

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 5, 1897.

No more patronage is to be distributed until the tariff bill is passed. Now watch the senate accelerate its pace.

Friendly Advice to the Mayor.

One does not like to think that the mayor of Scranton deliberately falsified when he sent a written notice to common council that Street Commissioner Kinsley had resigned, to take effect April 30, but in the light of Mr. Kinsley's positive denial an issue of veracity is raised of the broadest character. It can hardly be believed, as in charity one would like to believe, that the mayor wrote that letter under a mistaken conception of the facts. The matter was one concerning which he had ample opportunity to become informed. First he asked Kinsley to resign. Then one branch of council passed a resolution asking him if Kinsley would resign. And lastly, after prolonged agitation, he sent word that Kinsley had resigned. And now Kinsley says he did nothing of the kind and intimates that the mayor, in claiming the contrary, knowingly said what was untrue.

Taken in connection with the mayor's other extraordinary conduct in summing, without a vestige of legal authority, a new joint convention of council to elect a city solicitor, this peculiar incident suggests that the chief executive of our proud city is, to put it mildly, somewhat obfuscated. We are not disposed to be critical; and we wish to say that for the mayor personally we entertain the kindest feeling, but it occurs to us that for his own sake, no less than for the good repute and welfare of the city, he ought to pull himself together, adopt some definite policy and stick to it. His reputation will not survive to very much of such official vacillation as has characterized his treatment of the Kinsley matter.

The denial by Senator Durham of the story that he had been discomfited by the harmony negotiations in Philadelphia leaves the opponents of Colonel Quay with hardly a peg to hang a hope on.

Moonshine.

Some time ago the state department at Washington gave out the substance of a report from our consul at Birmingham, Mr. Parker, which set forth, in effect, that the iron and steel interests of the United States were literally un derbidding the iron and steel manufacturers of Great Britain in their own markets. The statements made in it were so astonishing that little credence was given to them by the majority of American readers until soon afterward the newspapers began to print fairy stories from Pittsburgh alleging what wonderful things Andrew Carnegie had done and was going to do in this direction.

The Situation in South Africa.

The popular attention which was attracted to the South African republic by the episode of the Jameson raid and which has been stimulated from time to time by the sensational evidence adduced in the trial of Jameson and the cross-examination of Cecil Rhodes, is likely soon to be fixed once more on Johannesburg, the capital of President Kruger's government, especially if England shall fulfill her recent threat of a war with the Boers.

Gossip at the Capital.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, May 4. Joseph R. Dunlop, editor of the Chicago Dispatch, who will spend the next two years in one of the Illinois penitentiaries for sending obscene literature through the mails, has been a blackmailer for years. It was not what he printed in his newspaper but what he did not publish that made him a matter of "beat wood" on him, as he called it. Dunlop would write a very sensational article containing the names of the men whom he wanted to blackmail as well as the name of the girl in the case. He would have it set up in type in his printing office and then make it his intention to send a victim in person or send it with some one else, with a private note asking the gentleman to please revise the proof—that is, make any corrections he might desire. Of course, if the aforesaid gentleman felt guilty he would "revise" the article by sending him a check, which in many cases was quite large, to wit, in the thousands. I have been told of one case.

The Pennsylvania Steel company, at Steelton, has given orders to put its No. 2 furnace, which has been idle since January, 1895, in blast.

At Leesburg the Land and Improvement company, which takes its name from the town, has been idle since January, 1895, in blast.

New Castle papers contain the announcement that the New Castle Tube company, of that place, is operating its plant to its full capacity, employing both a day and night force.

In the same line we beg to note that the Washington Sheet and Tin Plate company, of Washington, Pa., is to make a number of extensive additions to its plant.

These are some of the signs of the times as indicated by reports from the local newspapers. We note them without comment, asking only that they be contrasted with the news of suspensions, reduced wages and failures which followed the inauguration of Grover Cleveland in 1892.

It has been nearly two years since Dunlop was convicted of sending libelous and obscene matter through the mails. He appealed his case from one court to another until it reached the United States supreme court, which a few months ago sustained the verdict of the courts below. He then appealed to President McKinley, who last week decided not to interfere with the verdict of the court, and ordered that the sentence be carried out at once.

The Dunlop case has been quite interesting from the first, because the sharp controversy of the Chicago newspapers have all along been in evidence. It is not long ago Mr. H. H. Kohlsaat, of the Chicago Times-Herald, came here and threw his influence against the exercise of clemency, although his associates, William Penn Nixon, of the Inter Ocean, and R. W. Patterson, of the Tribune, had joined in requesting the president to favor the petition for the waiving of the imprisonment part of Dunlop's sentence. The letters and telegrams received at the executive mansion in favor of Dunlop far outnumbered the letters against him. Among those who favored clemency for the veteran editor were General John S. Foster, late gold Democratic candidate for president, and both senators from Illinois, although the Dispatch, Dunlop's paper, was the only one that suggested it. Bryan, the Democratic and Populist city conventions in Chicago also urged his pardon. Nearly every labor organization in the western metropolis asked the president to interpose. Siegel, Cooper & Co., Mandell Bros., and many other lead-

tion if convinced that it is necessary to the solvency of the government. But unless such necessity can be made to appear the imposition of this duty would constitute an experiment of hazardous expediency. We consider this the worst blench yet noted in the senate bill, and have no doubt that it will be removed ere the measure reaches the president for approval.

Further examination may disclose additional defects, but these can be corrected during the bill's consideration in open senate. Sufficient time should be taken to insure a well-digested and symmetrical law, but public opinion does not invite purely factious objection, amendment or discussion, and the senator who shall abuse his office in either of these methods will depart from Washington a marked man.

Equalizing Matters.

Replying to the arguments of several newspapers that the proposed inheritance tax in New York state (and we now refer to this subject with especial interest because a modified form of inheritance, taxation is under serious consideration by the legislature at Harrisburg) aims a blow at thrift and industry and tends to discourage accumulation, the Springfield Republican, certainly a conservative journal, makes reply that these contentions are really an argument against any taxation of wealth.

"If tax," it proceeds, "were a fine upon accumulation, and we must make, in view of the objections offered to the inheritance tax, that the existing taxes in the state and city have not long since discouraged accumulation and actually destroyed all incentive thereto. And since, as we are told, great individual accumulations jointly bless the rich and the poor, it is to be wondered at that the present movement against the increased inheritance tax does not extend to a demand that estates above a certain limit shall be exempted from all taxation in order to increase the blessing of large accumulation, in which blessing the poor shall find ample compensation for the burden of having to supply all the public revenue."

The attitude of opposition assumed by a few wealthy persons to the inheritance tax rests, the Springfield paper thinks, upon the bold assumption that extraordinary individual wealth is the sole product of honest thrift and industry, rather than largely of privileges created by the law or taken in spite of the law, or even against the law.

It is not the fact that through the protection of the state alone have these fortunes been made possible to have and to hold, and that their obligations to the state increase quite out of proportion to the increase in individual accumulation. To contend, therefore, that the state cannot justly impose special levies upon large wealth or upon its peaceful and easy transfer from the dead to the living, which alone the state makes possible, is to contend that wealth is justly privileged to enjoy the extraordinary benefits of orderly society without rendering any fair equivalent.

It seems to us that this argument is unanswerable. It is out of the question for any one seriously to contend that as matters now stand wealth pays as large a percentage of taxation to the state as poverty does. A government was never devised that did not put its heaviest burdens upon the middle and poorer classes, and the United States is not an exception to the rule.

Consequently an inheritance tax, graduated or flat, is a defensible and, within limits, an equitable attempt by the state to equalize matters. It differs from an income tax in that it makes its levy at the time when payment is most convenient and certain.

The New York Times says the talk of a fourth candidacy for Grover Cleveland is "preposterous." It is, of course. But the victims of the Cleveland hallucination are a preposterous lot.

Senator Roach, of North Carolina, tells this story about the length of the extra session: "Some three or four weeks ago," said he, "I was out dining one night, when the lady next to me asked me how long I thought congress would be in session."

"Oh, I don't know," I replied, in an uncertain way. "The reason I asked you," said she, "is because I was in dinner with senator Hanna the other night, and he said congress would be away from here by the first of June."

"Madam," said I, looking around at her and speaking with some deliberation, "Senator Hanna may know it all, but so far as I am concerned, I have taken my leave for the summer."

And it begins to appear as if Senator Roach appreciated what was to come.

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"No," said the colonel, "I've been down this way before."

"Not recently," suggested the newspaper man.

"Well, not so very recently. I was through here about fifty years ago."

"Well," was the reply, "we had been sending so many wise men and they had all turned out to be such fools, that we thought, this time we would reverse it and see if by sending a fool we could turn him into a wise man."

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. Lehigh Valley newspapers report business in the state region mostly brisk and ascribe the change in part to the improved condition of times generally and in part to the strike in the Welsh quarries.

At Westchester the Lehigh Valley shops, which employ many hands, will this week resume work on full time; and the Mack Wood Working company last week resumed its working time to fifteen hours a day.

The list of building permits granted by the authorities of Scranton for the month of April was one of the most extensive for some months.

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ing business houses also urged clemency. The Washington Board of Trade's annual meeting was given last Saturday. Among the invited guests were many senators and representatives in congress. Senator Clark, of Wyoming, was among them. He made a speech, during which he referred to the poor fire department in this city. Among other things he said: "I don't know what other congressmen have said about Washington, but I know what I think. I like it mighty well. I am going to stay here as long as I can. I haven't any personal interests or personal business that calls me elsewhere. But I want to urge this board to ask congress, among other things, for one more fire engine, and I'll tell you why. I am the most unlicked mat in town and every time I go away from home my house gets afire. I have been away from here three times since I came and every time there has been a fire. The last time was when the rink burned, and that night my house got afire too. My wife, who has supreme faith in me, says in Washington, turned in a fire alarm and then turned to with the neighbors and put out the fire. In half or three-fourths of an hour a party of about a dozen men, including a fireman came in and inquired: "Have you a fire here, madam?" "Well, no, sir," said my wife, "but we put it out." "Turned in an alarm, but no engine came."

"The fireman looked sheepish as he said: 'Well, madam, that is very true, but here, but all two of the engines are down at the other fire.'"

"Now," concluded Senator Clark, after the laughter had subsided, "I'll be one to vote you \$10,000 or \$15,000 for another fire engine."

"The longer I live," says Senator Perkins, of California, "the more I find out that the book which holds my knowledge shrinks and the book which contains what I don't know becomes larger. I have come to the conclusion that there isn't a man in the world who cannot teach me something which it is worth while for me to learn."

"Do you know," he continued, "that I take the greatest delight when I am in a seaport city in putting on a flannel suit and going down to the wharves and mingling with the sailors. You know, I used to be a man before the mass of my sailing to California by way of Cape Horn when quite young. So nowadays, I go down among the stevedores and the sailors, and with the men that work with them, learning something new every time from their experiences. I like to go in the foundries, too, and the machine shops, and with the men that work there. You have no idea how much in the way of odds and ends of knowledge can be picked up in this fashion. Try it once and see."

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