## the Scranton tribune

FRIGHT CLASS MAIL MATTER

# TEN PAGES.

TANTON, DECEMBER 22, 1897.

We trust that the esteemed editor of the Truth has many readers and with the compliments of the season we wish him many more.

The Next State Convention. No special significance attaches to the date selected yesterday by the Republican state committee for the next Republican state convention. In gubematorial years the convention has usually been held in May or June. The helding of the convention of 1895 on June 2 will allow for six months of active campaigning for the nomination, which under the prospects now in view will be amole. The nomination case made, the rive morths' interval until the election will suffice both to shape the course of the campaign, array the respective forces and conduct a soliited canvass of the commonwealth.

We do not affect to underestimat the gravity of the situation by which the Republican party in Peansylvania is confronted, but it is one which a free field, clean methods and no favoritism will materially allay. The tendency toward bushwhacking on the part of contain influences more or less identified in the public mind with the recognized management of the state organization; the disposition to set one particular candidate up by attempting in a back-handed way to knock all possible competitors down in advance: the accognice with which factional vindictiveness asserts itself in certain localities and the multiplying recourse had by this overtealous element to lang-age which offends and acts which havite dissension and rescatment-these are features of the outlook which, coupled with the quiet determination of a powerful dement in the party to enforce due respect for public opinion, give to the next convention and to its preliminaries an uncommon interest and rignificance. They indues the belief that the party, whether it fully realizes it or not, is drawing near a crisis demanding of its leadership more than ordinary sagacity.

No harm can come from early and benest recognition of the truth. There is ample time to which to avert party danger or enthurrassment, but it is time which can be better employed. than in adding fuel to the fire of previous discords.

The opponents of Senator Hanna should guard against premature confidence. The silene of the sentor's friends does not mean that they are Imective or indifferent.

### The American Hog Again.

At the demand of the farming inter ests of France the French chamber of deputies has passed a bill largely increasing the duties on hog products impacted into France from the United States. To get a full-grown live American hog into France tof the quadempedat variety) under the new bill a duty of \$2.40 will have to be paid hereon payment of 60 cents apiece and the duties on pork meats and lard will be in proportion. In explaining the provisions of the bill Premier Meline frankly informed the deputies that it was a measure prompted solely by the necessities of French agriculture, which, in the matter of pork products, could not withstand the present competition.

What steps the government at Washington will take in the matter are not known, but it obviously is not in a position to take exception to France's action. With the French people as with our own the tariff question is simply a matter of bookkeeping. On one side of every rate of tariff duty are certain debits, while on the other are certain credits. The permanence of the rate depends upon the accuracy with which the account is kept and also upon the nature of the balance. France has elected in this new bill to subordinate the interests of the large body of consumers to those of the small body of agriculturists engaged in the raising of pork. The decision may be wise or it may not. Time will tell, and in th meanwhile what we lose in France must be made up elsewhere, as it can be by shrewd negotiation.

The man who wants to ke-p tabs or the new Chinese problem will do well to focus at least one eye on the exar.

## Public Salaries and Prices.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Press dating his communication a Pittsfield, Pa., and signing the name John T. Martin, presents some opinlons on the revenue problems of the national government which are very interesting and largely shared. Says

"More revenue! Why not say some thing about reducing expenditures? Why not commence at governmen salaries? These salaries were raised in war times, and are out of all proportion to incomes derived from other lines of business. While products of all kinds; both agricultural and manufactured, have been tending downward. and downward, salaries of public officers have been growing higher and higher. Before the war, when products of all kinds were high, salaries of congressmen were \$8 a day; now, when all products and profits are at the lowest point ever reached, congressmen get about \$55 a day for an average session of three months, the highest point ever reached. If extra time is put in then extra pay follows, and even if the session lasts six months and no extra pay is allowed, then it would amount to three times and over the former pay of congressmen when products of all kinds were bringing 190.

200 and 200 per cent, more than now, "I have retailed cut nails for 8 cents a pound before the war. I purchased two kegs of nails just recently at a retail store. For one keg of 10s. I paid \$1.75 per keg of 100 nounds, for a keg of 8s. I paid \$1.80. I can buy twice as much clothing, boots, shoes, underwear; three times more cotton cloth: twice as much sugar, tea and spices now. Common soft was selling for duties was effected in the most quiet that hides the seen from the unseen. Too soon will the veil be from 37 to 35 to interest 1 purchased and orderly manner. And we have had rent asunder. Too soon will the primrose

three barrels at a retail store recently for 65 cents a barrel. Butter sold last summer at 10 cents per pound here; it is selling for 20 cents now, but did you knew that a farmer could always get a good price for products when be had little or nothing to sell? When his pasture dried up his cows dried up also, Hay brought \$15 to \$20 per ton before the war: It is a drug here now at \$5. per ton in the barn. Potatoes are high here now on account of the potato rot, but the farmers generally have none to sell; many are compelled to buy, not having got their seed back in many cases, but the farmers were selling potatoes last spring for 10 and 1214 ents per bushel, and for two years previous to this they were compelled o throw thousands of bushels away, here being no market for them. Why should this unequal thing go on? Why hould salaries be exempt from the same rules and laws that govern all other business;

It will be pretty hard for the appropriation-swellers in congress to get away from the logic of these remarks. Fortunately the whole power of the McKinley administration is being excreised in behalf of judicious public conomy and is being reinforced by hat of every member of congress who actuated by a conscientious regard for the general welfare.

It is not treason to the Republican party in Pennsylvania to say, and to have the fact clearly understood in adance, that the next governor of Pennsylvania will under no circumstances sign a bill to pay the expenses of the Andrews "Lexow" committee,

### Significant.

The action of the Conservative party a Havava, in convention assembled, is highly rignificant. This convention epresenting, it is said, about 80 per ent, of the wealth of the island-most of it stolen from native Cubans-resolved:

"I. To refeet autonomy as unpatriotic dangerous to the sovereignty "2. To affirm the entire support of th

party to General Weyler and his policy and method of warrare. "& To send a despatch to General Wey-ler complimenting him upon his latest declarations and effering him the support of the loyalist Spaniards of Cuba.

4 To refrain from any participation any election or public act during the

donomist regime.

5. To authorize the board of directors o act in the name of the party and op-pose the government. If it is necessary without calling another assembly."

In other words, the bone and sinew of the Spanish element in Cuba, exepting only the army, has declared cimally and it would seem irrevocaits his repudiation of autonomy. This studiation is not quite so emphatic in the manner of its declaration as is that of the armed insurgents, who have emphasied their opinion on the subject by hanging the Spanish peace emmissioners, but it suffices to indiate that Marshal Blanco is between two fires. He has in the support of his programme a crippled army, a small fereign element made up of planters who desire autonomy in order that they may resume agricultural or cane-grinding activities, and the combined Reformista and Autonomista parties of native Cubans, a numerically unimportant factor. Unless the army can conquer the insurrection by orce, Spain's last hope so far as Cuba | teacher in the land;

On the other hand, the action of the Conservatives at Havana combines with the attitude of the opposition in Spain, now rapidly concentrating under the spectacular and peculiarly Castillan leadership of Weyler, to constitute a formidable menace to the life of the present ministry at Madrid and possibly to the life of the reigning lynasty itself. Sagasta might be able o weather the gale if he were in posssion of adequate funds, but it is notorious that Spain's treasury is empty, the Spanish taxpayers squeezed dry, industry in Spain at a standstill, her foreign credit gone, her soldiery unpaid and the national deficit increas

ing with ominous regularity and rapidity. It would be open to considerable doubt if Spain could recover from the esses of the Cuban war without a revo iution at home even were the Cuban insurgents at this moment to throw down their arms and bend again to the yoke. But with three-fourths of Cuba itself in arms against Spain or at open variance with the ruling adninistration at Madrid, the chances for revolution in Spain are multiplied al-

jost incomputably. Some American journals profess to clieve that the shooting of the Spanish spy, Colonel Ruiz, by the insurgents, after full and fair warning. points to the desperation and speedy everthrow of the Cuban cause. These ournals forget that the Spanish cause survived after practicing that kind of variare and worse for a period of fore than two years, receiving at the same time the official co-operation and noral support of the executive branch of the government at Washington. The insurgents at the present time are uily one among many powerful facfors that are at work in the behalf of Cuim Libre.

The r port that the Western Repulscan senators are surprised at Secretary Clage's outstoken stand for the gold standard is probably "writ sarkastic." Those senators must have read the St. Louis platform.

Congress and the Presidency. The Washington Post is opposed on reneral principles to the idle discussion of hopeless propositions for the further amendment of the Constitution of the United States, regarding this as n the nature of a waste of energy, but it points out one way in which congress can carry out a long-neglected provision of that great instrument. Says our contemporary:

"The Constitution provides that Inase of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignailon, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president.' There would be no difficulty in dent. There would be no difficulty in ascertaining that a vacancy existed. Claus," may be but the prototype of the man of inducting the vice-president into the vacant office in case of removal or God." he vacant office in case of removal or resignation, should so unlikely a thing happen. We have had four vacancies in the presidential office created by death, and the transfer of powers and

months—from the day on which Prest-dent Carfield was fatally shot in this city until death ended his sufferings at the country of fairyland, where the Angel of Content guides their foristeps and the wings of Love overshadow them. Elberon. If the word 'inability' is not Elberon. If the word 'inability' is not The child who does not believe in Sant which was not recognized, although it. Claus is a child no longer, and the hap no meaning. Had congress provided piness he has lost can never come for the ascertainment and declaration of the 'inability of a president to discharge the powers and duties of the office,' Vice-President Arthur would have been sworn in immediately after the shooting of Garfield.

"As the case stands today, a president might be wholly incapacitated and still hold office. There are almost innumerable contingencies that might happen, each one of which would produce 'inability' and still leave the incumbent to hold on to the end of his cumbent to hold on to the end of his term. This ought to be rendered impossible by legislation which would knew of the existence of the law, but ac provide the machinery for ascertaining when 'inability' occurred, and when, if ever, it ceased. It took a hundred years for congress to provide for succession to the presidency in case. for succession to the presidency in case of the removal, death, or resignation of the removal, death, or resignation of both the president and vice-president, but, important as that duty was, it was no more imperative than this, which fifty-four congresses, covering "If the penalty of the law had not been too years, have neglected. Is it not carried into effect, doubtless Spain would best to guard against a danger that may come? Is the fact that no serious harm resulted from the unrecognized but actual vacancy in 1881 a good reason for doing nothing in the prem-

The point raised by the Post is not of pressing importance, but it is at least worthy of casual attention. A good way to meet such emergencies is to anticipate them.

Secretary Wilson is credited with robust and abundant common sense.

## Santa Claus Must Not Be Dethroned.

Wooter Van Twiller" in the Wilkes-Barre Record,

OF WILL observe that I have found some food for reflection in the Stranton newspapers lately. But the supply is by no means exhausted. For that bustling young has a habit of furnishing some very interesting episodes now and then, Here is one of them: It seems that some of the teachers in the public schools up there, who have a holy horror of any-thing in heaven or on earth that isn't buttressed by hard facts, have been teaching the children that there is no such thing as Santa Claus. They gather the liftle ones, about them and tell there the little ones about them and tell them that this belief in the merry monarch of childhood's fair realm is very, very wrong, and that those who seek to instil that belief into their minds are telling them horrid lies. And the poor little ones go home with tears of disappoint-ment in their eyes and ask their parents if after all there is no such person as dear old Santa Claus. Some of these parents who have no particular liking for the late Mr. Gradgrind or any of his narrow-minded followers complained of these overly-conscientious teachers to Superintendent Howell, and he, with rare good sense, gave him to understand that they had still a great deal to learn, and that "there are more things in heaven and on earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy." Here are his words, and I commend them to every parent and I commend the commend the commend them to every parent and I commend the commend the commend the commend the commend the commend

"Some one has said: "Things seen are temporal, things unseen are eternal. This is a skeptical age and we are inclined to rely upon the sense of sight believe only that which we can see. But the only real things in the world are those which neither children nor men car sec. Love and devotion have a real ex-istence. In fact that which gives to life is highest beauty and best Joy is a parof the unseen world. Faith, hope, ambi-tion, indeed all that emobles character,

are unseen things.
"Do I believe in Santa Claus? Yes. all my heart and soul. This would be a world of gleom if we would shut out the light of childhood. No poetry, no romance, no folklore, no fairies. It would chill the marrow of life. Hecause you cannot see the fairles dancing on the chimney is no good reason that they do not exist. There is a heavy veil covernot exist. There is a heavy veil cover-ing the unseen world which fancy only

can push aside.
"God meant that we should teach Santa Claus, Had He meant otherwise He would have made the imagination our weakest, not strongest, faculty in infancy. O. yes, teach Santa Claus, make glad the heart of childhood. cannot make a mistake if you follow God's plan of child developme

To me, the saddest of all sights on this sad old earth is that of a mother who takes her little one on her knee and "There is no Santa Claus, dear things stored away at the North Pole. All these things are lies and it is very wrong to believe in them. When you hang up your stockings tonight it is not Santa Claus, but your papa and mamma who fill them with gifts. That Christmas tree there will not be decked by Kris Kingle, for there is no such person. The good things you will find there in the morning will be brought home by pupa tonight and he and I will do the rimming after you go to bed.

The mother or the teacher who utters uch words commits a crime against hildhood, which can never be atoned for, Why? Because it is the first drop of the poison of skepticism which may in time develop into doubt of all things unseen. Oh, when these hard, cold words are scoken, what dear idols are shat-tered, what fond hopes are crushed, what sweet visions dispelled! Gone, and forever tre the dearest delig. is of childhood canished for all time the faith in a kind-Providence, which bends low to lister their simple requests and never fails grant them. Learned men, through all he ages, have groped blindly for a ren in the veil that shrouds the unseen world, only to confess failure to know and understand. Some, unable to solve the derstand. Some, unable to solve the great mystery, have denied its existence and sought relief in skepticism or infidelity. Others have anchored their hopes upon the rock of faith, believing where they do not understand, and in all frumbleness learning the great truth that the finite mind can never comprehend Infin

Why, then, should we ask our children o comprehend what we ourselves can not? Why should we seek to kill their falls in thing unseen when that very faith is the foundation of all religion? From belief in a beneficent Santa Claus t is but a step to belief in God. As the child grows older the one naturally and imperceptibly merges into the other, un-til from faith in the jolly old sprite springs faith in the Creator of all things So, my friends, be careful how you shat-ter the idols of the child. For the boy

Let the fancy of your little ones run riot among the fairles, and gnomes, and kelpics, and goblins, and sprites, and Kris Kingles. Let their imagination pierce the

one vacancy created by 'inability,' paths of childish dalliance be filled with which was not recognied, although it actually existed for two and a half enjoy to the full the pleasures of fancy could be compared to the full the full the full the full the pleasures of the full the full

### WARNING TO THE SPANISH.

From the New York Sun-

Senor Tomas Estrada Palma, delegat of the Cuban republic, gave out yester Cuba would be treated as spies and deal but upon the heads of Blanco and Con-gosto, who sent him to his fate.

have taken advantage of the fact to show that the Cubane were not in carnest in their rejection of autonomy absolutely but were willing to listen to arguments. This decree was not promulgated be cause the Cubans are afraid of disaffection in their ranks, but because it is known that innumerable commissioner would otherwise be sent and on their re-turn make false statements, encouraging the belief that peace might be established on a basis other than independence. Such statements would only serve the inter-ests of Spain in gaining time, with the resulting death of thousands, owing to the uscless prolongation of the war. He sides, the Cubans are advised that the having frankly told the president and all his coll agues that the civil service reform law must be reformed. Secretary Wilson is pre-eminent among the members of the present cabinet for his members of the present cabinet for his When we remember that he had deneral Blanco authorized General Polaviela, in Santiago de Cuba, to execute as many marmed Cubans as the latter thought necessary as an example.

"It is somewhat remarkable that with Ruiz came the announcement of the kill ing by the Spanish of over forty sick and wounded Cubans found in a hospital, and not a voice was raised in protest thereat. The shooting of Cuban prisoners by the score passed almost without comment. the thousands of wounded Cuban soldier, slain in hospitals attracts but little no lice, it is so common. According to al-the laws of civilized warfare, the 'to bans from the beginning and the right b retaliate in kind, but they never have done so. On the contrary, all prisoners taken by them were set at liberty and the wounded attended to. We are defiled by the entire world a status as beligerents and might therefore claim that we have not the obligations to conduct the war r belligerents, but we do not intend to take this stand either.

"The conditions obtaining in Cuba an the character of the Spanish demand however, that we take the necessary measures to speedily terminate the war by convincing the world that independence alone can satisfy us. We according ly issue a decree and solemnly Wart Spain of its enactment. If, despite the warning, they persuade a man to be rust enough to come to us to treat on th basis of autonomy, we must either ac knowledge that our laws are made only

From the Wirkes-Barre Record. Congressman William Connell, of Lack wanna, may possibly not be the mo-available man to commute for govern next year, but it is noither fair nor ju o rule him out of the race because he coal operator, as has seen attempts the Philadelphia inquirer and a fether machine organs. That the fact his being a coal operator is not a sour of political weakness was abundantly demonstrated in last year's election when Mr. Connell was sent to congresby a majority of almost 5,000, runnin ahead of Mr. McKinley's vote by nearly 2,000 in his district. It was the miner and other workingmen who swelled My Connell's vote to such amuzing proper tions. Mr. Connell, like every other Re-publican gubernatorial assicant, is en-titled to fair play and decent treatmen at the hands of newspapers pretending to serve the interests of the Republicar party. Like Hon. John Leiseuring, of Luzerne. Mr. Connell has no more devote friends and supporters than the working nen who are or have been in his employ

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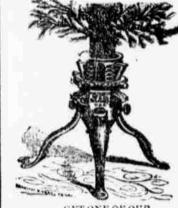
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