

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, OCTOBER 15, 1897.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET. State. State Treasurer—J. B. BEACON, of Westmoreland. Auditor General—LEVI G. MCCAULEY, of Chester. County. Sheriff—CLARENCE E. FRYOR, of Scranton. District Attorney—JOHN R. JONES, of Blakely. Prothonotary—JOHN COPLAND, of Carbondale. Treasurer—W. S. LANGSTAFF, of Scranton. Clerk of the Courts—THOMAS P. DANIELS, of Scranton. Recorder—CHARLES HUESTER, of Scranton. Register—WILLIAM K. BECK, of Moosic. Jury Commissioner—CHARLES WIGGINS, of Scranton. Election day, November 2.

The Democratic organization and candidate in our county this year endorse "fully and without reserve" the revolutionary Chicago platform, with its 40-cent silver dollars and all. Do you? If not, vote against them.

Not a Year for Staying at Home. In a current interview State Chairman Elkin, while predicting a Republican plurality of 150,000 in Pennsylvania this year, says he does not expect to poll more than 60 per cent. of the vote east one year ago. We dare say Mr. Elkin's estimate is correct; but if voters everywhere would stop to think, there would be next month no 40 cent, stay-at-home element, and no 20 per cent.

Now and then you here a man say: "Oh, it's only a local fight, nothing national involved. I guess I'll not bother about this off-year campaign." Let us examine this statement. The pluralities for McKinley and sound money last year were large, generally the largest on record. The country accepted them as decisive. Confidence returned. Mills reopened. Factories resumed. Interest rates relaxed. Bank clearings increased. All over the country, in every locality and throughout every industry, times began to mend and the outlook to appear brighter. In short, the predicted results of Republican restoration began to show themselves more quickly, plainly and generously even than Republicans themselves had dared to expect. How would it look, then, with McKinley inaugurated only last March, to return in November a vote indicative of non-appreciation of his splendid work? In all fairness, would it be decent?

But that is not all. You don't hear of the Bryanites threatening to stay away from the polls. Why? Because they dare not. It is life or death with the Bryan party now. Two consecutive defeats like that of a year ago would never survive the shock. The sound money wing of the Democratic party would resume control of the party organization and the men like Fitzsimmons, Boland, East and Taylor, in our own county, who were instrumental last year in switching the party over to the revolutionary leadership and purposes of the Chicago convention would find themselves left in the cold, baffled conspirators out of a job. Hence none of these men will abstain next month from voting. On the contrary every one of them will work from now on with desperation. They will poll as nearly as possible the full Bryan strength; and if any considerable number of anti-Bryan voters of last year fail to vote this year as they voted then, these Bryan Neutrons will vote the fact as a Bryan victory and will use it as a leverage in the larger elections to come.

More than that; an apparent reduction next month of the substantial sound money pluralities of one year ago would have an immediately hurtful influence upon business, introducing again the element of doubt as to the stability of our financial system which last year, under the excitement of Bryan's revolutionary canvass, operated so disastrously. We are convinced that the intelligent voters of Lackawanna county do not wish to appear ungrateful for the good results already achieved as a consequence of the Republican victory of 1896, nor do they desire to embarrass the achievement of still greater results; but so far as their influence goes they will do both unless they stand by the Republican party with the same decision and energy next month that they exhibited a twelve-month ago.

This fall is the time to give Bryanism its death blow.

The Party Afraid of Its Platform. Attentive readers of the Scranton Times have doubtless noticed that in its issues of the past few days allusions to Bryan and the Chicago platform, heretofore plentiful and ardent, have been carefully suppressed. In the speech of Colonel Fitzsimmons opening the Schadt-Horn campaign at Carbondale the other night the chairman of that campaign also took great pains to cork up his habitual enthusiasm for the candidate and issues of his party last year, and made a strenuous effort to impress upon his hearers that the present contest has to do wholly with local issues. We quote from the authorized text of his remarks as printed in last night's Times: "This campaign is purely local. No national governmental policy is involved. The voters of Lackawanna can neither strengthen the arms of Spanish troops nor satisfy the aspirations of Cuban insurgents. They cannot restore the dusky queen to the Hawaiian throne; change the monetary system of the nation; formulate a new tariff, nor abridge or enlarge the provisions of the Monroe doctrine. The man or party that tries to conduct the present campaign in this county on national issues undercuts the intelligence and insults the manhood of the voters of young, promising and majestic Lackawanna."

This, mind you, notwithstanding the fact that at the very outset of the platform adopted last August, the Democracy of Lackawanna, with Colonel

Fitzsimmons presiding, paid conspicuous tributes of compliment to Bryan and Bryanism, and took especial pains to endorse "FULLY AND WITHOUT RESERVE" the erratic and dangerous Chicago platform. Then the free silverites in the convention whooped it up like fury; but now, not two months later, poor Bryan is abruptly thrust into the background, the populist exuberance of our esteemed contemporaries, the editors of the Times and the Sunday News, is rudely choked off and word has been passed along the line at the command of Mr. Schadt, the man who pays the freight, to say nothing about national issues.

Overconfidence and indifference when applied to Republicans are synonymous terms. True Republicans are indifferent only when they mistakenly believe that they are going to have a walk-over. In the present campaign the free silver Democracy has banked its hopes on catching the Republicans napping. The latter should take warning in time.

A Call for Fair Play. Once in a while you come across a Republican who, when asked concerning his attitude in the present campaign, will answer that while he recognizes the personal worth of the Republican candidates this fall and admits that no better ticket has ever been nominated in Lackawanna county, he does not intend to support it because he is opposed to some individual not on the ticket but believed by him to have an interest in its election.

How unfair this is! Such Republicans would punish Fryor, Jones, Copland, Langstaff and the remainder of the party candidates and would do what they could to turn the county government over to the Democracy, thus strengthening it for further mischief-making in national campaigns, because of a personal antagonism to some person not now a candidate and therefore not properly to be considered at this time. They would injure the party, perhaps cripple it for years to come, in order to strike at a particular individual.

Such an attitude is not creditable to those who assume it. If there is any person connected with the Republican organization in Lackawanna against whom an element in the party has an especial bitterness, the time to show this is when that person comes directly before the people in his own name and right as a candidate for office. Then will be the time to punch him and pound him and maul him as much as it can. Such a process of direct attack, made openly and above board, would not cause innocent men to suffer nor put in jeopardy the collective interests of the Republican party.

Let Republicans in this matter play fair. And above all, if they be loyal to their party and solicitous for its welfare, let them not by the gratification of an untimely prejudice, put in peril the entire party's future.

Sustain the Administration! The letter of Secretary Bliss indorsing unreservedly the candidacy of General Tracy in New York shows officially the wishes of the McKinley administration in that as in other contests directed by Democrats and Independents against the vitality of the Republican party. There are parts of that letter as applicable to the fight in Lackawanna county as to the campaign in New York. We quote: "Now, when the Republican party is menaced by some of those who have heretofore stood in the front ranks, it seems proper that every voter who is loyal to the principles of his party should let it be known in no uncertain way where he stands. The contest of 1896 has been renewed all over the country, and it is inconceivable to one absent from the scene of contest that there can be even a suspicion that a majority of the three million and more inhabitants of the New York that is to be can, with the George and Tammany parties, each, in its own way, striving for the reversal of the verdict given by New York on the great issues then presented to the American people, deliberately surrender, upon the specious plea of non-partisanship, all that was then gained. It is impossible that the people of New York have so soon forgotten the danger that menaced them only a short year ago, and are now prepared to make such sure as they chiefly to gratify the ambitions of a few men, who are irreconcilably opposed to the Republican party, whatever its position, and to send out to the states that are fighting again the same battle which they waged a year ago, the message that New York has no further interest in the cause which was gained by such a magnificent concerted effort. If, after the victory of Gettysburg, the Union army had incontinently taken to its heels and left the remnants of the Confederate army a free road to Washington, it would have been a parallel case."

Substitute in the foregoing the words "Lackawanna county" in place of "New York," and in the place of the George and Tammany parties say the Schadt-Horn free silver party and the small party of local botlers who are in the field in the former's interest, and the language used by President McKinley's secretary of the Interior will fit exactly the situation now presented in the present campaign in this county. True, the consequences of a Republican reverse in Lackawanna next month would not be so far reaching as would those of a similar reverse in greater New York; but they

would hold in their smaller way to swell the hopes of Bryan and the Bryanites, and be part of the lost ground which Republicanism in its future battles would have to recapture or else go down in national defeat.

There is one clear duty resting upon the shoulders of all true friends of good government, here and elsewhere, and that is to stand by the entire Republican ticket and thus vote to sustain the national administration.

Suppose that if, during the late war, every officer who didn't get promoted when he wanted to had bolted the regular army and set up a guerilla dynasty of his own, where would the Union cause have landed? The principle is the same in politics. Politics is war.

The Last Legislature. Attention is invited to an article on page 2 reviewing in part the record of the recent legislature and exposing the falsity of much of the accusation which has been put before the public against that session. The facts there presented speak for themselves and require no additional comment. They show that in what the legislature did for the labor interests of the commonwealth it went far beyond the record of preceding sessions and fairly earned the gratitude of every workingman within the limits of its jurisdiction.

That the legislature was unfortunate in many of its characteristics we do not assume to deny. The factional spirit engendered by the senatorial contest remained to plague it throughout the whole subsequent course of its deliberations; subjects which should have been approached solely on their merits were viewed suspiciously as if containing political dynamite, and as a relief from the strain of watching every move of the different factional leaders in the expectation that some eye was about to be blackened, the legislature during the forepart of its session frittered away much valuable time. These things are not disputed. They indicate a condition which was deplorable, but natural; a condition which would, however, have prevailed under any state leadership, and under any party control. The legislature may fairly be criticised for its skittishness, for its restlessness, for its unrepublican conduct, for its unreasonableness to wise and prudent counsel and for its rebelliousness against leadership; but when these things are said of it, justice demands that they shall not be followed up with a miscellaneous lot of false accusations put out for unworthy purposes. Its faults were not the faults of deliberate unscrupulousness; they were not the faults of thieves and hoodlums and robbers; they were the faults of a collectively honest and high-minded body of men who simply had the misfortune to do business under circumstances which in the main were sadly against them.

We make bold to assert that the same men if called into session at a different time, when they should not be put by circumstances over the crater of a volcano of factionalism threatening at any moment to burst forth into eruptions of scandal, innuendo and vituperation, would give the state an average of service such as would cause their session to be referred to as a model legislature. This assertion is based on the testimony of fair-minded observers of all party and factional affiliations who say that in point of honesty, conscientiousness and ability the personnel of the late session stood far above the average, and would have so appeared to the people but for the reasons which we have pointed out.

We don't know that so far as the future is concerned it makes much difference whether this legislature is defended or not. It has passed into history and its successor will be elected on new issues. But it is well as a matter of disinterested fairness that the public should be put in possession of the real truth in the premises, and we believe that we have stated it above.

Here is a bit of solid truth from one of General Tracy's speeches in New York that should be studied carefully by every Republican voter: "Organization is just as essential to a political party as it is to an army. You can no more fight a political battle with freemen arrayed against each other, without organization, without discipline, than you can fight a battle; and you might just as well think of appointing a committee of citizens to command an army or to run one of the great steamships across the ocean as to appoint a committee to organize and run a political campaign. Discipline and association, acquaintance, trust in each other, confidence in each other, are essential to all great movements. You must know and trust your comrades, and that comes from association in political organizations." This is a time for loyal Republicanism everywhere to assert itself.

A Political Pointer. If you indorse the free trade and free-silver Chicago platform as the Lackawanna Democracy does, "fully and without reserve," then work and vote for Schadt, Horn, et al. If you believe in McKinley, protection and property, turn these agents of Bryan down.

That Fool Petition. From the Wilkes-Barre Record. Few people will believe that Republicanism has sunk so low in Lackawanna county as it has. In a county convention held in a county convention held to elect a county clerk, it was announced that the object of these charges is to damage the prospects of John E. Jones, the nominee for district attorney, by those who failed to defeat him in the convention. If that be the scheme it will not be likely to succeed. He is now filling that office and is admittedly the most efficient district attorney Lackawanna county has ever had. Three years ago Mr. Jones defeated Mr. Watson by only a narrow margin in the convention; this year he defeated him by a vote of more than ten to one. And yet Mr. Watson is not satisfied.

AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE. From the Carbondale Leader. The position of treasurer of such a populous county as Lackawanna is one of the most important and responsible positions in the gift of the people. In the past the office in this county has been most admirably filled by men of highest standing in the community and the tax payers are to be congratulated on the excellent material they have placed in the office. Again this fall does the Republican party elect a man of high character and high personal integrity in a worthy successor to Hon. J. B. Van Bergen and the other well known persons upon whom the incumbency of the office has devolved.

There are many good and sufficient reasons why Mr. E. L. Leitch should be elected county treasurer and on the evening of Nov. 2 it will, without doubt, be found that he has received a large majority of the votes cast. He has had a goodly experience in public affairs and in whatever capacity placed has shown himself an able administrator. As member at various times of the school and poor boards of Scranton he has distinguished himself by his executive ability and progressive spirit. Mr. Leitch's natural qualities well fit him for the office for which he has been nominated by the Republican party this fall, and the tax payers will do credit to themselves by honoring him with their votes on election day for county treasurer.

PRESENTIOUS AND RIDICULOUS. Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer (Dem.). The court of Lackawanna very properly refused to lend itself to Mr. De-feated candidate Watson's purpose. He is a very poor sort of a politician who cannot stand a defeat without whining. Asking the court to declare the nomination of Jones invalid, on the vague shadowy grounds presented, was both preposterous and ridiculous. The decision of the court dismissing the petition is all the more gratifying by reason of being non-partisan.

COALS OF FIRE. From the Philadelphia Press. President Cleveland's American minister at Madrid is said to have found it inconvenient to go out into society there owing to the feeling against the representative of the United States. Should we not take a little credit to ourselves, therefore, for the courteous treatment accorded the Spanish minister in Washington and elsewhere?

SUPPLANTED. The lawyer was nettled. The smile on his face faded. To a book of intense indignation gave place. For the expert—excusable quite was his fury—when he saw that the man who was usurping his right of confining the jury.

President's View of the Low Campaign

From the Washington Star. It is understood that the attitude of the administration toward the New York city campaign has changed since the lines have been sharply drawn. At the outset the administration declined to take sides, and Mr. McKinley ascertained a feeling personally friendly to Mr. Low, so much so that he would have felt the nomination of Mr. Low by the regular Republican organization to be entirely justified on the grounds of his Republicanism. As the situation has developed now, it is fully understood that the president regards it as the duty of loyal Republicans to support the regular Republican nominee. The attitude of Mr. Low and his friends is looked upon as hostile to the Republican party and directly to the advantages of Tammany or Henry Georgeism.

While the president will continue silent on the subject, ways will be found to show where the sympathy of the administration rests. The presence of Senators Thurston and Foraker in New York, speaking for General Tracy, may fairly be interpreted as an expression on the part of the administration which the New York Republicans are expected to understand, and other evidences of sympathy with Mr. Tracy's candidacy will be given as the campaign progresses. Both Senator Foraker and Senator Thurston had a long talk with the president before going to New York, and the vigorous manner in which they addressed the New York Republicans may be regarded as significant. The direct attacks of the Platt people on Low are significant, too, of the fact that it has been determined to line Republicans up for the regular ticket, and to regard as enemies to the Republican party all who support Mr. Low's candidacy. The statements by his Tracy in his speech at Brooklyn that Mr. Low was responsible for the defeat of James G. Blaine by Mr. Cleveland in 1884, by his failure to use his influence in Brooklyn for the Republican presidential candidate, is in line with the policy of impeaching Mr. Low's Republicanism. No excuse is to be left for Republican support of Mr. Low on the ground that he is "as good a Republican as Mr. Tracy."

Little doubt is left that the administration in sympathy with this idea of drawing party lines tightly, and that men who support Mr. Low will thereby forfeit all claims upon the Republican party. Strong Republican partisans of national reputation will come to Mr. Tracy's support, and Mr. Low is expected to be attacked as great an enemy of the Republican party as is Mr. Cramer. The position is taken by the Republican national leaders that Mr. Low's candidacy is an attempt at the rehabilitation of the old mugwump movement, which was responsible for the regime of Clevelandism.

A WORD OF ADVICE—Republicans who are faithful in called off years are the ones whose loyalty to party counts. Let all such bestir themselves now.

A LIVELY TOWN. From the Chicago Record.

There are more than 1,000 persons running for elective offices in Greater New York. In the 152 election districts there are probably 25,000 men who are devoting their time exclusively to politics. If each party that is in the field had a candidate for each office to be filled there would be almost 1,500 candidates running, but as some parties indorse the candidates of other parties the total number cannot be computed at present. So far there are seven candidates for first mayor, four for New York, the Democratic party, Tammany Hall, the Democratic party, the Citizens Union, the Socialist party, the Socialist labor party and the "no tea, no tiger" party has each its candidate. There would be eight candidates, but the Populists have named Henry George, leader of these parties, too, has candidates for the municipal council, the board of aldermen, assembly, for justices of municipal district courts and of the supreme court, for comptroller, for sheriffs, county clerks, registers, district attorneys, coroners in four counties and borough presidents in each of the five boroughs. There are twenty-nine councilmen to be elected, including the president of the council, and an average of seven candidates for each of the other offices. There are six candidates for the sixty-one aldermanic berths and the fifty-nine assembly jobs. There are seven candidates for comptroller, thirty candidates for sheriff, county clerk, register and district attorney, about as many men running for justices of the Supreme court, and there are seventy or seventy-five men who are trying to get themselves elected justices of the municipal district courts. There are some eighty candidates for coroner in the greater city and about thirty-five candidates for borough presidents.

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