry, throw thousands upon thousands of working people out of employment and inflict upon the nation and its inhabitants losses aggregating many hundreds of millions.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Aestrolabe cast: 3:38 a. m., for Thursday, Feb. 25, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that an American citizen can best preserve his patriotism and scalp by staying at home these days.

If McKinley's inauguration does not set the wheels of industry in motion, the inaugural ball supper will doubtless agitate the wheels of indignation.

Anxious days will soon arrive for the man with a strawberry shortcake taste who resides at a dried apple pie boarding house.

If the walking is good there is no reason why the Pennsylvania National Guard should not attend the inauguration. Many people who attempt to get a living by their wits have nothing to lose.

Songs of Spring. The Lenten days are drawing near— The days of explanation. When Eccleebub will disappear To take a brief vacation.

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