

The Scranton Tribune
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We violate no confidence in saying that since Satan occupied the pulpit in the attempt to rebuke sin, there has not been a performance like Joseph A. Scranton's present vociferousness in behalf of cleaner politics.

Studying the Returns.
The unofficial election figures printed in yesterday's Tribune and taken from the face of the returns afford an interesting study. Divided into groups they show the following totals:

SOUTH SIDE—Fryor, 1,226; Langstaff, 943; Jones, 1,389; Copeland, 995; Daniels, 1,468.

WEST SIDE—Fryor, 2,770; Langstaff, 2,644; Jones, 2,883; Copeland, 2,868; Daniels, 3,459.

NORTH END—Fryor, 1,310; Langstaff, 1,217; Jones, 1,415; Copeland, 1,506; Daniels, 1,288.

CENTRAL CITY, PETERSBURG AND GREEN RIDGE—Fryor, 1,975; Langstaff, 2,693; Jones, 1,688; Copeland, 2,414; Daniels, 2,291.

This it will be seen that in Hyde Park and Providence Langstaff runs behind Fryor 219; behind Jones, 477; behind Copeland, 111, and behind Daniels, 586. In the Central City, Petersburg and Green Ridge, on the other hand, he runs 118 votes ahead of Fryor, thus effectually dispelling the charge of treachery; and is led by Copeland only to the extent of 48 votes and by Daniels only by 108 votes.

The total city vote cast for Fryor was 7,251, which while 284 more than that cast for Langstaff, was at the same time 1,132 or nearly the amount of Daniels' plurality less than the total city vote for Daniels. The fact that Langstaff fell behind Fryor only 22 votes among Fryor's own neighbors in the Ninth and Seventeenth wards, while in the Fourth, Sixth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Eighteenth wards Langstaff fell behind Fryor 161 votes shows that there cannot be just complaint in the manner of Langstaff's support in the Central City, and that for his defeat, regrettable and undeserved as it undoubtedly was, the blame must be placed elsewhere than on the shoulders of William Connell.

The deflation of Seth Low received a hard jolt at the polls, but it will go right on in the Mugwump newspapers. Low is the natural successor of Grover Cleveland as the great stuffed prophet of sham reform.

To Equalize Taxation.

A special commission was recently appointed by the governor of Massachusetts to investigate the subject of taxation, with a view to more nearly equalizing its burdens. The commission consisted of men of international renown as practical economists, among its members being F. W. Taussig, ex-Minister to England, and ex-Councilor Barrus. This is what the commission recommends:

1. An inheritance tax levied without respect to realty as well as to personalty at the rate of 5 per cent, with an exemption for estates not exceeding \$10,000, and an abatement of \$500 of estates from \$10,000 to \$25,000; the revenue from this tax to be distributed from the state treasury among the several cities and towns, one-half in proportion to population, one-half in proportion to assessed valuation.

2. A tax in proportion to house rentals; only the excess over \$10 of rental being taxable.

3. Abolition of the present taxes on intangible personalty, such as stocks, bonds and securities, loans on mortgages and bonds.

4. Assumption by the state treasury of county expenses.

5. Appropriation by the state of revenue from taxes on the corporate excess, now distributed among the several cities and towns.

The endorsement by this eminent commission of the principle of the inheritance tax will properly be regarded as a notable victory for its adherents. That, however, is an already sufficiently mooted theme of controversy. Much newer in this connection is the proposition to tax house rentals. In its favor the commission says: "It is clear; almost impossible of evasion; easy of administration; well fitted to yield a revenue for local uses, and certain to yield such a revenue. It is clear, because the rental value of a house is comparatively easy to ascertain. The tax is based on that part of a man's affairs which he publishes to all of the world. It requires no inquiry and no inquiry into private matters; it simply uses that evidence of a man's means which he already offers."

This is certainly a strong endorsement. Obviously the proposition merits careful consideration.

Just why the venerable Baptist preacher, Rev. William James, of Stroudsburg, refused to go into the election booth to mark his ballot on Tuesday seems not to be clearly explained. He must have heard terrible tales of the doings of Monroe county election boards, and thought his only safety lay in keeping beyond the reach of their clutches. At any rate he did not vote.

A School of Commerce.

It is probable that a school of commerce will be established in Philadelphia in the near future, the purpose of which will be to drill young men in trade conditions, geographical, climatic and other characteristics of foreign countries with a view to more comprehensive possibilities of commerce.

It is no doubt true that great ignorance exists regarding the laws of trade, customs regulations, rules of exchange, internal navigation, currencies, weights, measures and many important facts relating to most foreign countries. Such

a school in connection with a high school would have an incalculably good effect on the all-round education of the business man of the next generation and might well be commended to the boards of education of other cities. If the incidental matter of earning his living is to be considered by the student of today the knowledge gained in a school of commerce would doubtless be as valuable as that embodied in many of the frills and ologies which the university man nowadays lays on the top shelf with his diploma.

The opening of the new Homoeopathic hospital yesterday is an event of more than ordinary importance. There are comparatively few institutions of this school in the country, and the number in this region is extremely limited. The fact that in the space of four months or less, the idea of founding a hospital has developed into the actual working institution is significant in that it shows a marked degree of enterprise and a high order of recognized capability on the part of the homoeopathic physicians of Scranton and vicinity. To the disciples of Hahnemann, however, as exemplified in the ladies of this city is due the rapid culmination of the project and too much credit cannot be accorded them for the energy and perseverance that have resulted in an institution of such credit to the community.

Worse Than Microbes.

Now that the scientists have exhausted the public patience in the subject of microbes it is not more than natural that they should endeavor to excite interest in something else, and electrolysis promises to yield excellent results as far as a bug-a-boo is concerned. The time was when electrolysis, or chemical decomposition by the action of electric current, was not supposed to attack solids. Indeed it was asserted that no substance is decomposed by the current so long as it is in a solid or gaseous state, but it must be first brought to a liquid state either by solution or fusion before the current acts on it. The fact was known and recognized however that the chemical power of the current is the same at every point of the circuit where it is manifested.

It is now stated by eminent authority that electrolysis is doing untold damage to the gas, water and sewer mains of large cities, and not only this but that it is ruining delicate magnetic instruments all over the country.

The cause of this calamitous state of affairs is the all pervading trolley lines which, when operated by but a single wire, send the return current to the dynamo back through the earth and thus coming in contact with the network of pipes beneath the surface produce disastrous results. So ominous is this condition in large cities that scarcely an inch of ground can be said to be free from the damaging fluid.

There have been but two magnetic observatories on this continent, one in Washington, the other in Toronto, Canada. So serious have been the effects of electrolysis in the latter place that observations have practically been abandoned, leaving Washington as the only spot where experiments are still conducted. The difficulty experienced there, also, is such that it is proposed to do something by legislative means to compel traction companies to adopt systems containing a return wire.

Beyond all this assurance of electrical disturbance there now arises a school of theorists who solemnly insist that the growing nervous temperament of the American people, their restless volatile condition and tendency to suicide, riot and desperate attempts to set the world straight are due to the influence of this awful trolley wire. Shall we yet long with pathetic and unsatisfying yearning for the dear old street car horse?

We wonder if the Democratic candidates think they got their money's worth from the Scranton Boodle Republican.

Heroic, but Injudicious.

The experience of the sixteen firemen who were severely burned at Philadelphia the other day through their own carelessness ought to prove a warning to firemen generally who seem to lose their heads when the sound of an alarm reaches their ears. The case of the Philadelphia firemen seems strange from the fact that the foolishly individuals were members of the paid department and were supposed to possess ordinary judgment. The fire was in a dyeing establishment saturated with benzine, and was well under control. The flames were being extinguished by a current of steam which had been turned into the closed room in which the fire was located. In vain the proprietor of the establishment explained to the firemen when the sound of an alarm reaches their ears, the case of the Philadelphia firemen seems strange from the fact that the foolishly individuals were members of the paid department and were supposed to possess ordinary judgment.

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Two Buffalo Women.

Two Buffalo women gave a living picture Wednesday night of what may be expected when the new woman gets here in sufficient quantity. They made an election bet, which although not strikingly original, attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators. It was the old wheelbarrow arrangement with variations. These consisted of a life and drum corps, flags, and a tin horn, with the winner arrayed in a high hat and masculine apparel, and seated in the vehicle which the other woman laboriously trundled. It was not a particularly edifying spectacle and is scarcely one to be recommended as an example of womanly

ness, but in time we may become used to such exhibitions.

There was a time when Democratic candidates were willing to give the editor of the Boode Republican more than \$2,500 for turning traitor to his party. Perhaps that's why he's so sad.

A Florence Mission Incident.

Mr. William Martin, an island farmer of Connecticut, is not a happy man and at first thought it is difficult to decide whether to pity him for his fault or ridicule him for his folly. He was a widower with two children and came to New York to find a mother for his family. He married a young woman, an inmate of the Florence Mission of that city and it was not long until his troubles increased. She left him several times but always returned to her island home with tears of repentance and was duly forgiven by her generous husband. Finally she arose in the night and inducing his pretty fifteen year old daughter to accompany her, took the only two boats on the premises and deserted the farm for a life of shame in New York. The wretched husband and father was unable to get out the island for some time and then found it extremely difficult to trace the runaway. By means of the ferry boat he at last found them and now the wife is in the toms awaiting trial.

Responsibility for Van Wyck's Election

New York Commercial Advertiser.
History of the campaign unites with analysis of the vote to put responsibility for turning the city over to Tammany Hall solely upon the Citizens' Union, which from the first has resisted and defeated all efforts to combine the opposition. It is due to Mr. Low to say that he discouraged and resisted this stubborn folly at the beginning, though he surrendered weakly later to those who cared less for defeat of Tammany than for the establishment of political organizations and set up their own machine in their place. At the outset Mr. Low was the candidate of a mere cabal, and no one recognized the weakness of his position more clearly than he.

Asked if June by a small and irresponsible body if he would accept the nomination for mayor, he answered that he would if convinced of his popularity and that his name would prove a unifying force among friends of good government.

Meanwhile the Republicans had made all possible preparations for an advance toward union. An obstructive executive of the organization was deposed and all demonstration of hostility to Low or the Citizens' Union on part of subordinates repressed. Repeated efforts were made for a free conference with all other anti-Tammany forces. These were steadily repulsed by the Citizens' Union, which developed more and more its settled purpose of indiscriminate war upon the Republicans and Tammany. Finally, in September, it forced its own nomination upon Low, in ostentatious disregard of Republican advances and in advance of the public convention, and he accepted, bleeding that conditions had changed, though the only change was in his point of view.

Even then Republican efforts for union did not end or cease. Union resistance to it ceased. A candidate was sought to whom no citizen could take exception who did not put hatred of party above desire for good government. He accepted the nomination with a double pledge to govern in the sole interest of the people. If elected he would retire as a candidate whenever his retirement would advance the end of good government. For pure high-minded unselfishness, General Tracy's attitude of the worthy citizen who retired to make Low mayor of Brooklyn sixteen years ago. It left the door of union open, but the Citizens' Union closed it by its own action before, refusing all overtures and terms and granting only permission to vote for its candidate.

It must be said for the Citizens' Union that, before the election, it discovered the need of action upon the responsibility for any result to which its action might lead. It cannot hope now to escape responsibility for all that is due to New York city in the next four years through the establishment of Tammany in power.

THE STATE OF SUPERIOR.

From the Troy Times.

It is intimated in Washington that the plan to form a new commonwealth out of the northern peninsula of Michigan and the northern portion of Wisconsin will be revived at the coming session of congress and a strong effort will be made to secure the Union the forty-sixth state. In general, it may be said that the sentiment of the public is against the creation of new states, but this sentiment is in favor of the proposals for admitting western territories to statehood. A burnt child dreads the fire, and the experience of the nation in the recent past is in favor of the creation of new states has not been of a kind that would make other propositions of the same nature so popular. Their experience has resulted in giving undue power and influence to the representatives in the United States senate of states the population of which is far below that of eastern cities. And it is because of that experience that the clamor now being made for Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona for admission to the sisterhood of states is far from likely to produce results.

But with this proposed new state in the central Northwest, to which the name Superior has already been given by the promoters, the case is decidedly different. Such a state would not only be necessary area, but it would also have a considerable population to start with. It would begin life as a state with nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants within its borders. Its inducements to settlers would be more tangible if not quite so glowing as in the States further west, for the reason that its resources in copper, iron and building stone are practically limitless, while the lumber and agricultural industries are also of importance. With a greater coast line than any other state in the Union there are immense possibilities for the development of commerce.

The people of the Northern Michigan peninsula are anxious for statehood in the near future, and the important part of the control in public affairs now wielded by the larger and wealthier southern peninsula. The interests of the two sections are not identical, indeed, in many ways they are conflicting, and there have been even more disputes between these two sections than between the eastern and western shores of Maryland. It is urged that the only way to settle these disputes once for all is to divide the territory, nor is this solution of the problem very strongly opposed in the southern peninsula. Whether it will be wise for the nation to settle the matter in this manner is a question for congress to decide. The arguments against the western territories' admission cannot be applied to the proposition for the creation of the state of Superior, but there may be other arguments of equal weight and force.

WHY MONEY IS PLENTY.

From the Philadelphia Times.

It is regarded by some as a remarkable feature of the present business situation that there should be a plethora of money in all financial centers. Why, they ask, if the country is really prosperous and business has experienced a genuine revival, should money be accumulating in the banks and be offered at a low rate of interest upon satisfactory securities? Why is not this surplus of money in use in the ordinary transaction of an increased volume of business, if there has been such increase? The question is a natural one, for under ordinary circumstances a large volume of business calls

REPUBLICAN VOTE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY WARDS, 1897.

Table with 5 columns: WARD, Fryor, Langstaff, Jones, Copeland, Daniels. Rows 1-21.

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into use all the available money in circulation and business men seek loans at a good and often a high rate of interest. There are two conditions existing at present, however, which tend to make money easy and plentiful. The first is that our exports of breadstuffs and provisions are unusually great, the balance of trade being so largely in our favor that an unusually large amount of money flows from American financial centers. The other is that good crops and high prices have enabled the farmers to the country to liquidate an unusual amount of indebtedness. Instead of borrowing the farmers are paying their former borrowings.

In other words, a heavy foreign demand for our breadstuffs and provisions is drawing a large amount of money to this country from abroad, and good crops and high prices have turned an army of borrowers into an army of debt-payers. The combined effect of these two unusual conditions is that while the volume of business is greater than at any time within the past five years, the volume of money in circulation has increased in still greater proportion. The country merchants are thus able to make more prompt collections than usual, and they are able to pay for their purchases with corresponding promptness. The existence of these two unusual conditions has thus made a heavy market simply indicate an unusual healthy business condition instead of business stagnation. When men cannot pay cash for what they buy, they can pay their old debts into the bargain, money lenders are sure to experience a dull business period, but this is a sign of prosperity rather than of the reverse.

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