

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, OCTOBER 8, 1897.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

State. State Treasurer—J. S. BEACON, of Westmoreland. Auditor General—LEVI G. MCALEXY, of Chester.

County. Sheriff—CLARENCE E. PRYOR, of Scranton. District Attorney—JOHN R. JONES, of Blakely.

Does the "strictly independent" Carbondale Herald deny that it made overtures to sell out its influence to the Republican county campaign management, and when informed that its support was not wanted, replied that it would then deal with the Democrats? But perhaps we give its articles unnecessary notice.

The Next Prothonotary. When a man like John Copeland, of Carbondale has worked his way up from the ranks to a business position of responsibility and trust, all the while gaining the esteem of his neighbors and the admiration of those associated with him in labor, it is fair to assume that the qualities he possesses are real and substantial, and his fitness for responsibility in a more public relationship. It was the recognition of this fact by many Republicans prominent in the councils of the party that led to Mr. Copeland's nomination for the prothonotaryship.

It is the belief of those who know John Copeland best that no citizen better qualified for such a trust resides in Lackawanna county. On the score of character and personal fitness his candidacy is irrefragable. Equally strong is his claim upon the Republican party. For half a generation he has been fighting the battles of Republicanism in the upper end, often against odds that would have caused discouragement, and the best testimonial which can be offered of his efficiency and steadfastness in party service is the record of Republicanism's steady growth in Carbondale and its vicinity; a record which is very largely a consequence of his indefatigable efforts.

To support with earnestness such a candidacy should afford pleasure to every Republican and every admirer of sterling worth.

Death of Lemuel Amerman. The sense of shock experienced by this community upon receipt of knowledge of the sudden death at Blossburg yesterday of ex-Congressman Lemuel Amerman is not describable. Of all men this sturdy, progressive and gifted citizen was the last whom prophecy would have selected for such a summons. It is difficult even yet to adjust the mind to a contemplation of his singularly energetic and useful career as one which has reached its end.

Concerning the characteristics of Mr. Amerman as revealed in the intimacies of private life we lack the immediate knowledge requisite to testify with weight; and yet the unaffected grief which his demise brings to those with whom he was so long associated in this narrower circle of his acquaintance supplies most eloquent evidence of his personal worth. But regarding Mr. Amerman's identification with the public life of his town and time we can with heartfelt commendation recall his breadth of mind, his earnestness for wise progress, his integrity and his courage. In activities looking to the public welfare he was not ostentatious but he was always to be counted upon. In short, a solid citizen he was, with mind directed to practical results; sagacious, clear-sighted and with a will which, when fixed, did not easily yield; in works of benevolence, generous but modest; in all things thorough, self-possessed and true to conscience.

The record of his work in public station supplies its own best commentary. Here, as elsewhere, we see revealed high purpose and effective achievement as disclosed in official position. Mr. Amerman had small inclination; and it was with a feeling of relief that at the expiration of his membership in the Fifty-second congress he resumed the more tranquil pursuits of private life. In these he had laid the foundations of a broad success and was just entering upon the realization of his ampler plans and hopes when the end came. There can be no doubt

that in his death Scranton and Pennsylvania sustain a loss the full proportions of which are possibly as yet unguessed. A peculiar situation is presented in Ripley county, Indiana, where the quintuple lynching of the Levi gang of thieves recently took place. The Ripley county grand jury has adjourned after declining to return indictments against a number of citizens clearly shown to have had a hand in the lynching. The grand jury's excuse is that an indictment would simply involve the county in needless expense, inasmuch as the conviction of the men was an impossibility. Of course this excuse is utterly untenable, but the making of it clearly shows that the jury did not want to do its duty, notwithstanding the fact that the governor offered to protect its members by means of a company of militia if they so desired. Unless the local authorities will act the governor is powerless and mob law stands unrebuked. It is not a pleasing prospect to those who value law and order.

In It to Win. On the day, not long ago, that Spain caused a false report to be sent to Paris of the capture of a large Cuban filibustering expedition, a wealthy Cuban in that city called to New York that he had forwarded \$10,000 to make good the loss. And yet these are the people whom Spain has the sublime effrontery to charge with being incapable of self-government.

We have personal knowledge of another Cuban, long a resident of this country, who has cheerfully sacrificed estates in Cuba worth before the war not less than \$250,000 and who now, from his daily earnings, supports a large circle of Cuban exiles and regularly contributes a fourth part of his income to the revolutionary cause, and his example is not by any means uncommon among his countrymen. At the beginning of the present uprising he offered to abandon all and volunteer, but the junta considered that his best service could be performed in this country. Of such is the backbone of the present Cuban movement for freedom.

Facts are more eloquent than words in refuting Spanish falsehoods concerning the revolt in Cuba. First denying the claim of the Cubans to belligerent rights, Spain sends to Cuba 200,000 soldiers, strains herself for nearly three years, practices every conceivable kind of cruelty, exhausts every dollar of her credit and then is forced at last to make official acknowledgment that her campaign has been a failure—all because of the opposition of what she has continuously termed a handful of ignorant rebels. Does Sagasta's talk at Madrid sound as if the Cuban uprising bore the character heretofore ascribed to it by General Weyler and Minister de Lome? What is now proposed? Certainly not more war, for Weyler did all the warring that Spain is capable of, without success. Persuasion? So Sagasta intimates, but did you ever hear of a man, after suffering the abuse that Cuba has suffered, letting up on his abuser when the latter is consciously licked but refuses to acknowledge it? We dare say Cuban nature is not different from human nature elsewhere, and we have yet to find in these parts a normal specimen of man who would listen to coaxing on top of the treatment vouchsafed to Cuba by Weyler.

The government at Washington may be fooled by Spanish artfulness, but we don't think the Cuban patriots will. They are in this fight to win.

What Weyler doesn't know about bluffing would evidently not fill a large book.

The Henry George Movement. It is beginning to impress the public mind in greater New York, and less distinctly throughout the country, that the majority candidacy of Henry George, deemed insignificant at first, has behind it the same dynamic possibilities that made the national candidacy of William J. Bryan formidable one year ago. The Tammany campaign has fallen flat. That unprincipled conspiracy of public plunder, strong in ordinary times because of the very passiveness of the better elements, finds now that there is an agitation of the popular conscience and a general quickening of civic vitality which makes its negative candidate and its still more colorless platform appear in a sense ridiculous. Force of past association may cause it to poll a few thousand votes, but instead of the public menace which was expected of it in the present New York majority campaign, the situation has suddenly shifted, and behold it is Henry George who looms up as the dangerous factor in the problem.

And, strange to say, the peril in Henry George's candidacy lies in the very homogeneity of the man. If he were a shallow schemer or a mere enthusiast, the bottom of his political movement would soon drop out. But while there is massed behind his candidacy the undisciplined and chaotic strength of the general restlessness of the urban poor, who grope for their own betterment without any clear idea of the necessary means, Henry George himself is an organizer of marked ability, a man singularly possessed of the genius of command, and moreover a man absolutely sincere in much that he teaches. Mentally Bryan's superior, he is also far superior to Bryan as an effective politician, and he has moreover a superior force of practical worldly wisdom. With the ideal of the enthusiast he unites much of the shrewdness and calculating power of the mere diplomatist; and the combination, when reinforced by the entire socialistic ferment of the disaffected elements in the population of a great city, naturally becomes something which prudent and conservative citizenship should not fail to take into careful account.

Mr. George's platform is a mix-up. It indorses well-nigh everything unique and bizarre in modern social dogma, from free and unlimited silver coinage down to three-cent fares, dollar gas, and public debating societies. It is regarded upon the plan that if any group of citizens don't see in it what they especially want, all they have to do is to secure the incorporation of their hobby is to form a separate organization and ten-

der to Mr. George's another nomination. It is not platforms that Mr. George is concerned about but votes; yet unlike most politicians his eagerness for votes is, we believe, prompted far less by any personal ambition or vanity than by a somewhat heroic although in the main a mistaken inspiration that the placing of himself in office would be followed by the administration of substantial benefits to the great masses of the poor. To the modern city problem with its deepening shades of social and economic contrast he comes as a miscalculation. The grand jury's excuse is that an indictment would simply involve the county in needless expense, inasmuch as the conviction of the men was an impossibility. Of course this excuse is utterly untenable, but the making of it clearly shows that the jury did not want to do its duty, notwithstanding the fact that the governor offered to protect its members by means of a company of militia if they so desired. Unless the local authorities will act the governor is powerless and mob law stands unrebuked. It is not a pleasing prospect to those who value law and order.

Presenting, as he does, this parallel to the Bryan canvass of one year ago, how does the opposition stand? One year ago it centered on McKinley, conquered at the polls and trusted to results in business for a vindication that speedily came. Today in New York the forces of conservative government and stable social order are widely divided and the instrument of this division, Seth Low, is asserting from the stump that he proposes to continue as a factor of disruption until the end. It is a situation to cause genuine and widespread regret among lovers of good government and one which puts on Mr. Low's shoulders a most unenviable responsibility.

The state bank commissioner of Kansas is a Populist, but even he is forced to admit that prosperity is overtaking the Kansas farmer. Seven years ago the mortgage indebtedness of Kansas amounted to \$250,000,000; today it is less than \$40,000,000 and is decreasing steadily. Kansas at this rate will soon recover her political sanity.

Do the paid agents of Democracy who are calling the Republican county ticket a ring ticket suppose the voters don't know that the rankest of rings, the city hall Bailey-Boland ring, is responsible for the nomination of Schadt, Horn, et al.?

The platform adopted at the national convention of Democracy in 1896 may be "endorsed fully and without reserve" by the Lackawanna Democratic convention in 1897 but it will not be so endorsed by the thoughtful voters of the county.

Tom Platt has had Mugwumps to deal with before.

Novelties for the Next World's Fair. If we may believe a letter by John Embury in the Chicago Times-Herald, some decidedly ingenious projects have been suggested to the publicity committee of the management of the Paris exposition. One Mr. Benda, for example, proposes to fix a huge mirror to the top of the Eiffel tower which would present a mirror image of the larger part of Paris. Another huge mirror is to be affixed to the base of the tower in such a position as to reflect the mirror of the top mirror. In this manner the visitors to the exposition would have the opportunity to witness Parisian life without the fatigue and expense of participating in it. A gentleman by the name of Hunt proposes a six-cornered building 100 feet in diameter and 200 feet high, on the top of which sleigh rails are to be held upon artificial snow. Mr. Banks has the idea of a gigantic canelabra whose three feet are to serve as promenades. Mr. Bufta advises the erection of two fountains, one for men and one for women and the other a woman at 200 times the average size—which would make this proposed island pharos about 1,100 feet high. A pavilion, Mr. Duval proposes, to be erected on a tower remodeled into a statue of France, the first two stories to serve as pedestal. Mr. Maczelan proposes a house 1,000 feet in height in order to give scientific accuracy to what height houses may be habitable without danger. A pyramid of 1,200 feet height revolving around its center to the honor of John Richardson. As philanthropist Gustave Songuier proposes two colossal statues, "War" and "Peace," whose contrast would cause all nations to declare in favor of peace.

The propositions of hanging gardens and other metaphors of the Eiffel tower may be fitly passed because they are not at all new. For the sake of gallantry the proposition of Miss Josefa Hame may be mentioned to give the Parisian a memory of the siege of Troy, and to build a horse with "all the points of a blooded animal," which would have an interior capable of holding 100,000 people and practical in the scheme of Mr. Rafo to erect a mechanical elephant for the children and a tea fountain for the adults. The idea of swinging 400 feet high, submitted by Mr. Gauss and Mr. Farnshaw, is old. More original is a project of Axel Schott to construct a screw 90 feet high, across the threads of which a car would conduct visitors to a restaurant at the top. Worth of mention is the proposition of Prince Della Rocca and Ferdinand Han, the latter a Parisian journalist, to arrange an exhibit of religious art of all ages, and also the project of Herr Fildermann to construct a miniature city under the protectors of Hygeia, which is to be inhabited by people who are to live strictly according to hygienic rules in order to study public sanitation.

M. Moran, one of the committee-men, states that of ninety-six schemes examined by him forty-five came from foreign countries, which shows the interest taken all over the world in the coming exposition. Of these schemes only two have been definitely adopted: One is an electric platform, with two degrees of velocity, for the transportation of visitors to the position grounds (which is probably similar to the moving sidewalk on the pier of the recent world's fair in Chicago, and another of a capillary balloon of 60,000 cubic feet, which can keep sixty persons in an altitude of 2,000 feet, also an idea known from our world's fair. The commissioner divides the schemes into three classes: 1. Aerial navigation is represented by eleven schemes, including one by Dr. Zuercher of Paris, providing for a tower, 100 feet in height, constructed of several balloons, to the top of which a separate balloon is to conduct visitors. In the group of ethnography comes the idea of a Paris gardener, M. Leboeur, of a gigantic conservatory, in which all classes of tropical animals are to be at liberty in the midst of a flora of a similar kind. The conservatory is to be protected by walls of thick glass. In the line of railroads and other means of transportation there are two schemes, one by M. de la Vielle, which includes a number of air roads upon wire ropes. A Vienna engineer, Herr Fornalari, would like to carry visitors upon a vertical circular track 400 feet in height, operated by centrifugal force. He

assures the commission that the sensation of such a trip would be worthy of the year 1900. Another maker of projects recommends a giant depot in the shape of a locomotive from which trains would go to the various sections of the exposition, each train emanating smoke of the colors of the various nationalities. There is no lack of elevated roads from which bird's-eye views of the exposition may be had, and there is also a canal the height of 200 feet surrounding the entire exposition. Then there is the scheme of connecting the Eiffel tower with the highest Parisian structure by means of wire ropes on which passengers could be transported in hanging baskets. Schemes for theaters are so numerous that they would crowd the entire exhibition ground to the exclusion of everything else. So far only two have been recommended, a marionette and a shadow play. Offered are also a "cathedral" house, a glass palace, an old Egyptian city with a representation of Antony and Cleopatra, a Swiss village and a collection of discoveries by means of Roentgen rays.

MUNICIPAL SOCIALISM. From the Washington Post. At the convention of mayors and county commissioners of the United States, Mayor F. B. Doran, of St. Paul, said that he would heartily sanction municipal ownership of street cars, gas and water works "if we could be sure that under their control they would be conducted on purely business principles," but that he had "seen employees of the city and those of private companies working side by side in the streets often, and noted that the employees of the company always accomplished more than those of the city do."

His horror of St. Paul might have added that the cost of work performed by municipalities is greatly enhanced by various circumstances other than that which he mentioned. Not only do the employees of a government—of a city, state, or nation—work as a rule under less favorable conditions in corporation or private employment, but there is a large additional expenditure for superintendence and clerical work. Formerly the assistant foremen are appointed merely to furnish good places for friends. Chief clerks, assistant clerks, and timekeepers in large numbers are employed in municipalities. It often happens that the pay roll calls for more money for these positions than for all the road workers. There are few governments in the United States, from that of the nation down through the states to the small cities, that do not pile up expenses in this way. It is true that excellent citizens are helped along through life by this generous management of public affairs, but that fact is, nevertheless, a strong argument against municipal ownership of public works.

But we should not include a city's supply of water in the list of things to be excluded from municipal control. Water is as necessary as air, and its relation to the health of a community necessitates its management by the city. It often happens that an ample supply of pure water will be furnished free to every home in all our cities, the cost being defrayed by general taxation, the same as that of the fire and police departments.

There are, in our opinion, insurmountable objections to municipal control of transportation and similar matters. Even if a city could successfully manage its affairs, it would still be best to avoid doing so. Corporations to be compelled to serve the public with fidelity, municipal ownership is a step toward the great scheme of national ownership. The goal at which its advocates aim is the abolition of the individual, his merging in the state, the abolition of the citizen by public ownership and control of all industries. The mayor of St. Paul mentions but one, and that a minor reason, in his opposition to a scheme that is being pushed with unflagging zeal, but, happily, with little progress.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION. From the Lancaster Examiner. Some time ago Terence V. Powderly, commissioner of immigration, wrote a letter to a personal friend in New York in which he plainly and clearly gives his views on the subject of immigration, and which he presides. In the opinions contained in this interesting letter, the new commissioner announces the doctrine that immigration is a benefit to the country, and that the refusal of the downward in every land. He cheerfully admits that there was a time when the people of the United States could afford to entertain such sentiments, but that before the country became a pressor, and when the tide of immigration to this country was not a stream of refuse, to quote the exact words. When we mention the word "refugee" it is welcome, in his notion. But when it comes as the floods at Johnston it is as a danger to be avoided.

Powderly's other view—that no vote should ever be put in the hand of ignorance—will find wide acceptance. Happily the courts are more carefully looking after the intelligence of the foreign voter, and refuse to naturalize those who cannot read or write or understand the English tongue. In time we will solve the naturalization problem by making the qualifications mentioned conditions precedent for citizenship. Every one knows Mr. Powderly is an able man, and if he carries out his views, the country will be a better letter it can be said over again that President McKinley is very happy in his appointments.

SOUND POLITICAL SENSE. From the Troy Times. The Scranton Tribune is an earnest Republican paper, which does not hesitate to freely speak its mind on its view of party leaders make mistakes. But it recognizes the necessity of party organization, and it is reasonable to believe that well defined bounds if Republican government is to be properly maintained and safeguarded and authority lodged in responsible hands. In a thoughtful article on "Government by Party" the Tribune alludes to the exciting situation in New York city, and after deprecating the suggestion that the Republican organization there should abdicate and yield to the demands of outsiders it says: "It will hardly be held that if parties may be released from their service and disbanded in municipal affairs there will be any consistency in clinging to party in state and national politics. The governor of a state is not called upon to be more of a partisan than is the mayor of a large city, and if either be chosen representative of the people, it will be in favor of party and not in favor of non-partisan personal government in the nation, after the fashion of Mr. Cleveland's second administration. We do not believe that the American people are rosy thus to discard the forms of government by political parties which have served them so well, and which have been accepted during more than 120 years."

MEANT WELL. From the Times-Herald. The society reporter of the Des Moines Register evidently enjoyed himself thoroughly at a reception held in that town the other night and we are strongly suspected that he stayed until after the refreshments were served. At any rate he said next day: "It was a delightful social gathering, which will linger through life as a green sea and pleasant oasis. I will ever stand as one of the milestones along life's highway as a tender memory of the participants."

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