

The Scranton Tribune

By The Tribune Publishing Company. WILLIAM CONNELL, President. 215 York Representative. FRANK S. GRAY CO. Room 45, Tribune Building, New York City.

It is noteworthy that the fuss raised over Mr. Powderly's nomination includes no charge that he is incompetent. Therefore the nomination should be confirmed.

Give Us a Rest. The report is renewed that as soon as the tariff bill is out of the way the president will by a special message to congress precipitate a currency agitation and thus for a time spool the good effects of a settlement of the tariff question.

It is not clear even to those who hold the loudest for currency reform what measures are needed to bring symmetry, security and greater elasticity to our currency. No two nations agree. The experts themselves do not appear to be able to centre upon any definite plan; and back of all their fuss and clatter is the significant fact that the currency system which now exists has served us well during nearly a decade of unrivalled prosperity and never gave rise to a suspicion of inadequacy until sapped by Democratic blundering with the government's revenues.

What the country wants is a rest. What business needs is a chance to recuperate in peace. There has been a surfeit of scrapping and yelling and the beating of tom-toms over this policy, that scheme and the other sure-pop revolutionizer. In the past eight years each congress and each campaign have offered a brand new cure-all. The country is lousy and can stand a good deal of dosing; but it feels at this time as if it had had enough. The settlement of the revenue problem so that it can tell where the dollar of income can be found to meet the inevitable dollar of expense exhausts the list of imperative necessities in way of new legislation and wise statesmanship, eschewing the fad-followers, will now decree a breathing spell.

If this thing keeps on there will soon be talk of demonizing gold.

A Lesson from Toronto.

The recent visit of American Epworth leaguers in Toronto opened many Yankee eyes as to the possibilities in municipal government where, as in Toronto, that government is conducted with approximate honesty and reflects the best opinion of the people governed. We propose to mention just one feature of the municipal superiority of Toronto over the average city in the states, Scranton for instance.

The Toronto cars are large, comfortable and nice looking. Electricity is the only motive power. All the lines of the city are operated by a single company. Transfers are given at all points, and transfers on transfers if necessary, so that a passenger may go from any part of the city to any other for a single fare. The single cash fare is 5 cents, but tickets good for six rides are sold for 25 cents. A special class of tickets is also sold at the rate of eight for 25 cents, good for use between the hours of 5.30 and 8 o'clock in the morning and 5 and 8.30 o'clock in the evening. These tickets are designed especially to furnish cheap transit accommodations to workmen going to and from their work, but any one can take advantage of their use who happens to be traveling at the hours named.

The city bought the street railway system in 1891, in obedience to an act of parliament. Then it advertised for bids from any person who might desire to take the system and operate it. Certain conditions were laid down with which every bidder must comply. He must agree to pay for the plant the price at which it had been taken by the city. The purchaser must not float bonds for a longer period than the life of the franchise, which was thirty years, and must satisfy the public authorities that provision was made for meeting obligations at maturity. The city was to have the right to take back the plant at an appraised valuation at the expiration of the franchise. The successful bidder must agree to extend tracks and street-car service upon the recommendation of the city engineer, approved by a two-thirds vote of the city council. The right to operate all such extensions ceases with the expiration of the main franchise. All such lines must be constructed in a manner satisfactory to the city subject to the determination of the city engineer, as approved by the council. Cars were to be run at such intervals as the engineer and council might specify. Tickets must be sold at the rate of six for 25 cents or twenty-five for \$1. Another class of tickets must be sold at the rate of eight for 25 cents, good between 5 o'clock in the morning and between 8 and 8.30 o'clock in the evening. School children must be sold tickets at the rate of ten for 25 cents, good between 5 a. m. and 5 p. m. and not on Saturdays. Policemen and fire-

men in uniform must be carried free. There was a provision that cars must be of approved design for service and comfort and must not be overcrowded. Persons employed by the company must not be compelled to work more than ten hours a day or more than sixty hours a week, and no adult person should be paid less than 15 cents an hour. The successful bidder must agree to pay the city \$500 a year per mile of single track, or \$1,000 per mile of double track, as rental for the use of the streets. In addition to all this which must form a part of the bid, the franchise was to be granted to the responsible bidder who would offer the largest percentage of gross receipts to the city.

To an American accustomed to the hard luck tales told by traction lobbyists in search of franchises these conditions might appear deterrent of bids but they did not prove so. There were several good bids, and the company which won obligated itself to pay into the treasury of Toronto the following percentages of gross receipts: On all receipts up to \$1,000,000 a year, 8 per cent; between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000, 10 per cent; between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000, 12 per cent; on all gross receipts over \$3,000,000, 20 per cent. Last year Toronto received from track rentals \$60,000 and from percentages on gross receipts, \$78,521.67, and yet the company made money. At certain hours for 3 cents one can ride twelve miles in Toronto; and since the present company took hold and ordered the cars with fenders and other safety devices not a death has occurred on its lines.

If this sort of thing is possible in Canada, why should not similar conditions and results be possible in the United States?

It would improve the chances of the striking bituminous miners if they could maul Eugene V. Debs.

Wheelmen and Sidewalks.

The Tribune has received from Colonel George Sanderson the following letter, which is so opportune and sensible that we give place to it here-with: Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Permit me to commend you editorially in today's paper on the abuse of our streets and sidewalks by wheelmen.

As the oldest-in-point of time-order in the city and one of the oldest members of the League of American Wheelmen, I can do this without being considered an anti-cyclo crank. The vast number of riders and the carelessness of many of them make restrictions and regulations necessary, as they have become a positive danger to pedestrians, especially after night fall. It is well known that the stretch of Washington avenue, where my residence is located, is the favorite resort for riders in the evening. The other evening I attempted to count the number passing one way in half an hour. I counted eighty in ten minutes and stopped. Of these but two had lanterns and numbers worth anything. People have been knocked over there repeatedly and the riders passed with "get out of the way." Ladies and children are afraid to cross the avenue at times and all have to watch closely. Last night I dodged four times crossing the avenue which is barely 30 feet in width. Wheels came out of the shadows with whirrs and as silently as air, no lanterns, no warning of bells, utterly careless. It is needless to say this is not a proper use of our streets. It has time and again been decided that bicycles are vehicles and as such they should be treated. Any well meaning wheelman or wheelwoman will recognize this and act accordingly. I have no doubt the trouble sometimes encountered of broken glass, tacks, etc., is often due to the resentment caused by the careless arrogance of some of our riders and the quicker they realize that consistency is a jewel that their streets are for all, the quicker will they disarm the growing resentment.

It is almost unnecessary to add that The Tribune takes its present position as much out of respect for fair-minded riders of bicycles as out of regard for the comfort of those who do not ride. Nothing will more surely bring the whole pastime of wheeling into disfavor or lead to the enactment of stringent and oppressive laws than the indifferent inclination of indifferent riders to usurp the sidewalks and thus abuse their privileges, and thus incur the resentment of the whole number of pedestrians. There is absolutely no excuse for the present riding of bicycles on the sidewalks. It is a high-handed defiance of the rights of those who walk and the authorities should be prodded by public opinion until they take measures to stop it.

The precedent set by the Richmond, Va., court in the case of a negro raveler ought to exert a pacific influence on the mob spirit in that section. Within five years after the commission of the crime the brute had been regularly indicted, arraigned, tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged. Such celebrity fairly disarms Judge Lynch.

Don't Get Excited.

The Canadian press is greatly agitated lest Canadian prospectors should not get their share of the Klondike gold, which lies on Canadian soil, but which hitherto has been scooped up principally by the more enterprising Yankees. The fact that the latter are capturing all the choice claims gives to one of our Canadian exchanges in particular—the Tory Toronto World—a severe conniption fit. Under the heading "Canada for Canadians," it says: "Canada must not allow the fabulous wealth of the Yukon country to be grabbed up by foreigners. We ought to assert our rights immediately. The government should place a strong force in possession of the country, and a big royalty should be demanded of every ounce of gold produced. It is the height of folly to allow foreigners, and particularly the people of the United States, who have been vexing our workmen with petty hostile legislation, to enter this country and carry off its fabulous treasures. It looks as if there is gold enough in the Yukon country to pay off our national debt. Are we not fools to allow the Americans free access to all this wealth? The managers of the Gorge railway at Niagara Falls have just discharged every Canadian employed on the road. This is the kind of treatment that is being meted out to Canadians all over the Union. Are we not justified in preventing the one hundred Americans who are now on their way to Klondike from Seattle from getting an introduction into the country under any consideration? We might just as reasonably allow the Americans to come over and go through our banks as to let them have the run of the Klondike gold fields. Canada is not benefited one iota

by the presence of these American miners. Whatever trade has been established in the hands of Americans. Seattle and the towns of Alaska are the basis of supply for the country. Canadians are profiting in no way through these American adventures. The gold belongs to us. Why should we not protect it?"

There is no reason in the world why Canada shouldn't protect her gold except that the gold-seekers have got the start of the officials. The United States could not complain at the exclusion of its citizens from the Canadian gold territory, for it has itself set the example in excluding Canadians in many places from gaining a livelihood in our country. This is the right of complaint to be made by our own action. But the World must remember that there is good gold territory in the American part of Alaska also, and if a time should come when our argonauts are kept out of her majesty's dominions, they need not look far to get revenge. In a race between Canucks and Yankee miners to see which could produce the largest yield, we do not doubt that the latter could hold their own. Above all there is no need of growing excited, for if the Klondike fields are half as valuable as represented these few advance "finds" hardly skim the surface.

Governor Hastings' veto of the Orme bill was a veto very much to the point. The bill if it had passed would simply have increased the cost of miners' supplies and made a lot of trouble without doing a particle of good. It was conceived in luncheon, passed in luncheon, and now goes for burial to the grave-yard of luncheon bills.

Senator Tillman's threat to recite Senator Quay's tariff speech for filibustering purposes indicates that he is putting himself to unnecessary trouble. All that Tillman needs to do to kill time is just to press a button and open his mouth. The subject is absolutely of no consequence.

The postoffice department at Washington reports that the last quarter's business was the largest "spring trade" since the depression began. When possible receipts pick up it is a sure sign that business generally is on the mend.

The English journals which so earnestly lament what they conceive to be the belligerent tendency of the United States might do a good part toward peace and brotherly love by striving to do away with the causes of it.

Dr. Talmage has not yet tried the plan of preaching on the percentage basis in circuits. There ought to be money in one-night stands.

Fell Work of Our Prophets of Evil

From the New York Sun.

The final passage of the tariff bill and the adjournment of the extra session of congress in the world has ever suffered from causes of disturbance which have been viciously active for a long time past; but there is a baleful influence still abroad in the world which is more pervasive than any other. It is the influence of our political parties, and of our legislative bodies. That is, its assault has been on representative government under our American institutions. It has proceeded with tireless and vociferous disparagement and detraction of our political parties, and its methods of government, the mainstay of a country's moral and material progress. These assaults have been made under the leadership of a majority so virulent as to render them a virtually treasonable conspiracy.

Since 1884, more particularly, there has been a persistent and methodical effort to sow the seeds of suspicion and discontent in the republic under the pretence of a movement for its political reformation and elevation. It has proceeded with tireless and vociferous disparagement and detraction of our political parties, and of our legislative bodies. That is, its assault has been on representative government under our American institutions. It has proceeded with tireless and vociferous disparagement and detraction of our political parties, and its methods of government, the mainstay of a country's moral and material progress. These assaults have been made under the leadership of a majority so virulent as to render them a virtually treasonable conspiracy.

Thus a spirit was introduced into our politics tending to engender among the people dangerous suspicion. The animating purpose of those who sought to spread it was to destroy popular faith in political leaders and to place in the hands of a few unscrupulous men the reins of government.

This is the logical conclusion to which these rebels against representative government have come, and which they have been endeavoring to educate the people to adopt by persistent detraction and defamation of the actual representatives of the people and of the government, and it actually is conducted and administered under the constitutional American system. They have sought to force into nomination. They want him to be put up solely on faith; and they have picked especially those who do not exercise self-reliance, but who are content to represent a party, but himself only. They have declared that if he should consent to be a party candidate, they would not support even him. He must refuse all party and representative obligations and be governed solely by his own conscience and judgment. He must be a prophet, a being supernaturally inspired of Heaven, or they will have nothing to do with him.

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dwells on its country's glory rather than its superficial blunders. The spirit of defamatory America was first propagated in the colleges, and thence it spread to clubs and coteries of imitative critical refinement. It has not chilled the patriotic enthusiasm of the great mass of the people, but it has insidiously sown in their minds seeds of querulous discontent. It has encouraged them to revolt against conservative party leadership and to assert dangerously their independence of the salutary restraints of parsimony, and thus become an undisciplined political mob. In fine, the purpose of this malignant movement has been the destruction of existing organized parties, with a view to producing a political chaos simply. Those engaged in it have chosen the time being at least, completely disintegrated. A great conservative force in this republic from its very foundation has thus been perverted into a hateful social and political agency. Mugwumpery tried to break up the Republican party in 1881, but it failed to accomplish more than to create its own party defeat. The victory, however, brought ruin to the Democratic party; for it turned out in truth to be the victory of Mugwumpery and not of Democracy. Democracy did not come into power, but came under subjection to a Mugwump "ruler." When again elected in 1882 he completed the disruption of the Democratic party and brought about its disintegration. The old Democratic party gave place to a new party with radically opposing principles.

Meantime the spirit of distrust and defamatory of which this "ruler" was the representative, had worked injuriously to all departments of business. Confidence gave place to gloomy misgivings. The optimistic feeling which had characterized this young and aggressive country was replaced by an spirit of doubt as to the wisdom and security of our institutions, and the value of the actual results of our American political methods. It was the bear spirit replacing the bull spirit which needs must always characterize a progressive people. The fashionable cry became a howl that congress and the legislative conditions of the country had fallen into hopeless decadence; that our public men had declined in ability and moral respectability; that the "boss" must be driven out of office; that organized parties were merely corrupt machines. Such was the howl that went up long ago, though every competent student of our politics in that time in our political methods and in the character of our public men there had been advance rather than retrogression.

The time has come when this treasonable defamatory of the great American republic is stopped if we are to have progress and prosperity. It has been suffered to go on too long without the sharp rebuke it deserves from public opinion. Its continuance has involved incalculable injury to this country and all its interests. It has lowered American reputation in the eyes of the world, lessened confidence in American integrity, industry, and enterprise, and spread among the people at home dangerous dissatisfaction with the conditions inseparable from human society. The men and the newspapers engaged in propagating this spirit of defamatory, detraction, and suspicion are hereby denounced as traitors to their country more especially, and compelled to desert from their essentially treasonable enterprise. This country is now entering upon a new stage in its development, and in order that it may proceed unhindered in the fulfillment of its destiny, the influence of which we have spoken must be repressed by the whole force of our society and our politics. They constitute a dangerous conspiracy against our national prosperity.

NEED OF A BANKRUPTCY LAW.

From the Lancaster New Era. There is perhaps no law needed so much by the most business men of the United States today as a fair bankruptcy law. Just now there is no national law on this subject and the state laws more often protect the creditor than the debtor. In fact, the need of such a law has become so urgent in the large cities that something must soon be done for the better protection of creditors. There has been a lamentable decadence in the old-fashioned morality once so conspicuous in American mercantile history. There are still some men whose word is as good as their bond, but to one such there are twenty who do not measure up to that standard.

At this moment there are nearly half a hundred firms in the woolen trade in New York who are trying to get out what became of \$50,000 worth of goods which were procured from them during the past thirty days and which disappeared as if by magic from the store of the now bankrupt concern that purchased them. This, however, is only a typical case. Others like it occur every week in the year. Men make business deals with their chandise from confident creditors, which they immediately sell to third parties at much less than cost. Of course, they are never paid for, and it was never meant that they should be.

The parties who buy them from these fraudulent vendors often put them on the bargain counter and sell them at prices much below those which the first vendor can sell them at. The honest merchant cannot compete with that kind of business. He, therefore, loses his trade, and is frequently himself forced into bankruptcy. This game pervades every line of trade, and calls loudly for correction. Not the least part of the evil is that many lawyers are to be found who make a specialty of arranging and settling these dishonest failures. A good national bankruptcy law would not only give honest creditors their dues, but would drive such unscrupulous lawyers out of their present methods of doing business. And yet congress has for many years refused this poor boon to the defrauded merchants of the country.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacechus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 1.11 a. m., for Thursday, July 22, 1897.

A child born on this day will be of the opinion that Uncle Dooscher was the best player on the Syracuse ball team yesterday. It is the ex-officio holder who can take off his coat cheerfully and become a private citizen again who is the political hero after all. Councilman Burns appears to be in the position of one William Patterson who was struck by an unseen hand and became a private citizen again who is the political hero after all.

The Yukon gold field bids fair to demolish the political significance of 16 to 1. Early peaches are like opera-houses. They come high and are generally unseasonable. Councilman Burns appears to be in the position of one William Patterson who was struck by an unseen hand and became a private citizen again who is the political hero after all.

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