the Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JULY 31, 1897.

That was an interesting case tried before Mayor Bailey on Thursday profit. It was in 1846, while on a train morning when George Carroll, for striking a man on the head with a telegraphy and became interested in heavy instrument, presumably a sand electricity. Instantly the thought bag, was fined \$3 and released. The as- came to him that if electricity could sault was committed on Lackawanna send a message over miles of wire it avenue, in the very heart of the busi- ought to be made to propel a vehicle. ness portion of the city. If it costs Very soon he was at work on the probbut \$3 to sand bag a man in the chief | lem, and in a year had a car track business thoroughfare of the city of built and a train of two cars running-Scranton, what would it cost to get a one a trailer and the other containing permanent license to steal?

Mercantile Tax Bill Vetoed.

The governor's disapproval of the bill surreptitiously pushed through the legislature largely increasing the state license tax upon merchants is not unexpected. The only considerable argument made for it was that it was an emergency measure calculated to save the commonwealth from a deficit. The governor's resolute course in weeding out of the appropriation bills extravagant and indefensible items of expense has gone far to remove the danger of a deficit; and the natural and widespread opposition of the threatened interests, which have with justice pointed to the fact that the recent depression in business called rather for decreased than increased taxation, sufficed to decide the matter.

With the executive desk thus cleared of its burden of unscrutinized bills, it becomes possible to estimate the labors of the legislative session of 1897 of inquiry, and in deciding to meet with some approximation to justice; and about the only reassuring fact to fifty years after the achievement of be noted in the review is the enactment | what significantly if not commercially of a modernized libel law. Of the other attention during the early hours of the session the majority fell by the wayside ere the legislature adjourned or were so modified through amendment as to lose their principal value. The reform programme flattened out completely; the scandals implied if not revealed leave a legacy of mischief to the party. The chances are she will soon get it. and in the entire dreary retrospect the one redeeming feature is the governor's stand for decency and fairness as exhibited in his vetoes.

There is consolation, however, in the fact that the people of Pennsylvania have now an incentive to improve the quality of their next law-making assembly.

If the Business Men's league wants to play into Senator Quay's hands it will keep up this talk of an independent movement under the leadership of Leach and Van Valkenburg.

The Benham Verdict.

Those who have followed the progress of the Benham murder trial will be entirely satisfied with the jury's verdict of murder in the first degree and will wonder why it took the twelve jurors twenty-four hours to agree upon a finding whose justice should have been clear the moment the jury retired.

For Benham it is impossible to feel the slightest sympathy. His worst crime was not the ending of his wife's life by the administration of poison, Perhaps that in effect if not in intent was an act of mercy. The man's meanest crime was the long-continued abuse of the woman whom he had sworn to cherish and protect; his calculated infidelities that fed the cruelty with which he treated her and finally inspired the culminating sin of murder. For this slow torture the law provides no punishment and had Berham refrained from the last act in the domestic tragedy it is possible that time and his continued abuse would have wrought the release which in his impatience he hastened with prussle acid, leaving him free to wed his paramour. gain control of her wealth and by means of it command the homage of the community now ready to applaud his stops to ask the dealer whether the latexecution in the electric chair.

There are Benhams in every community who, though they may not reach his level as a convict condemned to offenders of this class, prior to their the commission of an overt crime. The out to them is administered in those communities which retain the whipping and wholesalers. post for wife-beaters. But it is not the physical blow which creates the deepest pain, and the faithless husband speech and centemptuous action can continue on his fiendish way unchallenged and immune so long as he respecis the inhibitions of the statutory law-made justice cannot bridge.

be the profitable snap that some fel- striction of licenses. lows lately at Harrisburg evidently expected it would be. Politics is indeed uncertain.

The Father of the Trolley Car.

This week at Greenacre, Me., the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has been in session, for a purpose which is of general interest, and nowhere more interesting than in Scranton, On July 26, 1847, in Dover, N. H., the first electric passenger car was first publicly exhibited by its inventor and builder, Moses G. Farmer. Out of his ingenuity as an inventor Mr. Farmer eventually acquired some wealth, and after his death at Green acre, his daughter, Miss Sarah J. Farmer, established in memory of him a summer school where representative men and women in the spheres of literature, science, art and religion throughout the world congregate for mutual instruction and improvement

for the week begun on Monday so as honor the memory of the man who made such transit possible.

The career of Moses G. Farmer is peculiarly interesting. A New Hampshire boy, the son of a well-to-do Boscawan farmer and lumber merchant, his first impulse while of schoolgoing age was toward music. At twenty, while studying at Darmouth, he taught music, but an attack of typhoid fever left him with but a slight remembrance of a single tune, a condition thereafter permanent, Out

teacher at Dover, N. H., but an inborn knack for inventing things now displayed itself in a novel type of window shade, which he started to manufacture and which yielded an encouraging for Boston, that he first saw a book on

of school, he married and located as a

the motor and battery. Despite the novelty of the idea, this invention attracted little attention at the time, and afterward lay dormant for several years. In fact Mr. Farmer personally never derived benefit from it.

Afterward he invented an electrical striking device for a fire alarm service which is the basis of the present fire alarm systems; later he developed and brought to a higher degree of efficiency the business of electrotyping; and shortly before his death in 1893 he exhibited at the World's fair a system of printing telegraphy of which large results are yet expected. In 1852 he invented an electric cooking stove which afterward served all the purposes of a cooking stove in his household; and as early as 1859 he had rigged up a plant that lighted his house by means of incandescent lamps. Such a record in the line of achievement in applied electricity clearly entitles Mr. Farmer to recognition as a pioneer in this field near the scene of his interesting labors was his greatest work, the electrical promising measures which attracted engineers of America have paid a fitting tribute to his memory.

> The one notable fact which is gradually overspreading the Cuban problem is that Spain is tired of the profitless and wearing struggle and would welcome a good excuse to give up.

ae Problem of Lawlessness.

Commenting upon the growing frequency of highway robberies and stabbing affrays reported from mining towns of this region, as an example of which it cites Duryea, the Wilkes-Barre Record suggests as one necessary step in the direction of checking this expensive and disgraceful tendency toward lawlessness that the courts stop licensing so many saloons in these towns. It says:

Those who have taken note of the torrent of crime committed in these Hun-garian, Polish and Italian settlements have not failed to notice that nearly all of them have their origin in saloons. First followed by brutal fights, and finally end ing in mucder. The licenses of such places should be promptly revoked, as they are in Philadelphia. Our present license law is in a large measure responsible for the species of crime that afflicts this county, and is becoming such a frightful burden upon the taxpayers. Mere drinking deas should not be licensed at all. Retail dealers should not be permitted to sell liquor to be carried away from the premes, and wholesale dealers and brewers should be restricted in their sales to reg-ularly licensed retailers. Under such a system the drunken rows, fights and murwould speedily diminish in counties like Luzerne.

Our contemporary's suggestion is good so far as feasible; but it overlooks the fact that under present conditions for the courts to shut down in the matter of licenses would simply have the effect to increase the number of speakeasies, and to this extent deprive the ommunity of revenue. The turbulent citizen who makes it a practice every time he has a month's pay in his pocket to load up with bad liquor and distribute his evil propensities throughout the neighborhood would just as soon procure his grog in a hole-in-the-wall as in a licensed bar room. He never ter has a license, and it is our impression that the bulk of the mischief concerning which our contemporary is moved to remark as quoted above has death, are morally his equals in guilt. its origin rather in the unlicensed than It is not clear that the law can reach in the licensed places. Nor can the speak-easy be suppressed by nominal fulfilment of their criminal destiny by restriction of the market of the brewers. No law can keep the speak-easy nearest appreach to justice yet meted from getting supplies so long as it is

a profitable patron of the breweries Apart from missionary work having for its purpose the civilization of the individual law-breaker or his children. who stabs and murders by unkind the only way to work reform in law observance in these parts is to go at the task systemasseally and with determination, all along the line. So long as speak-casies are permitted to law. This is apparently the gap which | flourish openly alongside licensed saloons and their owners honored with political perferment it will be useless Being a legislator doesn't appear to to expect betterment to follow the re-

The London Chronicle perceives in the retirement of Professor Andrews from the presidency of Brown University a sure sign of a coming storm that will shake the pillars of the American republic. The Chronicle is kind to warn us in time.

The Maryland Democratic convention was controlled absolutely by Senator Gorman, who thus verified his recent assertion that he was going to retire from politics.

If a man is really tired of life he can doubtless find means to end it here without going to Alaska.

That travel on the great lakes is dangerous is shown in the report of the life saving service for 1896, which says that in that year one death occurred for every 260 persons imperilled and it will act as a stimulant. Its protective quality will encourage investments in manufacturing enterprises. The situation

suffering ship-wreck. The ratio of risk fittingly to commemorate the semi- is not greater, however, than in travel centennial of electric transit and to by rall; and if one chooses the best steamship lines and ignores the second rate vessels, it is practically reduced to zero.

The Atlanta Journal proposes as a ure for the lynching propensity that a fine of \$10,000 be imposed upon the people of each county for every lynchng within its borders unless the perpetrators are convicted and punished within a specified period. In what southern state could it get such a law

Glad as we are to hear a Republican president praised, we hope that this new chorus of Mugwump adulation which is audible since Major McKinley promulgated his civil service extension order will not long continue. If it shall, it may prove fatal,

The Toronto Gobe admits that the Dingley bill is quite likely to hurt Canada, but indulges the hope that "the next folly" of the United States will be export bounties, which "will more than compensate Canadians." The Globe is chasing a rainbow,

The Sun is disposed to criticize the

president for appointing several relatives to office. If the relatives are as weil fitted for their places as the president is for his, we don't see the point to the criticism; and it appears that they are. There is no more reason why the government should own an armor plant

than why it should own a navy yard

or a rifle factory or a gunwad mill

or a knapsack establishment. If pri-

vate enterprise can do the business, let

The Philadelphia Times cannot understand why the Lycoming county Republican convention neglected to say anything about the work of the recent legislature. Now what was there for a Republican convention to say?

SCIENCE LED THE WAY.

From the Washington Post.

The wonderful gold discoveries which have rendered "Uncle Sam's" extreme northern possessions the "New Eldorado" of the present day suggest some interesting data of the original incentive which prompted negotiations for the purchase of the frozen domain of Alaska. Lue credit should be given to a faithful corps of scientists, who braved the rigors of win-ter in the silent march of investigation and exploration in the interest of man-kind. "In the interest of science" was the incidental remark of Robert Kenniott, an enthusiastic young naturalist of Chicago, who had been recommended by the Smithsonian institution in 1865 to head an exploring expedition, then being formed by the Russo-American Telegraph company, to connect two great cable lines then in operation in Europe and the

Previous to this time Mr. Kennicott had made journeys to the far north into the Yukon Valley, where he saw the yellow flood of the great river surging by the most remote outpost of civilization, and the first specimens of his labors in that inhospitable region can be seen to day in the Emithsonian Museum in the form of ethnological wonders and collecons gathered from that virgin territory. of which so little was known prior to any effort to buy it from the emperor of Russia. At the close of the year 1896 Pro-fessor Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian institution, said in his report: "When the question of the acquisi-tion of Alaska by the United States came nder discussion it was to the institution formation in regard to the country? Two of our collaborators, then on a visit to the institution, Henry Bannister, who had spent a year in Norton Sound, and Mr. Bishoff, who had passed the same length of time at Sitka, were called upon to give evidence before the committee on foreign relations, and were in effect the only persons examined who were ac-quainted with the region from personal observations."

For obtaining additional information relative to the new territory of Alaska, an expedition was sent out by the treas-ury department, in charge of Captain Howard, of the revenue service, during the summer of 1867. It was accompanied by a coast survey party, in charge of George B. Davidson. W. H. Dall succeed-ed Mr. Kennicott as chief of the natural history corps of the Russian telegraph expedition, and after the abandonment of that enterprise, in consequence of the successful laying of the Atlantic ca...e. continued his explorations along the Yu-kon river, where so much gold is now being found. It can be justly said that the contributions and efforts of the Smith-sonian institution and the Chicago Academy of Science, with the primary inten-tion of the advancement of science, first rave impetus to Mr. Seward's policy of Alaskan acquisition to this country.

HAS GROWN STRONGER.

From the Boston Herald. President McKinley has grown stronger instead of weaker with his party in congress. He is more and more clearly rec ognized as the party leader, and now that his leadership is getting the prestige of success in administration and legislation. t will be constantly easier, rather than harder, for him to maintain it. There is no longer any anti-administration faction among the Republicans of congress, or if there is, it does not show itself. By tact and courage President McKinley managed to win the regard, or at least the respect, of all the Republican elenents. He has been independent in many ways and many things, insisting upon aving the best men he could get for appointments, appointing personal friends and Mugwumps and Democrats, uphold-ing the civil service law and refusing to repeal President Cleveland's extensions of the classified service, yet he has con-sulted all the party leaders and bosses and made friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, even in the shape of the most brutal spoilsman. He has done what no other president has done in the first few months of his administration in harmonizing his party and making friends rather than enemics even while he was working out the many disappointments to individuals which are inevitable. President McKinley, without sacrificing consciously his public or his private principles, has accomplished more politically than any of his predecessors in the same

A MAN OF HIS WORD.

from the Philadelphia Ledger. That which will appear as the mos triking, and as probably the most gratilying, characteristic of this administra-tion is the consistency of the president's official acts with his previous declarations of principles and policies. From the time that Mr. McK'nley accepted the nomination of his party he has stood resolutely upon the Republican platform. In respect of the tariff, of the currency and of civil ervice reform his position has been stead fast, public spirited and sagacious,

GOOD TIMES AT HAND,

From the Philadelphia Ledger. Respecting the effect of the tariff on general business, there is no doubt that each year. At Greenacre, therefore, per cent. These figures have reference. is encouraging to business men. The basis the electrical engineers decided to meet of course, to passengers and property of trade has been established and our

currency is no worse, but rather better, because of the suspension of compulsory purchases of silver, than it was during the last "era of prosperity." The thing now to do is to go to work with confidence in the future, for the conditions are sil favorable to a prompt revival. Stocks were greatly reduced during the depression, but are now on the rise; the crops are good and high prices are being obtained for wheat. With the farmers well paid for their toil there will be a well paid for their toil there will be a good home market secured to American manufactures by a tariff that is distinctly protective in its rate of duties.

TURN ON THE LIGHT.

From the Philadelphia Times. The league of Republican Business men, of which Elias Deemer, of Williamsport, is president, has announced a state exeis president, has announced a state executive committee composed of eight prominent citizens residing in different sections of the state, to begin the work of organizing for the senatorial contest that will come up next year in the election of members of the legislature. As Quay has challenged all comers by announcing his purpose to carry the contest directly to the Republican people wherever the party rules will allow it. test directly to the Republican people wherever the party rules will allow it, the Business Men's league must come to the front and accept the challenge by aggressive action if it means to accomplish anything. Secretary Van Valkenburg, who is the active manager of the political movements of the league, has formally announced that the purpose of the league is "to life a search light by whose blaze the citizens of Pennsylvania will be enabled to read a record of political dereliction, short-coming and shame cal dereliction, short-coming and shame the like of which has not been seen in Pennsylvania in a quarter of a century."

Secretary Van Valkenburg has struck he marrow of the issue so far as his declaration goes, but so startling a prom-ise of shameful political developments cannot be made without positive disgrace unless the search light shall be resolutely and practically employed, and the truth of the declarations fairly established. There will be much doubt as to Secretary Van Valkenburg's integrity of purpose in the declaration he has made as to the shameful developments in Pennsylvania politics. He has had the best opportunity in the world to fling the search light into the very heart of Pennsylvania politics by meeting the issue sylvania politics by meeting the issue thrust upon him in the courts by the Quay lenders of the state. He was indicted in the county of Schuylkill to an-swer the charge of debauching the poli-tics of the state is a most important struggle, and there was his opportunity to meet his accusers face to face, and drive them from the sanctuary of justice in shame and confusion if he is pre-pared to turn the promised search light upon the political records of the past. Instead of entering the court and de-manding trial as an entirely innocent man would have done without hesita-tion, he first met the charge by a motion to quash the indictment, and made exhaustive effort to have it done, appar-ently hoping to escape the issue that confronted him. The court refused to dis-miss the proceeding, and since then we have not heard of Secretary Van Valken-burg demonding, trial burg demanding trial.

Either Secretary Van Valkenburg is guilty of debauchery in Psnnsylvania pol-itics or he is falsely accused, and the man who is falsely accused is always most earnest and aggressive in demand ing judicial inquiry. Let Secretary Van Valkenburg begin his search light by turning it upon the politics of the state as opportunity is presented in the courts of Schuylkill county, and until he thus determinedly moves to vindicate himself. there will be little faith in any promise he makes of turning the search light upon the political shame of others. Turn on the light and go to bedrock, no matter who shall stand or fall.

FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE.

From the New York Sun. It happens that within the last few years we have come into unusually close contact with the interests of several for-eign countries. For two of them the re-sults have been extremely irritating. We have checked England in her intended that reference was chiefly made by the zuela. In Cuba the barbarities of Spain state department and the senate for inand her struggle to maintain the anach-ronism of trams-Atlantic, rule in this nemisphere have compelled on the part of our citizens vigorous condemnation of our government's forbearance, which in Spain has aroused great bitterness in rejoinder. On the Pacific ocean side we are about to annex the republic of Ha-

> As a rule the politicians of Europe are wondering at our self-restraint in the matter of Spain, and at our hesitation in regard to Hawaii. But one side of the Eu-ropean stock jobbers, Europe's, or rather England's jealousy of us, and the people in this country who live without respect for its present or hope for its future, try to make us out quarrelsome and danger ous. If there is a more peaceable country than the United States in the world to-day, we do not know it. We know that there is none whose circumstances are naturally a greater guarantee of peace. And we believe that the slanders of our enemies abroad and at home will fail because of the world's common sense abli-ity to see that the self-respect which up-holds our rights is legitimately a twin to the intelligence and calmness that make

THE MUGWUMPS PRAISE. From the New York Evening Post.

President McKinley deserves and will receive the heartiest praise of good citi-zens, without distinction of party, for the amendments to the civil service rules which he made before starting on his vacation. It is not too much to say that under all the circumstances, they consti-tute the greatest victory for the reform since the passage of the original law on the subject early in 1882. The spoilsmen themselves will be the first to see that this action by the president sounds the death knell of the hopes which they have al-ways cherished that the merit system might be overthrown. * * It is impos-sible to praise the president too highly for his action in this matter. He has no only successfully resisted tremendous "pressure" to take a long step backwards but he has advanced further than the most sanguine reformer dared to expect. The executive orders of July 28, 1897, assure the stability of the merit system bewill reflect enduring credit upon the president who has thus rendered a public service of signal advantage to the nation

VERSATILE.

From the Philadelphia Press. The Wyoming county Republican conention the other day indorsed "the adthe legislature that has just adjourned. It couldn't have displayed more versatil

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 2.20 a. m., for Saturday July 31, 1987.

. 3 A child born on this day will notice that whea it comes to public opinion the Democratic councils seem to represent 'congress of rough riders." It would seem to be a good thing for the peace of northern Lackawanna county if Baylor's fish pond was filled up with ce-

The distance between Klondike and Scranton on the return trip is great—es-pecially if you have to walk it. Rain falls on the just and the unjust alike these days-unless they are provided with umbrellas.

Ajacchus' Advice. "The scorcher me at go." remarks an ex-change. No! no! Better make him stop.



We Told You So

That we were going out of the carpet business, and the fact is verified by the absence of a single yard of carpet in the roll in our store. But we have a few made up carpets and rugs which are to be closed out regardless of cost or value.

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I Light Moquette Carpet Rug, 8 ft 3 in. x 12 ft 6 in	
I Green and Pink Axminster Rug, 8 ft 3 in. x 10 ft 6 in	
I Light Tapestry Brussels Carpet Rug, 8 ft 3 in. x II ft 6 in	
1 Ecru and Brown Moquette Carpet Rug, 8 ft 3 in. x 12 ft 6 in	
I Blue Body Brussels Rug, 12 ft 7 in. x 12 ft	
I Green and Red Jap Rug, 12 ft x 15 ft	
r Red and Blue Jap Rug, 12 ft x 15 ft	

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