

The Scranton Tribune Daily and Weekly. No Sunday Edition. By The Tribune Publishing Company. WILLIAM CONNELL, President. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Daily, goes cents a month. ADVERTISING: At the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as second-class mail matter. TEN PAGES. SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 17, 1897.

Agreement by Senator Quay, Senator Magee and Secretary Martin on a gubernatorial candidate would be important; but there would still remain to be secured the acquiescence of the people. As to Van Valkenburg, et al. The settlement of the Pottsville senatorial bribery cases out of court was a natural consequence of the character of those cases. They involved, it is believed, no violations of statutory law and hence a trial of them could have served no other purpose at this time than to revive past factionalism and, as the saying goes, "wash dirty linen in public."

The charge against General Reeder was that he and two others conspired to defame John Wanamaker. Now all that the information upon which the arrest of Reeder was based alleged was that Reeder and his associate defendants arranged a plan whereby one of the financiers of the Wanamaker senatorial campaign was caught in the act. That was not a conspiracy to defame Mr. Wanamaker, but rather to uncover Mr. Wanamaker's agents. Even this charge fell through at Easton, but had it been sustained it would not have involved General Reeder in any penalty. It is not against the law to lay a trap for the man who is suspected of being a hoodler in politics.

At Pottsville the charge against Van Valkenburg was that he had paid money to certain candidates for the legislature. Undoubtedly such payment, if made, was vicious in intent; but if in the eyes of the law it took the form of a voluntary contribution to the national expense account of the campaign it is doubtful if it could have been made the basis of a successful criminal prosecution. Until a stringent Corrupt Practices act is passed whereby all political profaneers of money save for specified legitimate campaign expenses which must be published under oath, item by item, are declared unlawful and made the subject of penalties, cases like those at Easton and Pottsville cannot be effectively saved in influencing public opinion. The latter, however, does not need additional incentive to inspire it to move vigorously for a radical cleansing of many of the methods in vogue in the politics of Pennsylvania.

If congress does not recognize the illegitimacy of Cuba the American people will, informally perhaps, but effectually. They are tiring of Spain's mumbling nonsense about an impossible pacification based on a re-organizing of the old fetters.

Coal Land. A contention of some interest has arisen between the commissioners and the newspapers of Luzerne county relative to the assessment of coal lands. The commissioners have instructed the assessors to assess all such land at its full value as land, regardless of the coal underneath; but certain journalists are not satisfied with that. They want an assessment made on the value of the unmined coal, alleging that it is unfair to the farmer to tax his acre of farm land, from which he gets a surface income merely, as highly as he gets more highly than the acre of coal land from which the farmer may reap both a surface crop and a royalty. Deputy Commissioner Dreisbach makes the following argument in defense of the present system of assessment in Luzerne: "Here, for instance, is a tract of an acre of coal land which is slowly being mined. It may take twenty-five years until all of that coal is taken out. Is it just to make the owner of that land pay the full value which the coal would bring in market? He is reaping no profit from the unmined coal and is not in the position of a real estate holder, whose revenues go on from year to year according to the value of his property. Then, again, supposing there were a proposition to assess the coal land at its full market value, how are the assessors to determine the amount of coal there is underground? There is no telling how the vein may pitch or how faultily it may be, and it would be manifestly unjust to estimate the quality and depth of the veins under the entire tract according to the conditions at the point where the mining is going on. In itself it would be a serious impediment to the work, and in fact might make it utterly impossible to get at the value of the coal. It is true that the landholder gets a royalty from the mining company for the coal that it taken out. But the mined coal constitutes a small portion of that which remains underground, and while it may appear to some that there should be a way to get at the income which the owner receives in the way of royalty, it would not be fair to tax him for coal that remains untouched and may remain so for years. There are tracts of land from which no coal at all is taken, and there are other tracts from which a small portion is taken irregularly. Would you tax such properties year after year according to the full market value of all the coal? The commissioners cannot, of course, assess the royalty the landholder receives for the coal that is taken out; that is income, and a tax upon that would be an income tax, and of course that is another question."

It is possible that the reputed exemption of the owner of coal land from adequate taxation is more apparent than real. The moment that the owner begins to receive a royalty he must find ways of investing the royalty. If he buys city real estate, he is taxed roundly. If he invests in securities, all of these ways government bonds must bear their share of the tax burden. He cannot make a move in any direction with his royalty money without running afoul of the tax-collector;

and thus indirectly the value which, as unmined coal, temporarily escapes taxation is taxed just as soon as the coal has been converted into cash. Perhaps it isn't taxed as much then as it should be; personally rarely gets assessed with the approximate fairness which characterizes most assessments of realty; but the remedy for this situation is hardly to be found in a forcing of unfairness into the assessment of unmined coal.

The question asked of Postmaster General Gary by the Philadelphia Press in an editorial elsewhere reprinted is a pertinent one and upon the character of the answer much will depend. The people undoubtedly want postal savings banks; but they also want to be assured concerning what disposition would be made of their deposits in such banks in case the latter should be established. Before the government can pay two per cent. on postal deposits it must find some way to earn at least that much by use of the deposits. What ways are proposed?

Smaller School Boards. There is reason to believe that the opinion of Judge Emmett of Luzerne declaring unconstitutional the act under which the present boards of control in third class cities are organized was not delivered prior to very careful study of the question and consultation with other jurists of renown. That being true, the probabilities would seem to be that his opinion will be sustained by the higher courts and the city of Scranton, among other cities, consequently be carried back to the system of a school board of six members elected at large. Would such a result be a good or an ill fortune?

That many complications might arise touching the legality of past acts of the 21-member board is not to be denied, but on the question of the merits of a small vs. a large school board the testimony of experience is overwhelmingly on the side of the smaller body. In New York state city school boards are appointed by the mayor and rarely exceed a membership of three. Service is purely honorary, and the result is that men of high standing and ample personal means predominate on the board and save it from the taint of jobbery as well as from the taint of small sectional prejudices and jealousies. Albany is a city comparable with Scranton in size of population. In Albany the mayor appoints the school commissioners and the element of party is almost wholly absent from the city's school system. Factional cliques and rings inside the school board are practically unknown; money is expended prudently and with economy and the whole morals of the schools is noticeably superior because made so by a superior system.

A board of six members elective at large would be small enough to dispatch business promptly and efficiently; if those six were fairly representative men, it is possible that when the great powers of the office of school controller came to be centralized in such comparatively few hands there would be serious popular effort to secure the choice of six good men. As it is now, the ward system reduces the choice of school controllers to a game of petty politics in which regard for the welfare of the schools is frequently the least conspicuous consideration discernible in the campaign. An election for controllers comprehending the entire city would give the majority of the qualified voters of the city the kind of school government that such comparatively few hands there would be serious popular effort to secure the choice of six good men. As it is now, the ward system reduces the choice of school controllers to a game of petty politics in which regard for the welfare of the schools is frequently the least conspicuous consideration discernible in the campaign. An election for controllers comprehending the entire city would give the majority of the qualified voters of the city the kind of school government that such comparatively few hands there would be serious popular effort to secure the choice of six good men.

The best and safest currency on earth is the way the "Troy Times" describes the money. We don't know that it is that; but it is certainly very good currency and the people will be slow to sanction monkeying with it so long as all the currency doctors appear to disagree.

The South and the Negro.

Major Hearsey, the editor of the New Orleans States, is a man of candor. Interviewed in New York, he informs the convention and we are going to stop the negro voting. The conditions of affairs has reached that stage where this is necessary, and it will be done." Major Hearsey gave reasons why it was necessary in Louisiana to adopt some measure that would remove the negro from politics. He said that it was simply a question of continuing the present system of ballot-box stuffing and election frauds or of legally restricting the suffrage in such a manner that the negro would no longer hold the balance of power in state politics. The convention, he said, would restrict the franchise in three ways. It would adopt the Australian ballot system and it would impose an educational qualification and a property qualification. The laws would be made sufficiently severe to make it impossible for any person to exercise the right of suffrage who was not qualified to be an elector and to have a part in the carrying on of the government. The property qualification, the major said, would probably be fixed at \$250. He thought personally that it should be higher, in order that it might shut out all persons who were not qualified to exercise the franchise, but that was impossible, and \$250 would very likely be the figure.

The people of Louisiana, the major added, were friends of the negro. They doubted his ability to rise, but their hands were continually extended to aid him, if he had the ability. "We want no lynching," he said. "We want him protected in every way civilized government can protect a people. We will guarantee to him a white man's rights and a white man's protection in the courts. We will protect him in his property right, in his family and home circle. We will educate him. In everything he shall have, and we are bound that he shall have, all the protection that the highest civilization can give to man, but he is not fit to rule. He cannot himself do the things that it is necessary to do to bring to him the highest enjoyment of life. We are determined that he shall not dominate the state. Such domination means simply the state's ruin."

neighbors merely think. It is well that the truth as to southern opinion should be known in the north. Neither do we say that the views expressed above are, from a southern standpoint, wholly inexcusable. Giving the negro the franchise before he was fitted for it was an experiment of almost criminal rashness. But it has been done; the Fifteenth amendment is a cold fact of record; and what is congress going to do about it? Shall it permit state legislators to achieve indirectly the nullification of the constitution of the United States?

As to Major Hearsey's pledge that the south if permitted to disfranchise the negro will afterward take good care of him, what bond has he to offer that his promise will be kept in good faith? What has the South yet done for its African ward to warrant the placing of faith in its pledges of improvement? Mrs. Josephine K. Henry of Versailles, Ky., announces her candidacy for president of the United States on a platform declaring for woman suffrage, free silver, Cuban independence, pension reform, a non-partisan tariff commission, no saloons, no lottery, and no recognition of the Diety in state documents. We fear that Mrs. Henry cannot be elected.

Wilkes-Barre and Scranton capitalists have invested their money in coal lands in New Mexico. Now they are regretting their self-same investment would not subscribe a cent were they asked to accord support to home industry.—Hazleton Plain-Dealer.

So far as the Scrantonians are concerned, not one of them has shown any hesitancy in standing by home industries. They have millions invested at home.

FAITH AND FAITH CURE.

The Chicago Times-Herald tells how an English judge after much cogitation finally dismissed two prisoners, believing in the faith cure who had been convicted of manslaughter. He refused to call in medical aid for their children; and it adds: "Manifestly this was the wise course. No good could possibly come from the punishment of these men. What they did they did with strong conscientious motives. Although a rigid construction of the law could possibly come out of their neglect to provide regular medical attendance, no doubt the learned judge felt grave misgivings as to his right to deprive of their children's lives, and perhaps had some doubts as to the infallibility of the schools of medicine sanctioned by statute. We have known many who would be willing to swear that a man who would call in a homoeopath or an eclectic to attend his family would be guilty of manslaughter."

"This case is not without parallels in the country. In a great many cities the health officers have refused to accept death certificates from the hands of 'Christian scientists,' 'mind cure' practitioners and other irregular physicians. Each time that in this city 'faith healers' have been arrested for homicide when patients died under their treatment. But of late there has grown up among all a group of explanation of the 'faith healers' not excepted—a more generous and tolerant feeling toward these 'sciences.' This is not wonderful, since the results of medical attention are so often unsatisfactory, while the various irregular schools are able to exhibit cures that are not reasonably explained by them and are incapable of explanation in the present stage of the world's thought. A few months ago the Times-Herald printed an article which was so-called 'The Faith Cure' and the results of the 'faith cure' were so thoroughly understood, that our ancestors looked upon as manifestations of supernatural power."

It is estimated that the present yellow fever epidemic has cost the South \$25,000,000, which is a big price to pay for the gross incompetency of Spanish sanitation in Cuba.

Canada does well to her eleven-hour conference for her unenlightened slaughter of the seals. It comes just in time to save Canada a lot of trouble. If Japan is determined to try a tilt with Russia, the United States can probably furnish the necessary war correspondents.

The idea of Commissioner Dunning appears to be that the streets belong to the people. It is a novelty but we like it. Mr. Hanna might notify his recalcitrant legislative constituents that a federal judge has just declared the boycott illegal.

Now all that is needed to relieve public suspense is Hon. Seth Low's revised estimate of Hon. Thomas C. Platt. Redivivus these days means something in which both sides benefit. The jug-handled style has gone out of date. The Ohio Republican who possesses discretion will keep out of range of the Mark Hanna buzz saw.

The talk of peace in Cuba will be realized when Spain gets out and liberty gets in. Where Shall the Postal Savings Go? From the Philadelphia Press. Postmaster General Gary, in his first annual report, joins the large number of persons who urge congress to establish postal savings banks. Unfortunately, Mr. Gary does nothing toward the adequate solution of the one crucial problem which must be met before this step is taken. Where shall the deposits in postal savings banks be invested? Answer this question and congress would establish these banks before the close of its next session. Until it is adequately answered congress ought not to establish them. Postmaster General Gary sees, though rather dimly, that this is the crux of the controversy. He attempts to evade and solution. Neither is adequate.

No one doubts the value of savings banks. All deplore their absence over large sections. No one questions that the postoffice could safely receive deposits. The cost of the new step would be small. Its advantages, direct and indirect, would be great. Why not establish these postal savings banks then? Because no one has yet shown a safe way of investing the deposits. Any one can receive deposits. This is the simplest thing in the world. The difficulty is to use deposits so as to get a steady income for the depositor. This is the hardest thing in the world. Money does not earn interest of itself. With a big national debt which no one expects to pay, this can be done—up to a certain point. The English treasury is now meeting a growing deficit on postal savings bank deposits because at present rates, in which the deposits are invested, do not yield the interest promised depositors. France cannot even fund its debt without involving reducing the interest on its government savings banks deposits invested in rentes, and no administration dare risk that. These are grave dangers. In the south England and France have got to pay by taxation the interest on savings bank deposits. Is this wise? Is it safe? Will any property long be secure when the property of all is taxed to pay interest, not earned, on the deposits of some?

This country has no permanent national debt. "There is enough of a national debt," says Mr. Gary, "so that it should be used for that purpose and the afford investment for such savings (in postal banks) for ten or fifteen years." The postmaster general speaks unadvisedly. The debt today is \$97,560,000. The government, of which he is a part, is pledged in "ten or fifteen years" by the sinking fund act to pay off at least \$20,000,000 of this debt. The party which Mr. Gary represents is pledged to a still more rigid redemption. The national banks hold \$10,000,000. There are \$7,000,000 held abroad. Of the United States bonds therefore, there are \$50,000,000 now held by banks. Add those abroad and in the hands of permanent investors and half the debt is accounted for. We are to pay the other half the United States is pledged to pay in "ten or fifteen years." How much is left for postal savings banks?

At what ruinous price would the bonds have to be bought for postal savings? Why, moreover, since the treasury is pledged to buy up government bonds and redeem them, should the postoffice depreciate the value of the price by buying them for postal deposits?

This is not the want. Mr. Gary makes the entire proposition that the postal savings deposits be "invested" in public buildings by the government. With full respect for the postmaster general's motives in making this proposition, it is impossible to avoid feeling that he suggests here a most dangerous step. Proceeding we would turn the savings of the country into the federal treasury ready for any wild and extravagant scheme. Public buildings would be followed by parks, water works, and other public works. Where would the savings of the country be today if the \$20,000,000 in our savings banks had been "invested" in public buildings? Moreover, when this "investment" is made is the government to go on paying interest on it forever? It pays the popular mortgage on its buildings, where is the money to be invested? How are withdrawals of deposits to be made? How are the bonds of the government to be borrowed? No one would dream of proposing to borrow money on bonds to enter on the erection of public buildings, yet under this proposition the government would borrow wholesale and congress could spend the money without the check and balance of taxation.

No such plan ought even to be permitted to take shape. It would end in extravagance run mad. Bonds impracticable and government bonds impracticable, there remain only state, city and railroad bonds, and no one, not even Mr. Gary, would suggest how to secure permanent would discriminate between these. Instantly there would come a pressure in congress to recognize dubious securities and the bonds of defaulting states. Like all his predecessors, the postmaster general proves unable to explain how a country with no permanent national debt can safely invest savings bank deposits.

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It is impossible to deny this testimony, and until such cures (and the like) more remarkable cures of the Christian scientists are explained by a broader knowledge of physical laws it will be impossible to judge of their real value as evidence. Today they are miracles. To the thinking of the majority they are as logical as those natural phenomena, now thoroughly understood, that our ancestors looked upon as manifestations of supernatural power."

TRUE PARTY LEADERSHIP.

From "Holland's" New York Letter. A distinguished Republican who was at the head of the Republican organization in war days was speaking today to a group of explanation of the 'faith healers' not excepted—a more generous and tolerant feeling toward these 'sciences.' This is not wonderful, since the results of medical attention are so often unsatisfactory, while the various irregular schools are able to exhibit cures that are not reasonably explained by them and are incapable of explanation in the present stage of the world's thought. A few months ago the Times-Herald printed an article which was so-called 'The Faith Cure' and the results of the 'faith cure' were so thoroughly understood, that our ancestors looked upon as manifestations of supernatural power."

"The only man so far as we now know," continued Mr. Weed, "you may go to your Republican friends and say that so far as I am concerned I shall be rejoiced at Mr. Opylky's nomination and election and I can do nothing to prevent it. You thought I would oppose it because Mr. Opylky and myself are not friends; but I have never allowed my personal feelings, and never have, to interfere with what is for the best interests of my party."

HOW SPAIN FIGHTS.

Spanish Commandante: "We welcome you, Senator Captain, from the bottom of our stomachs for you have been out of provisions for three days. Here, men! Open some of these fat packages, quick!" Captain of supply train: "Sorry, sir; but we brought no provisions. These are copies of the newspapers containing the captain general's official announcement of the complete pacification of the province, which you are to distribute among his inhabitants." Commandante: "I am here to obey his excellency's orders, but these papers are hardly readable. What are all these holes through them?" Captain of supply train: "Those are bullet holes. We've had to make a running fight all the way. The insurgents have captured several packages and we're lucky to get in with any."

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