The Scranton Tribune

Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition.

Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

New York Representative:
FRANK S. GRAY CO.
Room 45, Tribune Building, New York City.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, MARCH 8, 1897.

To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION by the writer's true name. To this just rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

Now watch the senate reverse itself on the arbitration treaty.

The Proper Spirit.

We like the tone in which Senator Platt, of New York, concludes an eulogistic comment on the inaugural address with the words: "The Republicans of New York are as anxious as those of any other state to see success follow in the train of the administration. President McKinley will be loyally supported by us."

While no person of judgment supposed that his attitude toward the administration would be other than friendly, it will discount irresponsible tittle-tattle to have his opinion thus plainly announced from the very beginning of his second career in the senate. The opposition which Mr. Platt, Senator Quay and others led against Major McKinley's candidacy for the St. Louis nomination was in no sense personal; and it became embittered, never against him, but only against the factionists who in some localities used his name as a shield for ulterior and selfish purposes. The nomination made, these stalwart leaders proved their Republicanism by loyal party service promptly and ably rendered, and stand ready to prove it again whenever occasion shall require.

The fact that the new president is aiming to heal up factional dissensions wherever he can offers an excellent example to the party at large. Honorable harmony is everywhere to be commended. The good results hoped for from the present administration should not be embarrassed by uncertainty and wanton party strife.

If the government can get good armor plate for $300 a ton why has it been paying nearly twice that price for it? If it cannot, why does it want to waste money on an inferior and therefore not economical article?

This Evening's Concert.

The opportunity which will be afforded in this city to-night to students and admirers of good music to hear Martinus Sieveking, the Dutch pianist, is one that they should not permit to be neglected. When this great virtuoso first appeared before the people of Scranton, some months ago, he was welcomed by a select and delighted audience, but not by the number of auditors which his merits as an artist deserved. At that time, it is true, he was not nearly so well known to the great multitude of Americans as were such thoroughly advertised pianists as Paderewski, for instance, or Rosenthal. But in Scranton, at least, this excuse cannot hereafter be offered. The extraordinary quality of his achievements, as made known through his introductory visit, has been thoroughly discussed among all in this city who take interest in such things, and Mr. Sieveking will return, a star of measured radiance.

Opinion naturally differs as to Sieveking's relative position among the great pianists of his time, but it is conceded that he must be included in any group, however restricted, which represents the pinnacle of present day achievement on the pianoforte. Perhaps not by natural endowment the equal of the seemingly incomparable Paderewski, and it may be less an absolute master of technique than the incredibly dextrous Rosenthal, he is nevertheless an artist whose playing is superior to that of either for students of the piano, since it more fairly gauges the composer's meaning and represents a facility of manipulation which is more nearly within their own reach. The student who hears Paderewski is likely to be swept away from all chance to observe the man's manner of producing his inspired effects, and the student who sits within sound of Rosenthal's electric technique is in peril of being astounded into utter discouragement at his own manual awkwardness. In other words, each of these marvelous virtuosi represents an extreme in pianoforte playing—Paderewski, the extreme of temperament; Rosenthal, the very last limit of technical expertness. Between these extremes stands the young man Sieveking—more loyal than either to the composer in hand and showing an artistic personality saner and more evenly balanced.

An evening of Sieveking means an evening of masterly interpretation of the recognized composers by a player who brings from the piano its entire capabilities as required by the score before him, and who does not seek to project his own personality upon his auditors in such manner as might savor of presumption. He is individual in a legitimate manner; you will especially hear in his playing a certain lyric quality that is peculiar to it, and you will marvel that the piano can be made to sound so like a human voice. Again, if you are a student of music with head full of classifications and labels, you will find a Hollander who plays according to no school in the catalogue, least of all the Dutch, but is rationally eclectic to fit the circumstances. And finally, if you are just a plain person with a taste for any delight that comes along you will experience in the work of this artist a pleasure such as may not come within reach again for years.

The educated portion of this community owes to Mrs. Ballentine a debt of gratitude for enabling it to retrieve its error of omission upon the occasion of the first Sieveking concert. We trust that her confidence in the practical recognition by it of that debt will not be disappointed.

Speaker Reed's prediction is that the new tariff bill will have passed the house by April 1. We trust this isn't a bit of April fooling.

Our Foreign Relations.

That was a significant action which the senate took on Friday when, upon motion of Senator Frye, it designated Hon. Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, to act, pending its reorganization, as chairman of the committee on foreign relations. It brings to the most important position in the senate a man who is by study and temperament uncommonly well equipped for it, and who possesses in unusual degree the confidence of the country. Senator Davis will perhaps be called by the Mugwumps a jingo, but that will be because he stands on both feet for the protection of American citizenship on every land and sea, because he believes in the primacy of American destiny, influence and responsibility in the Western hemisphere, and because he considers backbone a proper part of true diplomacy. He is such a jingo as Webster was, and Marcy and Blaine. He has read history enough to know that it is blood and iron which win results and not the anaemia of timidity.

In his attitude toward each of the great foreign issues confronting the United States Senator Davis stands on solid and popular ground. He is for arbitration, but not for carelessness. He is opposed to war, but ready to face it if necessary, and he would obey the dictum: "In time of peace prepare for war." He favored recognition of the belligerency of the Cubans and he would have voted for the Cameron independence resolution had it been pressed to a division. He considers Spanish rule in American waters an anachronism and a disgrace, and when pretexts to end it are so numerous as at present he would not play further into the Spaniard's hand. He would favor the annexation of Hawaii if the Hawaiians should want it; and although we do not have at hand any public expression of his opinion with reference to Canada, we suspect he would much sooner have the wheat fields of Manitoba competing with the grain farms of Minnesota under the American flag, as parts of one country, than to consider the possibility of a British province at some future day getting the better of your Uncle Samuel. In other words, he is wholesomely and intensely American, and while he is at its head the senate committee on foreign relations will be likely to prove a vigorous and trustworthy ally of the chief executive and his secretary of state.

This will mean much. It will mean unity and harmony in the assertion of our nation's position among the nations. It will mean the different departments of the government working together, not for spite but for progress. It will mean a strong and steady pull out of the dangerous cross currents of Clevelandism into water open for clear sailing. It will mean, we hope, such an acceleration of American prestige and achievement in international diplomacy as has not been known in this country since the hand of Blaine grew feeble from disease. It is very true that the new administration takes hold at a time when our foreign relations seem very much tangled. But the fault has been largely our own, and it can speedily be corrected when the vast influences of the government are prudently aimed in the right direction and there is no unnecessary waste of energy. We believe that the omens are propitious for such a new era in our diplomacy, and it is needless to add that we hail it with great pleasure.

The way for the president to expedite the new tariff bill is to lock up the pie counter till after it is signed. That will bring the congressmen to time.

Horse Sense.

There was wholesomeness and decided practical value in the advice given the other day by Hon. Theodore Roosevelt before an audience of college fraternity men. He spoke as a collegian to collegians, but what he said merits the widest publicity. It was substantially as follows:

"In your politics you must have some definite end to achieve. The party man who surrenders his conscience and his patriotism to somebody else, I don't care whether it be to a boss or a party machine, I look down upon. I also hold in contempt those amiable men who sit down at home and talk about what can be done in the way of purifying politics, but do not go out and attempt to accomplish anything. Such men make the machine possible and necessary. Nothing is more needed by the academic man than conflict and contact with the outside world. Don't go down among the lowly with a love of your own virtues and an admiration for your own philanthropy. That would make you a prig, and nothing is more detested. You will find that the average American citizen doesn't want you to come down and look at him as though he were a beetle on a pin point. He will probably say something that will shock you if you do. You will have to work shoulder to shoulder with your fellow men as you find them, and not look with condescension upon those whose station in life you may consider lower than your own.

"Too many of our academic friends believe that there is a patented way in which to make politics better. They are wrong. They don't find such a way, and not finding it they complain of our present political life, and, with long faces, say that the good old days of pure politics have gone forever. You who find fault with the practical politics of today should read the political history about the time of the war of 1812. Read what the people of the Northeastern states did during that time and you will conclude that the politics of today are quite as good as they were then. When you find that making politics practical means making the standard a little lower, then cease to be practical politicians. When, however, you find that you can do as good work for your city or state or nation inside the party machine as outside, stick to the machine. I am a machine man, although it may be difficult to convince some of the party leaders that such is the case, because I believe that the responsibility for the conduct of municipal affairs should be placed upon one of the great parties or the other, and not upon a lot of irresponsible partyless persons. But remember that when you ally yourselves to the party machine you must sacrifice something, perhaps much of your individuality and your own personal opinions. Indeed, you must do this whenever you are allied with two or three others in any undertaking. There must be the ever willing spirit of give and take; each much must sacrifice something to the other. If such sacrifice be not made, then there will be useless bickerings and petty strifes, resulting in no good to yourselves, but in great harm to the cause for which you are working."

Those persons who do not oppose "the machine" simply with a purpose of substituting another machine of their own make are working simply for chaos in political affairs when they decry effective party leadership with its necessary concomitant of party organization, and lament the existence of "bosses." The language of Mr. Roosevelt, as quoted above, merits repeated study.

A bill has been introduced in the Illinois legislature requiring plaintiffs in civil actions before justices of the peace to file bonds for costs and damages if they be non-residents of the justice's town, township or election precinct. It would be interesting to know why the requirement of a bond is not made to apply to all plaintiffs, wherever they reside. If petty court costs keep on growing much longer we may have to come to this.

The proposition is made at Harrisburg to extend the period of liquor licenses to three years, so that the judges may be spared two-thirds of their present humiliation during license court. But if it be worth while to reduce the evil of the present system two-thirds, why not do away with it entirely by the creation of a license commission?

The decision of the Republican wing of the free silver representation in congress to interpose no factious obstructions in the way of a new tariff measure exhibits commendable common sense. If it had been reached one year ago it would have spared the country much intervening adversity.

Last year Alaska produced $4,670,000 worth of gold, besides other valuables worth nearly as much more. Its possible annual gold product is estimated at from $30,000,000 to $40,000,000. It is clear that interests so important justify the granting to Alaska of a delegate in congress.

It seems churlish to deny an ex-president any reasonable latitude; but as a matter of fact neither a president nor an ex-president has any right to use government vessels for private jaunts.

The Kansas solon who wants the Grasshoper state assembly to enact the Ten Commandments seems to have strayed from the teachings of the immortal Ingalls.

Even in England the old anti-McKinley feeling seems to have died down perceptibly. They don't relish his tariff, but they are forced to admire the man.

The country is waiting with a gold medal for the man who can formulate a just and practicible law for the regulation of trusts.

We predict that an American warship will drop anchor in Havana harbor within sixty days.

The Cabinet and the Various States

From the New York Sun.

Some interesting facts are connected with President McKinley's selection of his cabinet officers. Since the foundation of the government there have been thirty-four different secretaries of state, not counting reappointments or second appointments of the same men, and now for the first time an Ohio man fills the office. Virginia led off with Jefferson, in 1789, and Edmund Randolph, of the same state, followed, with Thomas Pickering, of Massachusetts, third, all under Washington. Six different secretaries, in all, have come from Virginia; five from Massachusetts, the successors of Pickering being John Quincy Adams, Webster, Everett and Olney; five also from New York, Van Buren, Marcy, Seward, Fish, and Evarts; three from Delaware; two each from South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. Maine gave Blaine to two different administrations; and Kentucky with Clay, Maryland, Louisiana, Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and New Jersey have furnished each one secretary of state. Now Ohio joins the list.

Again, for the first time Illinois furnishes a secretary of the treasury. The first secretary was Alexander Hamilton, of New York, and five others have come from that state. Pennsylvania has also yielded six; Ohio, five; Kentucky, four; Massachusetts, three; Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, and Maine, two each. Windom, of Minnesota, served under both Garfield and Harrison, while Connecticut Tennessee, Delaware, New Hampshire and Mississippi are also states that have furnished one secretary. Although this is a wide geographical distribution of the incumbents, Illinois is now for the first time represented.

With General Alger Michigan for the first time furnishes a secretary of war. There have been more different incumbents of this than of any other cabinet office, and those serving ad interim include Graham, of Virginia, under Monroe, and Grant and Thomas, army officers, under Johnson, while Schofield and Sherman, as army officers, also served briefly under Presidents Johnson and Grant, respectively. Outside of these five, New York and Massachusetts have each furnished six incumbents, Ohio four, including Stanton, the great war secretary; Pennsylvania and Virginia, four; Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Iowa, two each; Maryland, Connecticut, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Vermont, and West Virginia one each.

New York, with the appointment of Mr. Bliss, for the first time furnishes a secretary of the interior. It is not quite half a century since the office was created, and in this time Missouri and Ohio have each provided three different men for it; Michigan, Iowa, Indiana and Mississippi, two; Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Georgia, one each.

California, under President McKinley, gets the first cabinet appointment of any kind she has ever had. She begins with the office of attorney-general, for which Pennsylvania has furnished seven different incumbents, including one ad interim; Massachusetts, six; Maryland, five; Virginia and Ohio, each four; Kentucky, three; Georgia, two; Delaware, Tennessee, South Carolina, Maine, Connecticut, Missouri, Oregon, Arkansas, and Indiana, one each.

Iowa supplies for the first time a secretary of Agriculture. Missouri, Wisconsin, and Nebraska furnished the other three.

James A. Gary becomes Maryland's third postmaster general. For many years the postmaster general was not considered a cabinet officer. However, reckoning from the beginning, in 1789, we find Kentucky, Connecticut, New York, and Tennessee furnishing each four different incumbents; Wisconsin, Ohio, and now Maryland, three; Indiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, two; Georgia, Vermont, Maine, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, and West Virginia, one each.

Massachusetts had the first secretary of the navy, in 1798, and has now furnished five others, Mr. Long being the sixth in all. The seacoast states have always supplied the secretaries of the navy, except under Hayes, who brought forward Thompson, of Indiana, sometimes known as the Ancient Mariner, and also his successor, Goff, of West Virginia. Virginia has furnished four different secretaries; North Carolina, and New York, also four; New Jersey and Maryland, three each; Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, two each; Louisiana, South Carolina, and Alabama, one each.

It will be seen that California is the only state that now secures for the first time a representation in the cabinet; but of the original thirteen sates, Rhode Island has not yet been represented there at all, nor have Florida and Texas, which were admitted a little more than half a century ago. Most of the states which have entered since 1859 have not yet furnished cabinet officers, Kansas, Nevada, the Dakotas, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah being in this list.

Massachusetts leads off, if we do not err, with the highest number of aggregate cabinet appointments, including reappointments, while New York is a very close second, and Pennsylvania third.

AMERICAN CHARACTERISTICS.

From the Washington Post.

There is a curious state of affairs in this great United States. The American people are lovers of peace; they do not seek causes for war; a large number of them favor the arbitration treaty recently negotiated with England, and they are impressed with the idea that war is not calculated to promote business interests. Yet on every occasion of a difference between this country and any other an enthusiastic war spirit is immediately manifest in all parts of the country. Cities, towns, villages, and sparsely settled districts unite in assuming a belligerent attitude, without waiting or stopping to inquire into the causes which led to the disagreement. When this country became involved in a controversy with England some months ago over the Venezuelan boundary, a perfect storm of applause greeted the firm stand taken by the administration in the matter. The offer of volunteers, in case war should ensue, came from North, South, East, and West. A million men, at least, stood ready at a moment's notice to plunge into the fray, and no questions asked as to who was right and who was wrong. The same eagerness for conflict has been shown on every occasion where a possibility of war has arisen. Right now, today, were they permitted to do so, thousands of men would rush to the aid of the Cubans.

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Not two men in a hundred will say they are anxious for war, or that they desire to fight, but the very men who profess to be peaceable and opposed to war would be among the first to struggle for place in the advance guard in the event of war. This is not from pure love of fighting. It is not usual for the American to seek a quarrel. He is good-natured, as a rule, and disposed to get along peaceably with his neighbors. As a matter of fact he will stand a great deal of imposition rather than quarrel or engage in dispute. But at the first motion of the other party towards actually donning war paint, he becomes ready, willing, anxious for battle. He has a pronounced sympathy for the under dog in the fight, and hates a bully. He is more disposed to insist on the rights of others than on his own. He feels able to take care of himself without help, but thinks it his bounden duty to assist the weak and needy.

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Courageous, self-reliant, strong in the knowledge of his own might, he contemplates with indifference and serenity attacks upon himself, hardly realizing the temerity of the assailant, but quick to resent infringement on the rights of others less able to protect themselves. The American is a strange compound. There is nothing like him on the face of the globe. He has some failings, but his desirable qualities so far outnumber them that they need not be considered. He is all right, good enough as he is, but improving. What will he be in another 100 years?

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Washington Letter, Pittsburg Dispatch.

I have been a close observer of the operation of the reformed, or partly reformed, civil service during more than a dozen years of life in Washington, and can say from personal knowledge that the improvement of the service is immeasureable. There is not a tithe of the drunkenness and indolence and shirking of work that obtained under the spoils system. Not only is the intellectual standard raised immensely, but the moral standard as well. There was a time that it was almost a reproach to a woman to receive an appointment to the civil service through political influence. Scandals in such connection were so frequent that they became monotonous. Now there is nothing of the kind. The departments are swarming with women of the highest character, an honor to their sex and to the service, conscientious in the performance of every duty, with an average intelligence, education and breadth of information much higher than that of any other class of women in the country.

The men know they are appointed to work and not for political reward. They know their tenure depends on their efficiency and not upon the duration of a party in power or the influence of a politician. They are careful in their habits, in marked contrast to those who served under the old system, and are vastly more able to perform any clerical service that is required of them. The only inefficient men and women in the service today are those who are not in the classified service and who know that their tenure will probably end with the end of the administration. To a great extent these men are worthless loafers and the women idlers, a living example of what the service would be if the denunciations of the system were to take practical form in the repeal of the laws.

TO REGULATE LOBBYING.

From the Washington Post.

A thoughtful and intelligent legislator at Albany has introduced in the New York legislature a bill to regulate lobbying. There is no good reason why any individual, firm, corporation, church, or other organization should not be permitted to appear by agent or attorney before any legislative committee to urge the passage or defeat of a bill. There is no valid objection to presenting arguments for or against a measure to any one or more of the men who vote upon it. A railroad corporation has as good a right, under our laws and usages, to present arguments for or against a bill as a church has to advocate and try to get legislators to vote for a Sunday law or an appropriation for any specific purpose. It is the abuse of lobbying, not the thing in itself, that has created scandals. This bill is intended to do away with abuses and their resultant scandals, and put the business on a proper basis. It provides a legislative docket upon which the name of every person hired to promote or oppose legislation must be entered, and upon which every person so hired must see that his name is entered. No person shall be employed as legislative agent or counsel for compensation which is contingent upon the passage or defeat of any legislative measure. Persons employed either as counsel or agent shall confine themselves to appearing before legislative committees, to doing "work properly incident thereto" and to giving legal advice. The legislature is to provide additional regulations and may disbar for cause persons acting as legislative agent or counsel. No person who has once been disbarred can serve again until a period of three years has passed. There are other provisions of a stringent character, and the penalty for violating any of them is not less than $100, nor more than $1,000.

OUR NEW NAVY.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Since the work of reconstructing the navy of the country was begun in 1885 there has been no break in the construction of new war vessels. Regularly every year congress has authorized one or more additions to the navy, until we now have more than seventy new steel ships, including torpedo boats, either in commission or in course of construction. This is a good, indeed almost a remarkable showing, considering the short period which has elapsed since the commencement of the new navy. Moreover, it is a fleet of vessels of which, for its size, the nation may be proud, since all are splendid specimens of the types to which each belongs, and many are far superior to similar ships of any other country. But fine as these fighting ships are, and however much superior they may be to similar war vessels of other countries, there are not yet enough of them. The navy of the United States need not perhaps be as large as that of England, or of one or two other first-class Powers, which are forced to maintain great fleets to preserve their existence, but it should be very much larger than it is before it can be said to be perfect and adequate for the thorough protection of American interests at home and abroad.

THAT IS VERY TRUE.

From the New York Sun.

In the matter of appropriations the Republican party in the Fifty-fifth congress will need a bridle rather than a spur, and it will be well for continued Republican supremacy if there a firm hand on that bridle during the next four years.

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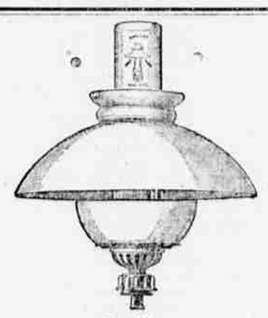

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