

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 6, 1899. In view of the importance attaching to the successful termination of the Dunmore borough contest it is worth while to have the fact recorded that the committee which instituted and in large degree conducted this contest comprised Edward Swartz, George Harper and Charles Oliver.

The Collectorship. The nomination yesterday of Major T. F. Penman for the internal revenue collectorship of this district constitutes, it is believed, an unique honor, since it has long been the unwritten rule at Washington not to re-appoint to a place under one Republican administration a candidate who had held that place under a prior administration.

Politics apart, the choice is equally admirable, since it recognizes signal merit both as to character and business qualifications, and will insure during the next four years an admirable administration of the duties of the office, together with the retention of the headquarters in this city.

Dispassionate judgment must concede that of the younger Republicans of Northeastern Pennsylvania none has performed more arduous and intelligent service for Republican principles than Major Penman; none stands on a higher plane of party fidelity, and none has better deserved recognition at the party's hands.

Mr. Hanna might sue the Ohio Republican organization for breach of promise.

Crime in 1897. For a number of years the Chicago Tribune has made a specialty of collecting and classifying statistics relating to crime, which it prints on New Year's day. So carefully does it gather its figures that these are now generally accepted by sociologists as the basis of the study of criminology in the United States.

During the year 9,529 homicides were committed in the United States, 1,132 fewer than in 1896. These killings are thus classified as to causes: Quarrels, 4,638; unknown, 2,455; jealousy, 3,776; liquor, 518; by highwaymen, 387; infanticide, 321; assisting arrest, 195; highwaymen killed, 128; insanity, 93; self-defense, 97; strikes, 49; outrages, 42; riots, 21. During the year there were 128 legal executions, four more than in 1896, and 166 lynchings. The figures as to lynchings for the twelve years prior to 1887 are as follows: 1885, 184; 1886, 138; 1887, 122; 1888, 142; 1889, 176; 1890, 127; 1891, 192; 1892, 235; 1893, 200; 1894, 190; 1895, 171; 1896, 131. That there is an early probability of a decline in the lynching spirit is evidently not to be confidently affirmed.

The lynchings for 1897 are classified as follows: Northern states, 29; southern states, 146. Of the victims 75 were females, 29 whites, and 122 negroes. Of suicides, 4,600 were reported, classified as to causes as follows: Despondency, 2,889; unknown, 1,922; insanity, 487; liquor, 270; ill health, 354; domestic infelicity, 291; disappointed love, 271; business losses, 124. This classification is naturally open to question. Especially does the heading "despondency" suggest a multitude of causes.

This showing is not discouraging. It reveals that the ratio of crime and unhappiness to contentment is not increasing but on the contrary decreasing. We need to remember in considering figures of this kind that the unpleasant features of life invariably gain more publicity than do the pleasant and creditable features. Notably is this true in relation to the domestic phase of society; one scandal makes more stir than is made over the fact that a thousand homes are clean and happy.

With population growing rapidly the figures of crime might be expected to grow also, but the foregoing comparisons indicate the reverse. The world is far from perfect yet, but the incentive to its improvement is quickened, not retarded, by study of the above figures.

They may have caught Uncle Mark Hanna napping, but now that fight's the word, he is certainly showing that he can put up a stiff one.

The Loud Bill. Some interesting figures are presented by the San Francisco Chronicle in an argument against the Loud postal reform bill. That journal concedes the necessity of putting the postal system on a self-sustaining basis but it contends that in endeavoring to reach this result by a re-classification of mail matter Mr. Loud has overlooked a much more effective means—namely, compelling the railroad companies to transport mail as cheaply as express companies using the same trains carry packages.

"At the present time," asserts the Chronicle, "the hauling of the mails costs an average of 8 cents a pound, while express packages are profitably carried over the same routes and at the same speed and distance at 1 cent per pound. It appears from recent statistics that the Pennsylvania railroad in 1896 was allowed \$446,000 for transporting thirty tons of mail per day from Pittsburg to Chicago, an average of 40 per ton, or 9 cents per ton per mile. This was not earned by fast mail service, the average speed of trains being twenty-six miles per hour, a rate which has been equaled by the speed of fast freight. The same compensation goes to the Vanderbilt lines. Both companies, however, carry fast freight at 3-10 of a cent per ton per mile.

transportation rates alone. During the weighting months the mails are padded so as to yield the roads an illegitimate profit in four years of from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Then far too much is collected for the use of cars, a convenience which the express companies supply for themselves. The Loud bill appropriates \$3,000,000 to pay rent for these cars, of which about 500 are in use. The cars cost about \$1,500 or \$1,600 each, yet Mr. Loud wants his clients to get \$2,000,000 per year for their use. At this rate, in twenty years, the government would pay \$72,000,000 for the loan of cars that it could buy and own for less than \$2,000,000.

"All in all, the railroads are getting for the carriage of the mails from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 more than they are entitled to at express rates. The postal deficit averages about \$8,000,000. With this scandal staring it in the face, how can congress choose the impudent Loud measure, aimed at perpetuating the wrong, rather than one that will save in four or five years an amount equal to the required surplus in the national treasury? Justice, honesty and common sense unite to demand that the Loud bill be set aside for one which will stop the robbery of the government by the railroads and make the postal business pay dividends."

We present these arguments for what they are worth. If the foregoing assertions are true it is clear that the Loud bill will need to be amended in the direction of forcing better terms with the railroads. But even then the carriage of bulky books and fake advertising matter at second-class rates would not be prohibitive and should be stopped. Whatever the truth may be as to the government's contracts with the railroads, the time has certainly come for congress to re-classify the mails with a view to the correction of the notorious abuses aimed at in the present Loud bill.

Brother Boyd, of the Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer, need not ruffle his feathers like a game cock spooling for a fight because outsiders are curious to know the arguments of the opponents of Wilkes-Barre's present city charter. While the charter fight in Wilkes-Barre is naturally of first interest and consequence to the taxpayers of that city, it is indirectly of interest to all third-class cities. Instead of resenting matter at second-class rates would not be prohibitive and should be stopped. Whatever the truth may be as to the government's contracts with the railroads, the time has certainly come for congress to re-classify the mails with a view to the correction of the notorious abuses aimed at in the present Loud bill.

Importance of the Governorship. From the York Gazette. UNDER THE constitution of Pennsylvania the office of governor is one of vast importance. Powers are conferred on him which, if conscientiously and wisely used, will result in a consistent policy in the interest of the whole people, carefully excluding special interests of any sort, might accomplish enormous results in four years. A bold and honest executive could summon to his back popular support and exposure of corrupt combinations of aggressive corporations, rings or political machines. On the other hand, a mean-spirited and cowardly governor, playing small politics and doing wrong, becomes, although an ignominious, an extremely effective instrument in the hands of those who seek the public injury instead of the public good. The history of the Commonwealth affords some shameful examples. The confession and exposure of Governor Conrath on the eve of his retirement must be long remembered as a most sad and impressive lesson. If every retiring governor since Hoyt had been equal to Conrath in the discharge of his public duty, the world would in most cases be more shocking than in his.

In view, therefore, of the great power of the office for good or for evil, it was to have been expected that just at this time when the Commonwealth is reeking with schemes of corruption and seeking relief from a pestilence public attention would be almost exclusively concentrated upon it. It is to be hoped indeed that it will receive the attention it deserves to force the nomination by both political parties of clean and upright candidates, such of whom, if elected, can be relied upon to set the example of a man, to perform his public duty without regard to private or semi-private interests, and to hold himself responsible to the people of the Commonwealth, and not to any boss or association of bosses. But while such a governor would be powerful for good and reform, it would be comparatively helpless without a legislature in sympathy with him. He could, through the law department, drag offenders great and small into the court, but could secure the forfeiture of abused charters; he could veto bad bills, and he could point out in his messages evils to be remedied, but he could do nothing to punish, and arouse the people to just action in their own behalf. If the first Legislature in the administration of such a governor should prove corrupt and recreant like so many of its predecessors there would be every reasonable probability that the people, rallying to the support of a determined executive, would elect the next one a decent and reliable body which would execute their will.

But while the public are providing themselves with a trustworthy governor there is no reason why they should neglect to provide themselves with a trustworthy legislature. Just a little popular attention to this important matter will produce a marked change. If able, safe and good men are selected to go to the legislature in nine cases out of ten they will go, and the fact that they have unaided personal interests and inclinations to take the office will add not a little to their moral strength when they get there. The greatest reputations ever made in the United States have their beginnings in the popular branches of American legislatures. There is really no more inviting field of public service. There was a time when the foremost statesmen of a country sought place in the legislature of their states rather than in the federal senate and house of representatives.

Brains Made to Order. From the Times-Herald. Professor James Gates, of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington is a scientist of recognized ability, but there is every reason to believe that in his latest announcement he has allowed his enthusiasm to obscure his judgment—an unpardonable offense on the part of a scientific man. Professor Gates, in brief asserts that insanity is merely the result of the accumulation of bad memories in certain brain cells. He adds that it is only necessary to remove these memories and overburdened cells, or to build them up and make them healthy, in order to

until the debate stops, he may have to act in approving or vetoing a repeal bill with all that that implies. On the matter of civil service "reform" as it now exists we cannot agree with the Philadelphia Press, which argues that Republicans should not petition congress to correct notorious faults in the present rules. It cites the civil service plank of the St. Louis platform as proof that it would stultify the McKinley administration to treat the civil service to some real reform. We do not think so. If platform planks were mandatory, where would the administration be with reference to its Cuban policy? But platform or no platform, common sense should guide, and it is dead against the plank practiced in the name of civil service reform by the Cleveland administration in its dying hours. Correction of these provisions and intelligent revision of the whole subject are imperatively demanded, as President McKinley will no doubt yet realize.

The Hazleton Sentinel wants State Chairman Elkin to explain how it happened that if the state committee went out of the plate literature business in October last none of the recipients of that service received notification of the fact, but on the contrary were served continuously and without interruption by some persons working in the interest of Colonel Stone, who never had access to the state committee's records. The Sentinel should not press these embarrassing questions.

President McKinley's reported confidence in the speedy ending of the Cuban trouble is beginning to be shared by the American people. Spain naturally must soon give up an insupportable contest now manifestly hopeless from the Spanish standpoint. But what a stain has been left on American annals by the tolerance of the frightful atrocities which have characterized Spain's unavailing attempt to throttle freedom in Cuba!

A writer in the North American Review affirms that the United States is the one considerable industrial country which produces sufficient serial food to feed its own people, with a margin left for export. That, in his opinion, is why the twentieth century will see this country supreme among the nations of the earth. Facts like these knock holes in the pessimism of men like Bishop Potter.

The London Times asserts that the United States wants a war with England. We guess if it really thought that it would be considerably worse scared than it now appears to be.

ATTORNEY GENERAL M'KENNA. From Leslie's Weekly. If it be true that President McKinley was warned in time by the best lawyers in the senate not to nominate Attorney-General McKenna for a place on the Supreme Court Bench, then the president must be held responsible for the consequences of his ill-judged act. An attorney-general, Judge McKenna has two opportunities to distinguish himself. One is in the interpretation of Section 22 of the Dingley bill, and the other was in taking issue with the distinguished lawyers of the senate in the Union Pacific case. Up to the last moment no one knew what he would do in either case, and what he did do is known by his action and delay. The protest against his confirmation is of such a nature that the senate cannot refuse to listen to it. Some of the most distinguished lawyers of the Pacific coast have protested against confirmation on the ground that he is a politician rather than a lawyer; and that his record proves him to be unfit for place on the Supreme Court Bench. He was on the California circuit when the railroad riots occurred in California, and an attempt was made to secure an injunction against the rioters. The parties interested telegraphed from the east, urging that the case be brought before a fit and capable judge. McKenna's name was mentioned, and a telegram was received from California, objecting to a hearing before him or any one of his associates. McKenna has neither backbone nor side-bones. When congress called for the production of all the papers in the railroad riot trouble, this telegram was included among those that were printed, but some kindly hand it is said it was that of Attorney-General McKenna, who promptly intimated, and the printed pamphlet was revised before many copies of it reached the public eye.

HAS NOT RETIRED. Washington Dispatch, Philadelphia Press. Representative Connell, of Pennsylvania, was much surprised today to read a report from Hazleton that he had withdrawn from the gubernatorial contest. "No one is authorized to make such a statement," said Mr. Connell this evening to the Press correspondent. "I have never made a public announcement of my candidacy, but I am certainly entitled to say that I am not a candidate or that I have withdrawn from the race. While talking on this subject, I want to say that there is a deliberate effort in some quarters to make it appear that the labor organizations are unfriendly to me. I have been an employer of labor for more than forty years, and never have had any trouble with my workmen. My majority of 8,000 in a district where labor is so largely represented, I think, sufficient answer to the story about labor organizations being unfriendly to me."

MR. AND MRS. VERY MUCH PLEASED TALKING ABOUT THEIR CHRISTMAS CHINA BOUGHT AT OUR STORE.

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cur insanity. He says specifically: "The murder in a man's brain can be removed by the surgeon's knife." Professor Gates asserts that "a criminal propensity is nothing else than a dominance of evil memories," and claims that such a propensity can be remedied and the patient become a normal man merely by building up healthy brain cells to replace the diseased cells. All of which certainly sounds interesting enough as a theory, but it requires no person master in science to know it is impossible to build up or to tear down any particular portion of the brain except by direct, local action. Any physician, possessing a limited practical knowledge, has demonstrated that fact to his own satisfaction. Medical science already has accomplished wonders in dealing with brain disorders. It is possible to locate blood clots, lesions and tumors in the brain with a great degree of accuracy, and the surgeon's knife is constantly proving the accuracy of diagnoses based entirely upon superficial symptoms of brain diseases. But medical science never yet has been able to find any particular portion of the brain, even through a microscope, and to attempt it merely by a mental process seems very shadowy to say the least.

If Professor Gates can demonstrate the truth of his theory there will no longer be any excuse for crime or insanity in the world, for a man may build his brain just as carefully as he builds his house, choosing the materials he likes and discarding that which he does not want. If Professor Gates will kindly prove that his theory is right he may have a very interesting which the happy new year has to offer.

SOON TO BE SUPREME. From the Review of Reviews. The balance in favor of the United States in the trade of the past year with Europe has been of stupendous dimensions. This is due chiefly to the foreign demand for our breadstuffs and other food supplies. In view of the strengthening of the tariff, which makes it more difficult than ever for Europe to send her manufactures to us in payment for bread and meat, cotton and petroleum, there is much to be said for the policy of closing and not a little open and blustering talk of a combination of the whole continent of Europe for the economic suppression of the United States. Among reasonable statesmen, Count Goltchowski, the foreign minister of Austria, has been the most conspicuous in this respect, with threats. The puzzling thing is to invent a mode of retaliation that will not hurt the European peoples themselves very much worse than it can possibly hurt the United States.

England, of course, has for a long time reconciled to the idea of importing the larger part of her food supply. But since the United States has begun to compete so formidably in manufactures there has been no little consternation in the British mind. Many signs point to the coming of the scepter of industrial supremacy from Great Britain to the United States. The year 1897 has witnessed the easy triumph of the American makers of steel rails over English and all other competitors in the world. American and British contractors are fitting out electric street railways in England, and various American manufacturers of iron and steel are producing British goods not only in neutral markets, but also in the United Kingdom. Recent reports of the rapid exhaustion of England's coal supply have added to the prevailing alarm. The advantage which American manufacturers have gained is not merely to the superiority of our natural resources as regards the discovery of iron ore and coal, but also to the vast scale upon which our industries are organized and the superiority of their appliances.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING. Lewis, Reilly & Davies wish the peaceful, honest people of the world a happy New Year. We are happy because we live in one of the most prosperous cities in one of the best countries, in one of the largest states and the greatest country that man is privileged to live in. Among the cities, towns, etc., that we wish to remember in a particular way are the following: Wilkes-Barre, Lake Ariel, Georgetown, Hazleton, Honesdale, Waymart, Elmport, Parsons, Minner's Mills, Goulettsboro, Lait, Tobyhanna, Yatesville, Mount Pocono, Pocono Summit, Cresco, Lacksawanna, Spragueville, Henryville, Portland, Stroudsburg, Water Gap, Delaware, Manunka Chalk, Preston Park, Lako Como, Belmont, Pleasant, Uniondale, Forest City, Arboretum, White Bridge, Dalton, Winton, Peckville, Jermyn, Archbald, Dickson City, "Throop," Scranton, Binghamton, Conklin Center.

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