

The Scranton Tribune
 Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.
 FRANK G. GALEY, CO.
 ROOM 45, TRIBUNE BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY.
 ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.
 SCRANTON, MARCH 23, 1897.

To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a personal character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION BY THE WRITER'S TRUE NAME. To this rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

The Dingley Bill is All Right.

The Times appears to think that because the Dingley tariff bill does not please Hon. Willoughby Reid and two or three Mugwump papers it is a failure. Of course the Mugwumps and Democrats are such brilliant successes at drafting tariff bills that their opinions in the premises ought to be final.

As for Mr. Reid's objections, they appear to rest upon the belief that protection should not be a co-equal objective point with revenue; but in this opinion he is clearly at variance with the best judgment of the country. It is ridiculous to claim that the popular uprising which one year ago forced William McKinley's nomination for president and later carried him through a triumphal election in spite of the widespread inclination of the public at first blush to experiment with free silver, originated in an anti-protection sentiment. If the masses of the Republican party had been indifferent to protection and converted to the Grover Cleveland idea of a tariff for revenue only, it is to be supposed that they would have made a bono line for the candidacy of McKinley; the very archetype of American protectionism, when in the field against him, prior to the St. Louis convention, were several experienced men whose records inclined to conservatism on the tariff.

The first draft of a bill is rarely more than an approximation to its final form, and to this rule it is not to be expected that the Dingley bill will present an exception. Debate will doubtless bring out a number of details requiring modification. The McKinley bill had this experience and in places differed materially at passage from its initial form. But the general principle was not changed, nor do we believe that the present congress will depart far from the guiding lines laid down in the measure which the sponsors of the discarded Wilson tariff feel so free to criticize. It will aim at increased revenue, but it will not forget that quite as important as revenue for the government's expenses is protection to the country's enterprise and labor.

It is true that some low tariff Democrats voted for McKinley for president in preference to Bryan and free silver. But that fact does not cancel the St. Louis platform, which declares the policy of protection to be "the bulwark of American industrial independence and the foundation of American development and prosperity."

And now it is said the owner of the New York World, Mr. Pulitzer, has employed a censor, to exclude articles and cuts too far over the border line of decency. The World needs one.

The Press and the Prize Ring.

Considerable ado has been made because of the fact that the Philadelphia Ledger, on the morning after the big prize fight at Carson City, refused to print one word about it. In several pulpits the Ledger's course has not only been approved with much warmth of eulogy but invidious comparisons have been drawn to the hurt of other newspapers which lack the Ledger's firm business footing and therefore have, in the main, to print such news as the public wants.

We note with interest, however, that there is one clergyman in Philadelphia who takes a more rational view of this subject. Preaching on Sunday to the congregation of the Olivet Baptist church, Rev. B. F. Lepner said: "Many condemn the newspapers for their extended reports of the 'great fight,' but we must bear in mind that the newspapers simply give the people what the people demand. The people, not the newspapers, are to blame. As a matter of business, the public press gives the public what the public desires and for which it will pay. Newspapers are a mirror of what we are and love, and from what we have seen of ourselves thus reflected in the last few days it is evident that we must depose worldliness and re-enthrone Christian decency before we can expect God to give us better and more prosperous times."

The Philadelphia Ledger may be able to eliminate from its columns all reports of indecency and crime without loss of business patronage, but it is about the only daily publication in the United States which can afford the privilege. Such a paper as the Ledger, if printed in Scranton, would starve to death in less than six weeks; and this is said with no disrespect to the Ledger, which in many ways is a model journal. The very persons who are the first to extol its cleanliness are often the last to pay their subscription bills and the slowest to contribute to its advertising revenues. They are sometimes of the class of persons who expect all church advertisements and lecture or concert announcements to be inserted by newspapers gratuitously, thereby forcing those newspapers to look to the saloons and theaters for counterbalancing cash business with which to pay their composition and office expenses.

The average sensible man of the world knows that it is not in the power of any editor to correct by martyrdom the faults in human nature which escape the corrective discipline of the home, the school and the church. The editor should strive to print a clean paper, but he cannot make it angelic until he has a paying circulation among angels.

The Superior court, through Judge Rice, has negatived the proposition of Judge Miller, of Mercer county, that a jury is the judge of the law in a case, as well as of the facts. Considering how difficult it is to get a jury capable

of passing upon facts alone, this limitation of its prerogative is manifestly wise.

Downing Chris Mearns in Allegheny appears to be just about the same kind of a visionary task as devaluing Quay at Harrisburg. Honors therefore are even.

The Perversion of Journalism.

An interesting symposium has been gathered by the New York Commercial Advertiser among the presidents of our leading colleges upon the subject, The Perversion of Journalism and its Cure. It shows that the foremost educators of America are alive to the evils of luteceity in print and have, in the main, a correct idea as to the proper remedy.

President Schurman of Cornell objects principally to faulty methods of reporting news. He notices among dominant faults: "First, they do not report actual facts, but serve up instead sensational stories; secondly, they do not distinguish sufficiently between events which are important and events which are unimportant; and thirdly, they evince an increasing predilection for sensationalism, luridly and gutter." The cure, he thinks, is to appeal to the editors' conscience and at the same time boycott publications which refuse to be decent.

President Canfield of the Ohio state university is especially outspoken. He says: "With its carelessness in investigation and its sensationalism in methods of stating alleged results, with its faithful disregard of all that is due to the privacy of the household, and its determination to feed to the morbidly inquisitive reports, whether true or false, that have no portion of history and have no bearing upon public life or public morals, with its heartless cartoons, and its reckless extravagance of statements, the so-called 'new journalism' lacks courtesy, consideration, thoughtfulness, truthfulness, generosity, sincerity, loftiness of purpose, clearness of vision, cleanliness of thought, healthfulness of life, and all other characteristics of modern civilization. Legislation against it can be drafted or passed unless backed by a robust and indignant public sentiment. When such sentiment comes legislation will not be needed to send back into darkness the bats and vampires that disgrace that portion of the press now given over to such methods."

President Whitman, of Columbian university, fears that "nothing will cure the new journalism but the grace of God" and Brother Fabrician, the president of St. John's college, thinks that if it is left alone long enough it will eventually stink itself to death. Perhaps the most sensible and pointed reply of all is that of Albert A. Wright, chairman of the faculty of Oberlin college. He says: "I rejoice that the time seems ripe for a vigorous and concerted public protest against the deluge of filth which certain journals are pouring out upon the country. Allowing all that may be justly urged in favor of the exposure of evils or a cure for those evils, there is no excuse for the distortion of facts, for gloating over wickedness and wretchedness, or for conscienceless comments upon public affairs from the standpoint of a sensationalist, as if there were nothing stable upon which good might be built. Educators, ministers, parents and every one who possesses any moral influence should join in the protest and follow it up with the banishment of such journals from public and private places. Nothing but public sentiment can deal with the evil."

It looks as if such a protest were coming.

Government Seeds.

General protest is arising in the press at the continuation of congress by the appropriation for government seeds for free popular distribution. When the government first went into this business, it gave the excuse that by reason of superior facilities, it could develop a superior quality of seeds and might therefore confer a decided benefit on agriculture. But it is not in evidence that the seeds raised under the direction of the United States department of agriculture are in any respect better than the seeds raised for sale by private enterprise, and the fact that the one kind are given away simply operates to the disadvantage of the others.

The member of congress who is entitled by law to distribute free seeds among his constituents naturally avails himself of this privilege so long as it lasts; but few of the better informed members regard it as any proper part of the government's business to give seeds away. On the same principle the government might just as logically give away miscellaneous books and food and clothing or usurp any other form of legitimate private enterprise. We agree fully with the opinion that this free seed privilege ought to be canceled and the money now spent on it either be saved or put to a use more clearly in the scope of the government's proper functions. The present congress could not do a more appropriate thing than to take Uncle Sam out of the seed business.

Military mock heroism appears to monopolize the European situation. Little Greece naturally doesn't want to fight and the blustering Six Powers "dassen't."

The line between the reformer and the scandal monger is often very narrow, as the Swallow trial proves.

Perhaps the greatest need of all is a law to silence this interminable, intolerable pugilistic back talk.

That daily sound in the direction of Harrisburg is simply the thud of another investigation.

There is no call to bemoan the mud in our streets. It will soon be dust.

Was there ever a tariff bill which did please everybody?

Carl Schurz and Harper's Weekly should not be expected to feel satisfied

with the administration. If they were to, where would their occupation be?

What fun Grover Cleveland would have with public opinion if he were now in Lord Salisbury's shoes.

It is something to know that the mayor of Scranton has at last promised to explain.

Mr. Balfour appears to share the Vanderbilt idea of "the public be damned."

In the meantime, what has become of the Earl of Rosebery?

Reform, like charity, too often never reaches home.

Gossip of the Capital

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, March 22.—The indications are that the extraordinary session of congress will be much longer than was anticipated even by the senators and members who desire to discuss the tariff bill fully. The delay, of course, will not be in the house, for that body will dispose of the measure in ten days. The hitch will be in the senate. Upon no issue has there been more discussion in the upper branch of congress, it is learned that the Republicans as well as the country at large will be watching the tariff bill's progress with intense interest. The Democrats are determined to contest every inch of ground and will insist upon discussing every item of the bill to their heart's content. If they persist in this policy it can only be guessed when a final vote will be reached on the bill in the senate. Then comes another delay. The measure will be in the senate for ratification when it is returned for ratification. Both houses will insist upon their rights in the debate. The bill will likely be as long as it was in the senate. In the meantime the country will suffer just as if it had no tariff bill until next effect three years ago.

The word "Popocrat" is coming into general use in congress. In referring to the opposition in the last campaign Representative Dalzell, in his speech during the closing days of the last session, referred to Justice Shiras, of the Supreme court, who was bitterly attacked by the Bryanites in the last campaign, referred to them not as Democrats or Populists, but as "Popocrats." In his autobiographical, Representative Williams, of Luzerne county, refers to his late opponent, John M. Garman, as a "Popocrat."

"Uncle Joe" Cannon, chairman of the house appropriation committee, is original if nothing else. On Friday last, when the four appropriation bills which failed to become laws at the last session, were reported to the house for immediate passage, the Democrats set up a great howl. Among the principal speakers was "Silver Dick" Bland. He was in the last house, but his voice was familiar to all the old members. On Saturday morning Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bland got on the house elevator at the same time, and this is the conversation which took place between them: "Hello Bland, I'm glad to see you," said Cannon, as he grasped the free silver champion's hand. "Do you know I thought I might see you here yesterday when I was busy engaged in repeating the Lord's prayer backward and forward?"

Mr. Bland acknowledged that he had made a few remarks on the subject and expected to extend them as the session progressed.

Representative Handy, of Delaware, made his maiden speech in the house on Friday last. The occasion was on the appropriation bill. He is a tall, slender man and made a good impression on the Democratic side of the house. He spoke in behalf of the new members. He thought that it was not just the proper thing for this congress to pass in a few minutes appropriation bills carrying over a billion dollars. "Why," he said, "I would like to see in the history of the world ever voted such a sum of money on such brief and inadequate discussion. I am sure that these bills have never been considered by a committee of this house. We have as yet no appropriation committee to consider them. Seventy-five million dollars with one hundred and sixty minutes of discussion! Nearly \$500,000 a minute! The surplus bill alone carries \$200,000,000, and it is proposed to pass it after forty minutes of discussion! Here we are to make the unparalleled record of appropriating a million a minute."

The friends of Senator Quay say he will keep his hands off the Republican gubernatorial race next year and allow the best man to win. From present appearances there will be enough starters to make a very interesting race, and the friends will be excited. At the late session the probable candidates for the nomination will be the two Stones, William A. of Allegheny, and Charles W. of Warren, Representatives Hines, of Berks, and Frank, of Franklin, and Connell, of Lackawanna; ex-Representative Leubering, of Luzerne; General Tobin, of Lebanon; Mr. Willey, of Clarion, and a number of others yet to hear from. It is possible that Colonel Huff, of Westmoreland, will be entered as the anti-Quay candidate. He is very popular throughout the state, and will have the solid support of what is left of the combine.

If President McKinley does not become popular among the newspaper correspondents in Washington it will not be because the hatching of the white house is always out to them. On Saturday last the president, through his secretary, extended an invitation to the boys on the news staff to call on him at the white house in a body on Tuesday afternoon to meet Mrs. McKinley and himself. While in congress Mr. McKinley was a popular man among the newspaper men, and his object in meeting them on Tuesday is to renew their acquaintance and let them know that he has not forgotten them even if he is the chief executive of the greatest country on earth. In this respect President McKinley differs widely from his predecessor. For some unaccountable reason Mr. Cleveland made it a point to antagonize the members of the press, and it was not until he was nearly gone that he called upon them at the white house to let them know that he was not forgotten. Out of upward of 200 regular correspondents in Washington less than twenty accepted Mr. Cleveland's invitation, and the majority of those went to the white house more out of curiosity than anything else.

The mad chase for office goes merrily on. Despite the fact that President McKinley has notified the seekers that personal calls upon him at the white house will not help them cause the crowds which daily swarm around the executive mansion are as large now as they were the first week after the inauguration. The new president has not yet learned how to say "no" to the public, and just as long as he keeps "open house," as he has been doing from the day he became chief magistrate, just so long will he be harassed by office seekers as well as by the thousands who call out of curiosity or simply to pay their respects. The strain under which Major McKinley has gone since his inauguration is beginning to tell upon him. Upon several occasions last week he was compelled to deny himself to all callers and unless he refuses to see everybody for a time he will surely break down. President Cleveland had a heart of stone and the nerve of a Fitz-

simmons when it came to wrestling with the great American public. When he felt the coming of a storm he simply dived to it. Many a United States senator and member of congress was turned away from the white house by Secretary Tilden when the president did not feel in the humor of talking with him. That helped to make Mr. Cleveland unpopular, but at the same time it made it of no difference to him. He had no more respect for the public than had Mr. Vanderbilt, who once upon a time said: "I would like to see the persons who are seeking office under this administration stay away from the white house and do all their business through their senators and representatives in congress. They will fare much better that if they continue to bother the president. As long as the time is taken up by insistence to the speeches of applicants for office the president will never get to the point where he can make appointments."

Henry Helfeld, the new senator from Idaho, never was east of the Mississippi river, and he is not likely to be called on his way to Washington to take the oath of office. He is 35 years of age and a giant in stature. With the exception of Albert of Nebraska and Charles of Michigan he is the only young man in the senate. If he has any ability in the statesmanship line he has not yet shown it. For this is his first experience in public life. Helfeld is a farmer and finds Washington life rather monotonous. In discussing the chance of his mode of living the other day he said that he was becoming quite disappointed since his arrival. "When at home," he said, "I go to bed at 9 o'clock and arise with the sun. Since I arrived here I have already fallen into the bad habit of not retiring until 10 o'clock. He added that he was also becoming very and anxious to be back on his farm where he could keep himself busily employed. When the extra session adjourns Senator Helfeld will no longer look like a man who could "crawl" a 10-acre field of wheat in a day and a half. Senator Helfeld's predecessor, Fred Dunois, is still in town. He has in mind that when the senate is reorganized he will be elected its secretary. As things look now it will be impossible for any party to reorganize the senate this congress.

Senator Kyle, of South Dakota, is the only independent in the upper branch of congress. Six years ago he was tried for the murder of a man who was a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and was re-elected last month by the combined votes of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. When the day after tomorrow to which party he was going to ally himself Senator Kyle replied: "I am a Free Lancer, or more strictly speaking, an Independent. I never consider any measure from a political standpoint." If a bill or policy comes before him he votes for it or against it as he sees fit. He will vote on the tariff, but it is safe to predict that he will cast his lot with the Republicans on that question, if the interests of his state are suitably protected.

Representative Harmer is now serving his thirteenth term in congress, and as far as known has never risen on the floor of the house to make any motion, not even a motion to adjourn. This does not mean that Mr. Harmer is not a useful member by any means. He does all of his work in committee and among the members with whom he is very popular and can get almost anything he may ask for if it is within reason. Mr. Harmer is now the "Father of the House," by reason of having served continuously longer than any other member.

Grover Cleveland has drawn more salary from Uncle Sam than any other official. For the two terms which he served as chief executive he drew the net sum of \$600,000. During General Grant's first term the salary of president was only \$25,000 per year, and it was not until the closing days of his first administration that the bill increasing the salary of president to \$50,000 per annum was passed. On Saturday morning Mr. Cleveland signed a warrant in favor of Mr. Cleveland \$27,78. The balance due him on his salary as president. It was mailed to him at Princeton, N. J., today.

GUBERNATORIAL PROSPECTS.

From the Washington Post. Five members of the Pennsylvania delegation to congress are in the contest for the Republican gubernatorial nomination next summer. They are Messrs. Arnold, of Luzerne; Hicks, of Altoona; W. A. Stone, of Allegheny; M. A. H. of Warren; and Mahon, of Chambersburg. All five belong to the Quay faction, but Mr. Quay's closest friends declare that he will not stir his hand to nominate any one of the five, and that he will occupy an entirely impartial ground, so far as they alone are concerned. What Mr. Stone will unquestionably show up with more votes than any other candidate on the first ballot, but his opponents in the house and among the other candidates of the state do not believe he will receive the nomination. Lightning, they declare, is likely to strike any one of them. Congressman Condit, of Scranton, is reported to be nursing a little boomlet, but his candidacy has not yet been formally announced.

HE FORGOT.

A story is told of a certain committee meeting in which the proceedings commenced with the usual formalities and proceeded to the consideration of a bill. At last one of the disputants, losing all control over his emotions, exclaimed to his opponent: "Sir, you are a pig!" The biggest ass that ever had the misfortune to set eyes upon "Order order!" said the chairman, gravely: "you are forgetting that I am in the room."—Household Words.

A LONG TERM ENGAGEMENT.

Judge—Have you anything to say, prisoner?—The antiques dealer: He is a very prisoner—Yes, I'm engaged to be married. I've been engaged for the last ten years.

SEEMS SUSPICIOUS.

Gladly—I suspect they've got a baby up at North's house and room at the Walkins.—What makes you think that? Gladly—Oh, nothing in particular; only I haven't heard him brag about his dog for a day or two.—Boston Transcript.

FOR GRECE AND CRETE.

Storm and shame and fraud and darkness fill the nations full with night; Hope and fear whose eyes yearn eastward; Edie is fed and sword raised in sight; One alone, whose name is one with glory, sees and seeks the light.

Hellas, mother of the spirit, soul supreme in war and peace, Land of light, whose word remembered Edie is fed and sword raised; Lives again, with freedom lights castward yet for sons of Greece.

There was God born man, the song that spoke of old time said; and there Man, made even as God by trust that shows him naught too dire to dare, Now may light again the beacon lit when those we worship were.

—Algeron Charles Swinburne in the Nineteenth Century.

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