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SCRANTON, JULY 23, 1897.

The experience inaugurated by the Republicans of Luzerne county yesterday whereby jollity and pleasure were combined with political education and instruction through the medium of a political picnic seems to be a good idea. Let us by all means ameliorate our politics.

Concerning Lehigh University.

A peculiar feature of the educational problem in Pennsylvania is shown by the inexplicable jealousy with which many eminent citizens appear to view the requests of an endowed college like Lehigh University for temporary state aid. Lehigh is an institution which, thanks to the generosity of Asa Packer, has for thirty years enriched the citizenship of this commonwealth to an amount absolutely beyond computation. From its doors have emerged hundreds of the most proficient engineers in the country—men whose subsequent endeavors have added millions upon millions of dollars to the industrial wealth of Pennsylvania and of the United States. Under the terms of this university's endowment hundreds of free scholarships have been held open to ambitious young Pennsylvanians, and have been instrumental in adding largely to the state's educational equipment.

But of late years the university funds, being chiefly invested in Lehigh Valley railroad stock, which has passed several dividends in succession, have so far declined in productiveness as to put before the management of the institution the necessity either of acquiring temporary outside assistance or else of suspending the institution's usefulness. All who are familiar with the limitations of school work will appreciate the fact that to close a university's doors for a time would be equivalent to inflicting upon it an almost fatal blow. Continuity of work is almost indispensable in such a field. The failure of Lehigh to secure from some source means whereby to tide over its financial embarrassments until its regular endowment fund shall again yield the normal income would constitute a misfortune to the commonwealth simply beyond measurement by words or figures.

In this emergency an appeal was successfully made to the recent legislature for temporary relief in the sum of \$200,000. But all at once a howl arose in certain quarters. Representatives of other institutions, themselves not in Lehigh's need, charged favoritism and undertook to dissuade the governor from attaching his signature to the appropriation. One judge on the bench—Sam Miller, of Mercer—rushed into print against the allowance, though why he should be hostile to technical education cannot be understood. In short a peculiar and inexplicable opposition, not so eminent as vociferous, has developed, utter oblivious to the state's tremendous debt to Lehigh and so determined upon "knocking the Lehigh Valley crowd out" that they are apparently reckless of the injury which would thus come to the cause of public education. We have faith that despite this reckless chatter the governor will recognize his duty in this matter and sign the bill.

Hands Off Hawaii!

It appears from the latest Washington advices that a double significance attaches to the recent dispatch of Rear Admiral Beardslee on the Oregon to Honolulu. One of the most trustworthy of the Washington correspondents, Mr. Stevens, of the Globe-Democrat, announces that the admiral's instructions are positive and sweeping. At the first indication of undue interference by the Japanese or any other power in Hawaiian affairs, he is to land marines and hoist the American flag. He is to be the sole judge of the necessity for such action and it is the talk among navy circles that he will not require much urging.

Furthermore, it is asserted by this correspondent that President Dole, of the Hawaiian republic, stands ready to supplement Beardslee's instruction in a manner which will shut out any interference. The Globe-Democrat man asserts: "A deed of cession of Hawaii to the United States has been drafted. It is complete in all respects but one. It wants only the signature of President Dole to make it effective. While the American admiral waits only for the valid reason to land, the Hawaiian president is ready to sign the deed of cession the moment the American authority puts foot upon that soil. The situation is sharply defined. It only needs the first act of meddling by an outside power to develop into an object lesson in robust Americanism."

This intelligence dovetails nicely with the report via Vancouver that Count Okuma, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, has declared it to be Japan's intention to resist American annexation of Hawaii to the utmost. Despite the diplomatic disclaimers of the Japanese minister at Washington that his government has had no intention of competing with the United States for control of Hawaiian affairs, it has lately become plain as a pike-staff that she was just on the point of nabbing the coveted territory when President McKinley exploded the bomb-shell of the annexation treaty. All the subsequent wriggling and scolding of the Japanese would be inexplicable save on the hypothesis that it is the outcrop of baffled, covetousness struggling to find a pretext to hang a further hope on. That the Japs were crouching for the spring when Uncle Sam intervened in the uniform testimony of every American traveler who has

viewed the facts either at Tokio or at Honolulu. Against such testimony the denial of the Japanese themselves will naturally not prevail.

It could be wished that the annexation treaty might be ratified by the senate at once. Then the suspense would be over and all the world would be in a position to know what to expect. But if in the hurry of senators to adjourn after the conclusion of the long and heated tariff session the matter should be deferred until next winter there is consolation in the knowledge that proper precautions have been taken to protect American interests in Hawaii and to keep foreign hands off.

Those who feel disposed to criticize the governor's veto of the Orme bill levying a ten per cent. tax on store orders, checks, dividends, coupons, pass books or other paper representing the wages of labor should bear in mind his accompanying note, of which the following extract is the gist: "The owner of a company store who seeks to compel his employes to purchase any portion of his earnings in store goods by the issuing of store orders, or other devices, could not be hindered in placing, however unjustly, the additional tax on the amount of such orders upon his employe. This bill deprives the laboring man of the means of obtaining credit, either from his employer or from anybody else, and would make him in addition thereto pay the tax sought to be imposed by this measure. If the bill should become a law he must either pay cash for his coal, meat, clothing and other necessities of life, or go without them, or pay 10 per cent. above what any other man would have to pay to get credit for such necessities." In other words, demagogism again overreached itself.

Real Cause of the Strike.

In reply to numerous requests for a brief statement of the exact causes of the present great strike of bituminous coal miners, President Ratchford of the miners' organization offers the following comparison of wages paid in 1896 with those paid now, and says it alone tells the whole story:

The great mining district of western Pennsylvania paid for mining in 1893, thin vein, 70 cents, and thick vein 65 cents a ton. The rate paid at present is, thin vein, 47 to 54 cents a ton; thick vein, 28 to 30 cents a ton. During the same year the prices in Ohio and Indiana were 70 cents and 75 cents a ton, respectively. At present the prices in both states, with reduction offered, or at least contemplated, to 45 cents a ton in consequence of the low prices in western Pennsylvania. This ratio of fallen wages holds good all along the line, affecting every mining state almost equally alike. In the great Hooking valley district of Ohio the average wage per miner, in one of the largest mines, for a period of eight months, from Oct. 1, 1896, to June 1, 1897, was \$90 per man, or \$7.50 per man per month, gross earnings. From this amount the cost of mine supplies is deducted, leaving the remainder with which to purchase rent, coal, etc., and support his family. At another mine in the same district the gross earnings of thirty-nine miners is shown by the written statements of the company to aggregate \$238.78 for two weeks' labor, or an average of \$2.97 per man per week for the same period. The deductions for company store, powder and rent, including some back rental, aggregate \$103.02. The deduction for store alone, which represents the total cost of supporting thirty-nine families for two weeks, amounts to \$179.05, or an average of \$2.28 per family per week.

Mr. Ratchford gives a history of the various attempts made by the men to secure from the operators a readjustment of the wage schedules and says the unpleasant alternative of a general strike was not decided upon until after every other attempt to preserve the livelihood of the men had failed. The amount of increase in wages demanded is but 9 cents per ton over the former scale, together with a readjustment of mine mining, which will place it upon an equal basis with pick-mining, giving to each its just proportion.

It is natural that in the face of such hardships there should be a disposition on the part of the strikers to hold the operators severely responsible. President Ratchford voices this tendency of feeling when he pronounces the strike "nothing less than a spontaneous uprising of an enslaved people, who have determined to submit no longer to the cruel, heartless and inhuman conditions imposed upon them by unscrupulous employers, which have reduced them and their dependents to actual starvation." But "in order to qualify his words, 'in justice to a large majority of employes,' it should," he adds, "be said that they are not responsible for this condition. It is due to the actions of a few who have cut prices far below the demands of the market, thus demoralizing trade and cutting wages indiscriminately, until the point is reached where men can no longer live by their thrift and industry."

In this light the strike of bituminous miners become virtually a public testimonial to the superior business judgment and humanity of the anthracite operators who, in preference to permitting the prices of hard coal to fall "below the demands of the market," have by concert of action started prices upward toward a level which offers the promise of living wages and fair profit. We commend the foregoing words of President Ratchford to those professed friends of labor throughout the country who have fallen into the habit of denouncing the anthracite coal operators as robber barons and extortionists because they endeavor to secure a margin of existence for men and mine on the coal which they put before the public.

If the mugwump were only as perfect in action as he is exalted in criticism, what a peach he would be!

The Railway Problem.

The Engineering News contains an article by F. W. Wilson which might be read with profit by those who favor government ownership and operation of railroads. Mr. Wilson lately paid a visit to South Africa. He went a believer in government ownership. He returned a confirmed antagonist. In South Africa, where the government runs the railroads, passenger fare is 6 cents a mile and the freight rate per ton mile is 2 cents, contrasting with 2 cents and eight-tenths of a cent in the United States. The passenger coaches are about the quality and comfort of an American freight caboose. In fact the speed paid by them is little better than the speed of our trains.

No provision is made for heating in winter and complaints as to service are answered by the stony glare. It may be argued that South Africa is a new country not yet developed and that therefore it is unfair to take its experience with government ownership as representative of that theory of railroading. In some degree such a plea would have competency; but unhappily the facts are nearly if not wholly as bad in older and more populous countries where the government manages the business of transportation. The whole tendency of government ownership, apart from the viciousness of the principle underlying it—a principle which by denying the field to private enterprise establishes itself as essentially unreplicable—is to cultivate contempt for the individual passenger or shipper; to make the business of transportation fit certain bureaucratic rules rather than to fit the rules to the conditions of that business; and in a general way to illustrate how not to do it.

That the government should in the interest of the people exercise vigilant but prudent supervision over the methods employed by the railroad companies is a fair condition of the grant of charter rights and of the extraordinary privilege of eminent domain. It is in this direction that intelligent agitation will win its endeavors for reform. Government ownership would be fraught with hazards as unnecessary as they are ominous.

A statement is published in the Washington Post, ostensibly "by authority," to the effect that Secretary Sherman did not want to sign the note to Ambassador Hay on the Bering seal controversy because its language seemed to him to be too harsh. The statement adds that he was finally pressed to yield. Who pressed him? It is clear that the alleged "statement" is false. There is nothing in the Hay note to be ashamed of and furthermore we don't think John Sherman is a man to be forced to do what he thinks wrong. Someone must be lying.

Ruthven, the anti-Romanist agitator, is again in trouble. At Victoria, B. C., he has been released from jail on \$300 bail after promising not again to utter slanders concerning the Catholic clergy. It is evident that our criminal jurisprudence does not provide properly for such chronic disturbers of the peace.

It seems that most of the predictions that the administration will declare war on the greenbacks and strive to give the banks a monopoly of the note-issuing power originate with the present amiable secretary of the treasury. Mr. Gage has some things yet to learn about politics.

THE BUZZARD.

From the Times-Herald.

The buzzard will fly almost an incredible distance if need be in search for its chosen food. Over fields rich with waving grain and sweet with perfume of flowers; past clear, sparkling brooks which carry health in every ripple, it soars, with never a stop, far above all the attractive things of life. It is seeking the dead. Instinctively and unerringly it finds the carrion on which it feeds. In the economy of nature the buzzard fulfills a niche of its own and serves a helpful purpose; but the scavenger bird, too cowardly to fight, too lazy to earn a living by active chase, and too debased to have any aspiration above the oval on which it gorges its ill-odored carcass, is not a figure to attract nor a model to be admired.

But certain buzzards do not fly. Some of them walk and wear clothing. Those that fly have no voice; those that do not have little else to boast of. The buzzard of the industrial world. He does not hear the hum of awakening prosperity; he does not perceive the smoke arising from the factory chimneys, and he is not one of the feathered masons for their habitations; he does not know that bank clearances are heavier, that business failures are fewer, that the farmer's harvest may be, or better than those that have been at any period since Democratic mismanagement and social extravagance have wrecked wages and profits down to low-water mark.

The calamity buzzard sees nothing which makes for business improvement, because he does not look for it. He is seeking not for commercial life but for industrial death. If the farmer becomes embarrassed he sets up a loud croaking to apprise the whole world of the disaster. If a strike throws out of employment a few workmen in certain industry he maintains that the wheels of progress are completely blocked. He croaks because a Republican administration has been unable in four months to repair all the damages of twice as many years of misrule. He croaks because a tariff bill has not brought a floodtide of prosperity to the factory, and he croaks because he is placed upon the statute books. He croaks because it is his nature to croak, just as the rooster crows, the hen clucks, the peacock struts, and the bird of ill omen, at all times and under all circumstances, and the voters of any state who adopt that symbol for their party standard will see their colors trailed in the dust at the polls.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 3:11 a. m., for Friday, July 23, 1897.

In the opinion of a child born on this day the sad story of one's life related too often is an indication of a broken mental circuit.

It seems that "sweet shops" are not the only places in which perperation is generated these days.

"Corn weather" lasts the year around for those who wear tight shoes.

If conscience did not make cowards, blackmailers could not exist.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Scrantonians who contemplate hunting for gold at the Yukon fields will do well to take heed that there are no 25 cent dinner places in the Klondike region.

The simple truth of the matter is that those excellent and well-meaning persons are making the president's life unbearable. If he were a selfish and coarse-grained man, indifferent to the feelings of others, ungrateful for affection and service, and insensible to the sorrows and disappointments of his fellow-men, Mr. McKinley would experience but slight discomfort under the conditions that now prevail. He would simply close his doors upon the crowd and leave them to perisist or to despair, they might prefer the trouble in his case is that he sympathizes with one and all of them, wishes to see each "below the demands of the market," and he can in the way of encouragement and kindness. Emulgence has not estranged him from his fellow-citizens. He is as genuine, as sincere, as unswerving as he was in his quiet country home at Canton, where all regarded him and all were free to enter the circumference of his sympathies. We think so well of human nature as to believe that if those who now besiege the executive mansion so stubbornly and yet so unavailingly could weigh the considerations we have offered them they would abate something of their resolute persistency.

QUACKERY.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The quack who didn't know what was the matter with his patient proceeded to throw him into fits, because he was great

on fits. There are financial quacks who either haven't known or have been anxious to conceal what was the matter with the country, and have undertaken to throw it into the greenback fits because they are great on greenback fits.

LOOKING AHEAD.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The Fifty-fifth congress, which is now in extra session, and which will meet in regular session until December next, will expire March 4, 1899. The house of representatives, when organized, was composed of 28 Republicans, 13 Democrats, 17 Populists and Silverites, and there were two vacancies. The next election for representatives will occur in November, 1898. Of the 29 retiring senators 11 are Republicans, 15 are Democrats, 3 are Silverites and one is a Populist. The holding-over senators will be composed of 22 Republicans, 13 Democrats and 4 Populists, leaving the Oregon vacancy out of the calculation.

With respect to the retiring senators, the Republicans are quite certain to retain representation in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, and they will probably succeed in Michigan and Ohio. There is considerable doubt as to Washington and Wyoming. The Democrats will retain their membership from Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and probably from Tennessee, but in every one of the following states the chances are against them from present indications: California, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The retiring Silverites and Populists will probably be succeeded by senators of the same political faith as their own, although Utah may send a Democrat in Mr. Cannon's place.

It will be noted from this that the chance of controlling the next senate is strongly in favor of the Republicans, but there is a large proviso, namely, that industrial prosperity sets in.

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