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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 18, 1897.

An early state convention would suit all concerned, especially as there may be need of some little interval afterwards for harmonizing and cooling off.

Those who read in yesterday's Tribune the very interesting report of the Interstate Commerce commission or who have in other ways followed the course of the struggle between this commission and the courts over the question of its right to exercise the power intended to be put in its hands by the framers of the act, will probably feel, do not need to be told that the same time has been wasted in the most important of every American citizen, strained at all false statements it presents for public consideration and action. The question, "Should the railroads or the people be supreme in this country?"

The railroads have suffered much undue condemnation and it is no more than fair to say that their managers have to a large extent been forced into the attitude of opposition which they now maintain toward an enforcement of the intent of the interstate commerce law. Regarded by shippers, farmers, politicians and others as law full carriers for all kinds of attack and retaliation, they have been compelled in view of the interests entrusted to their care to assume the role of the aggressor in retaliation. Hence it has come about that the Cotton Interstate Commerce law, passed with the plain intent to afford both shippers and carriers a fair means of protection and redress, has been so manipulated by successive court decisions, not a few of which have suggested hidden influences that today, but for the Supreme court's anti-pooling decision, the railroads would hold every point in the game and the public would be crushed.

The railroads have the benefit of a compact organization, skilled agents and unlimited ammunition and they carry their point unless the people shall bestir themselves. They do not want to do away with the interstate commerce commission, so long as they can keep it in a condition of powerlessness it serves as a convenient butt against Populist discontent. But they are evidently determined that the commission shall be reduced to the proportions of a mere ornament, and if the public shall by indifference permit this object to be accomplished they need not complain if the railroads shall hereafter celebrate their triumph by lightning the thimblesticks.

It is wholly to the credit of President McKinley that his attitude as a civil service reformer gains the praises of Carl Schurz at the cost of the possible disruption of the Republican party?

Som: Striking Statistics.

A report letter from Baltimore to the New York Sun contained facts and figures of almost startling significance relating to the growth of the manufacturing industry in the South. For example: In 1880 the South had 180 cotton mills, with a capital of \$21,000,000.

The Hon. Robert Emory-Pattison may be a candidate for governor next year, but he will not again be the candidate for governor.

President McKinley has exhibited his intellectual tact in designating the newspaper correspondents at Washington as among the acts to be recognized by invitations to formal social functions at the white house this winter. They, not less than congressmen, jurists and diplomats, are controlling factors in the problem of government, and as such fairly deserve formal attention.

mills from 667,000 in 1880 to 4,000,000 in 1897 was taking place, the increase in the rest of the country was from 9,000,000 to 17,000,000, the gain in the South being about 500 per cent. and in the whole country outside of the South about 30 per cent.

The industrialization of the South means its salvation. Its salvation means the country's amalgamation and that in turn means the unquestioned perpetuity of popular government.

The Civil Service.

Major Carson, the well-informed Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, telegraphs to his paper: "The demand for modification of the regulations by which the civil service was extended by President Cleveland is so earnest and insistent on the part of the republican senators and representatives that it is expected President McKinley will be forced to revoke the orders issued during the last year of Mr. Cleveland's term by which the civil service was extended over nearly every office of the government."

General H. V. Boynton in the Sun: "THE COMMENTS in various places by newspapers of a small sort upon the assembling of congress suggest that, notwithstanding the numerous and varied measures to be introduced, there is another needed whose special province shall be to inculcate seeking well of the government and the great body of the citizenry."

Public Life Not Black as Painted. General H. V. Boynton in the Sun: "THE COMMENTS in various places by newspapers of a small sort upon the assembling of congress suggest that, notwithstanding the numerous and varied measures to be introduced, there is another needed whose special province shall be to inculcate seeking well of the government and the great body of the citizenry."

Public life has been steadily growing purer and stronger until today it is more worthy of the nation than at any time since war established us as a nation. No reader of the daily press needs to be told that the public business is more honestly conducted than private business the country over.

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While under the late navigation season this year 65 seamen lost their lives in the line of duty on some one of the great lakes, it is an encouraging circumstance that of the millions of passengers carried on these lakes in 1897 not one perished because of shipwreck or accident.

Chairman Quigg, of the New York county Republican committee, has offered to concede every point demanded in the interest of harmony by the so-called Republican faction that recently supported Seth Low, but the benefits of that faction refuse to be dictated unless they are made absolute bosses of the situation. We would see them hanged first.

The Monticello, N. Y., preacher who beat his wife because she endeavored to drive a favorite cat out of the house, and who is now languishing in jail as the consequence of his little diversion, seems twisted in his mind with regard to pets.

Senator Wellington's criminal libel suit against the Baltimore American has been thrown out by the grand jury. Wellington will doubtless follow as soon as the people can get at him.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS. What is more acceptable than a nice piece of China, Cut Glass or Bric-a-Brac, Umbrella Stands, Jardiner and Pedestals, Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets.

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in sight of all speakers and known by all to be rushing their untuned words to every part of the hall, have filled orators and forest the absent reading speeches. The days of congressional oratory have passed—those old extemporaneous speakers, who, after rest a day or two and further time to revise the proofs of the old intelligence, and then a week or more of stage-coach distribution before the country was even informed that a great man had made a great speech. Now when the whole country listens to the words as spoken, even men of the first ability must of necessity be careful, lest an ill-considered phrase arouse national and simultaneous criticism, and in case of such unhappy happenings, the unfortunate speaker be brought to ask, "Where am I at?"

Few even of those who observe congress have an adequate idea of the immense amount of work which the principal committees perform, or of the rapid growth of this work as the country has expanded. It is probably within bounds to say that the committees on appropriations alone, which deal with the government's immense service, do more work than half the committees of both houses performed in the old days. The increase in the work of all leading committees—Finance, Ways and Means, Judiciary, Military, Naval Militia, Commerce, Foreign Affairs and International Affairs, Banking and Currency, Rivers and Harbors, and so on through nearly the whole list in each house. As each body now carries its own heavy load of legislation and the public business have approached the unwieldy stage, the business of legislation has been in greater and greater measure assumed by committees. To meet this necessity of the work all of them have been increased in numbers, and their reports and views now carry the weight of the whole body on the floor. This fact, that so much of the hard and continuous work of congress is done out of sight of the public, has much to do with the prevailing opinion that a body, the majority of whose members are constantly and faithfully at work, does little beyond what appears in the case of the daily sessions.

These alive and distinctly practical days have practical men in the score in each house who are equal to the task imposed, and in work, it results accomplished, and in work of great variety and value, the nation are not a whit behind their predecessors of the earlier day.

A COAL DEAL. The following joke from the Chicago News is referred to the short-weight coal dealers: "Purchaser: 'Did your boss weigh that load of coal on an ambulance scale?' Dealer: 'What's an ambulance scale?' Purchaser: 'Those that lie in weight.'"

A SLEEPY LITTLE SCHOOL. A funny old professor kept a school for little boys. And he'd romp with them in playtime. While in his little schoolroom, with its head against the wall, was a bed of such proportions it was big enough for all.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS. We are afraid of Books. It is a frank confession—we purchased a great stock of holiday books—the finest of the best, but they have not kept pace with the rest of the stock in our store.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS. What is more acceptable than a nice piece of China, Cut Glass or Bric-a-Brac, Umbrella Stands, Jardiner and Pedestals, Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets.

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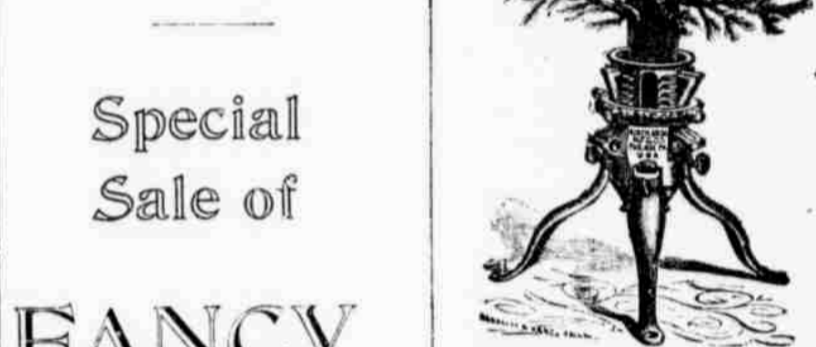
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