

The Scranton Tribune

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The interesting news comes from the Leisening literary bureau that "since the withdrawal of Congressman Connell from the gubernatorial contest, the Leisening people feel confident of securing a majority of the Lackawanna delegation, if not all of it."

The Next Board of Control.

As may have been seen in the published call, delegate elections will be held on next Saturday afternoon for the choice of men to represent the different election districts of the city in the Republican city convention which has been summoned to assemble in Music hall next Tuesday forenoon, to place in nomination candidates for the following offices to be voted for at the next municipal election, on Tuesday, February 12, namely: Two school directors to serve one year; two to serve two years, and two to serve three years.

Under the laws of Pennsylvania a school board in a city like Scranton is more nearly an omnipotent body than any other governmental organization in existence. It is absolutely the master of the people in the matter of finances, being authorized to appropriate funds by simple resolution which can be desired to be passed at the drop of a hat.

It is easy to define theoretically the kind of men who ought to be nominated next Tuesday and in whose interest delegates ought to be elected at Saturday's primaries. These six candidates should first of all be absolutely honest and incorruptible.

It is to be expected, of course, that the Republican convention will desire to nominate men who have been loyal Republicans, but emphasis need not be put on party lines unduly.

We suspect that those good friends who are verifying the reporting of Colonel Ingersoll's lecture might upset Christianity are agitated unnecessarily.

A Government Worth While.

The reported stand of Great Britain for equal rights in China and special privileges to none will be welcomed by the civilized world. Supported as it is by the most powerful navy afloat and by the co-operation of Japan, a nation effectively equipped for either peace or war, it will undoubtedly cause the land of the continent of Europe to pause, and especially will it bear down heavily upon the warlike ambitions of the "war lord" of Germany.

To be sure, England's course in this matter has been governed as much by interest as by abstract love of justice. The capture by either Germany or Russia of special and exclusive concessions along the Chinese coast would constitute a greater menace to British sovereignty in India and the East than would the involvement of the United States in a European struggle.

The impression that Hanna's fight is McKinley's fight probably proceeds chiefly from Hanna. Mr. Hanna ought not to expect the president of the United States to expose himself to a factional fire in his home state.

why 1897 was so poor a year in the steel rail trade. But renewals also were smaller last year than usual and this state of skimmed equipment cannot be permitted to endure much longer.

It is significant that one of the first measures introduced after the organization of the present Ohio legislature came from Representative Jones, of Canton, the home of President McKinley, and was a resolution directing the Ohio senators to request the Ohio representatives in congress to vote for the recognition of the belligerency of Cuba, and for its independence as soon as practicable.

Contingencies

While on general principles it is unnecessary to cross a bridge until it is arrived at, a measure of academic interest attaches to the point raised by a correspondent of the Sun in reference to the possible legal status of the Cuban insurgents in two contingencies which he outlines.

By driving hands out of the Cauto river the Cubans have captured possession of a naval outlet, thus disposing of the contention of Grant and McKinley that their's is wholly an inland insurrection.

This question, it seems, arose once before. In 1811 when the Spanish American colonies were in revolt, the collector of the port of New Orleans had brought to the attention of President Madison's cabinet, and on July 3 of that year he was advised by Secretary of the Treasury Dallas in these words:

There is also a second possibility, although hardly a probability. The Cubans might capture a Spanish vessel and tow it into an American port. The question which would then arise would be whether our government should accord to these Cuban sailors the rights of belligerents or hang them to the yardarms as pirates. It is fair to assume from its past complicity with Spain and from its inexplicable opposition to the recognition of Cuban belligerency, that it would favor the latter course but it may also be assumed that it would probably be deterred from this course by fear of public sentiment, which would never tolerate such an act.

These problems as yet are wholly academic. That is to say, they are interesting for mental speculation and exercise but have no practical existence in the domain of affairs. More to the point is the hard fact that thousands of Cubans are slowly starving to death while our government acts as Spain's almoner but lifts no hand to remedy the cause of this frightful suffering and mortality.

Among the enterprises planned for 1898 by the Pittsburg Dispatch in association with a number of other representative newspapers is one which contemplates sending the well-known correspondent, Frank G. Carpenter, with a 25,000-mile tour of South America, with a view to the proper description before American readers of this great continent which destiny obviously intends to be in time the chief foreign market of American exports.

If the Philadelphia Inquirer and the back of it would practice the kind of politics that it practices when cornered, the possibilities of political trouble in Pennsylvania in this year of grace would perceptibly diminish.

It is possible that one of the reasons why Colonel Ingersoll is an agnostic is that there is money in it for him.

The collected figures for 1897 show that with one exception the railroad building in that year was the smallest in the past two decades. In 1895 the total new trackage built covered 1,803 miles, while last year's total covered 1,844 miles. This will explain in part

why 1897 was so poor a year in the steel rail trade. But renewals also were smaller last year than usual and this state of skimmed equipment cannot be permitted to endure much longer.

"Is it possible," the New York Tribune asks, "that congress is serious when it makes not health, not manhood, not moral worth the test of a candidacy for American citizenship, but the ability to read or write twenty-five words of the constitution in some Wallachian lingo or in Hindostanee?"

Both the Wilkes-Barre Record and the Wilkes-Barre Times protest vigorously against the "snap" call issued in Luzerne county for the election of delegates to the state convention.

It is noticeable that President McKinley does not go to the civil service commission when he wants a man to do confidential political work for the administration in Ohio.

An honest popular vote in Ohio, confined to Republicans, upon the question of Senator Hanna's candidacy, if it could be had would probably be instructive.

Great Britain's position in the division of the Chinese swag would seem to make compulsory a little more honor among international thieves.

Authentic News Regarding Cuba.

THE Philadelphia Press published yesterday the second of a series of letters from Cuba written after personal inquiry by the chief of its Washington bureau, Mr. E. J. Gibson. In the first letter Mr. Gibson showed the crippled condition of the Spanish army, reduced in less than three years from 200,000 to 55,000 effective regulars. He also stated that the Spaniards take no prisoners of war and maintain no hospitals or prison camps for captured Cubans, putting all their captives at once to the sword.

The Autonomists spoke through Secretary Congozo, formerly Spanish consul at Philadelphia, whom Mr. Gibson describes as the brains of the Blanco regime. Secretary Congozo said the elections under autonomy would be held in six weeks or so, after the Spanish officials had made ready the registration lists. Then he would return to Philadelphia, being positive that peace would result in due course of time.

At the conference with the Spanish leaders who accept the Marquis de Aposolga as their chief they also expressed themselves freely and frankly. In the first place, they declared that Calvez and his associates did not represent the Cubans. The representative Cubans, they said, were either fighting in the Cuban army or they are in exile. There are no Cuban leaders in Havana these Spaniards assert, "Gibson said one of the Spaniards, "and the temptation of a salutation of high honor has led him to surrender to the Spaniards' bludgeiments. One of the other cabinet officers has accepted a \$10,000 bribe. One of two is not genuine, the result will be a new rebellion and a worse condition of things than exists today. They preferred annexation to the United States to either horn of the autonomy dilemma.

As representing the insurgent point of view Mr. Gibson says: "It was shown today by a prominent man letters written from a large number of insurgent camps, signed by all the officers at each camp, asserting that Cuba no circumstances would they accept anything short of independence. Senator Calvez could not produce one scrap of evidence to disprove even a promise of diversion from the Cuban ranks. The men who have been sent to offer autonomy have been shot by the insurgents. The pitiful faces of 40,000 Cubans, men, women and children, starved to death, cry to the insurgents for revenge. Many of the mothers and sisters of the men in the insurgent army suffered that horrible death. Thousands are still dying everlastingly from that same cause. Is it reasonable to suppose that men who have been fighting two years and a half, and who know that the Spaniards are almost in the last ditch, are going to surrender now to accept a plan of autonomy opposed by the Spaniards, and which rests on nothing more than the desire of Spaniards, who may be overthrown any day, and the decree cancelled? It is a most unwarranted assumption. It will not deceive any intelligent man who does not want to be deceived."

OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The question of vital importance to the Republican masses of this state is, not when the convention shall be held but by which faction controlled, by far more for the nomination of governor and other officers, the methods of their selection, and the influences that shall dominate the party, and it will be an exceedingly easy matter for the state convention to precipitate a disastrous revolt.

The Republicans in counties like Luzerne, Lackawanna, Schuylkill, Carbon, Westmoreland, Fayette, Northumberland, can barely win under an unpopular state ticket, they would have little hope of success. This will surely not be denied; the experience of last November proves that it is true. The Republicans of such counties as we have named will stand in their own right and justify their party in the next state convention men who will strive in all earnestness to make a state ticket so strong and popular as to carry the vote of the masses that will prove a help to carry through the candidates for congress, for the legislature, and for county offices.

AMERICA'S MISSION. From a Lecture by Rev. Dr. Stafford. "Every nation in this world is in some sense a chosen people, and has some mission assigned to it by Providence; some peculiar thought, idea, or principle which distinguishes and differentiates it from all other nations, which constitutes it in its individual being, and the workings and development and explanation of which constitute the life, the life work and mission. Thus the Jews were the chosen people for the preserving and handing down in their fullness and purity of the original revelations of God. The Greeks were a chosen people for the cultivation of art and philosophy, for the refinement of the sense of the elevation of the mind. The Romans were for the establishment and development of jurisprudence and law and state. The Greeks in Cuba are chosen for a special mission in the establishment, the one in the East, the other in the West, of an universal language, which was to be the medium of universal religion. The American people are a chosen people, chosen for the purpose of solving for all time the most difficult problems of government, of establishing on a basis of natural justice and equity an ideal state—of showing the dialectic unity between authority and liberty and the authority, and thus giving the world not only the highest conception, but the realization of the ideal state."

PECULIARLY FITTING.

From the Times-Herald. The report from Washington to the effect that President McKinley will send the present congress a message recommending the establishment of a department of commerce and industry will be gratifying news to the vast commercial and industrial interests of this country, which have long contended for the creation of a new cabinet place to be devoted to this purpose. It is peculiarly fitting that this administration, which more than any that have preceded it, sustains such close relations to the business interests of the country, should take measures for the creation of a federal department of commerce and industry.

UNFORGIVABLE.

They loved each other well, they swore, And so to win they will contend; Wherefore it wasn't long before They laughed at locksmiths and eloped. Her pa forgive, as pupas do; Her mamma, too, forgive and blessed; His ma and pa forgive them, too. And brothers, sisters—all the rest. And only two could not forgive: They've not forgiven to this day. And won't as long as e'er they live. They can't forgive themselves, they say. —London Figaro.

SENATOR ANDREWS' AIM.

From the Philadelphia Press. If Senator Andrews succeeds in his present purpose to own the next governor, that \$50,000 "Lexow" bill won't be held back in the next legislature. It will come forward and it will go through with a velocity paralyzing to those unacquainted with the Andrews methods. Along with that will come the bill for the dozen or so alleged investigating committees which made such a scandal at the last session.

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NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

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- Lake Ariel, Georgetown, Kingston, Hawley, Honesdale, Waymart, Elmhurst, Moscow, Gouldsboro, Tolyhanna, Mount Pocono, Pocono Summit, Cresco, Henryville, Spragueville, Portland, Stroudsburg, Water Gap, Delaware, Manunka Chunt, Preston Park, Leno, New Milford, Ford, Kingsley, Foster, Nicholson, Factoryville, La Plume, Duncansville, Genburn, Clarke Summit, Archbald, Winton, Greentown, Olyphant, Scranton, Scranton City, The Throop, Wimmers, Binghamton, Mapewood, Conklin Center.

May they live long and prosper in the wish of Lewis, Reilly & Davies, the honest and most extensive dealers in boots, shoes, rubbers, etc., in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Nos. 14 and 16 Wyoming avenue, Scranton, Pa.

Happy New Year to All.

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