

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 11, 1898.

The Tribune positively refuses to get mad at the little fellow who edits the Carbonate Morning Herald. He is a plucky little mite, though, and if we owned him we would buy him a new brass collar and teach him to chase mice.

The Crawford County System.

It is rumored that at today's Republican county convention an attempt will be made to rush through without consideration a resolution adopting in future city campaigns what is known as the Crawford county system of party primaries. However admirable the Crawford county system may be, such an action as is contemplated would be precipitate in view of the fact that a sub-committee appointed by the last Republican county convention to formulate an adaptation of that system for submission to the next county convention, is now at work upon its report, which will soon be published. In a matter of such importance as a change in the party rules the ground should be well measured.

There has been an attempt to invest this matter with a factional tinge, but it has failed. Those excited with a directing voice in the present Republican county organization are as anxious as any other class of citizens to secure a free, full and fair expression of the party will at the party primaries, and to this end they most cordially welcome suggestions of improvement. It needs to be borne in mind, however, that no change in the methods of conducting primaries can deprive an honest majority of the voters of the Republican party of the right to name candidates and frame platforms, and so long as this remains true no ambitious minority can mount to power by modifications of the party rules.

The Crawford county system, suitably modified to fit local conditions, or any other system giving party sentiment a better chance to register itself freely and without intimidation at the party caucuses—let it be tried by all means if after due consideration there appears to be reasonable promise of improvement. But such action should be based only on careful deliberation and not on the mere hasty impulse which reckless maugling of consequences. In conclusion we may add that whatever will satisfy the intelligent opinion of the Republican masses of Scranton and Lackawanna county will satisfy The Tribune and those for whom it speaks.

It was Kosmuth who said that the American people would shout more and contribute less for freedom, than any other nation on earth. Is this accusation to be verified again in the case of Cuba?

The Press and the Bench.

A decision of interest bearing upon the relative rights of the courts and the press has been given by the California supreme court in a case of more than local interest. The facts underlying this decision were these: In its issue of May 28, 1896, the Sacramento Bee in its court news printed an abstract of certain testimony offered the day before in the trial of a case before Judge Catlin of the Sacramento bench. This publication on May 29 was denounced by Judge Catlin from the bench as "a gross fabrication." On the same day the editor of the Bee wrote an editorial defending the truthfulness of the report at issue and charging Judge Catlin with being prejudiced and vindictive. On June 2 the editor was cited for contempt of court and on June 5, having been denied the chance to prove the correctness of his assertions, was fined \$500. Thereupon he appealed to the supreme court.

The matter was reached by the latter tribunal last month and the Bee of Dec. 25 prints the full opinion of the appellate body. This vacates the contempt order of the lower court on the ground that the editor had been denied his constitutional right to be heard in his own defense; but one of the justices goes further and affirms that the judge who is criticized in print must seek his redress through the ordinary channels of action for libel, and has no right to take summary revenge by use of the contempt prerogative which is meant simply to preserve order and decorum in open court. Following are some salient points from the opinion of the supreme court prepared by Justice Van Fleet:

"The publication of the truth as to legal proceedings is not a contempt of court, and the criticism of the action of the judge, if made only in proper response to an unjust charge against petitioner's veracity, and without intent to improperly influence the proceedings of the court, would not be contemptuous. A judge on the bench, no more than any other, can cast aspersions upon the character of a person not a party or participant in a case on trial, without a right in the latter to defend himself. With the view that the action of Judge Catlin involved no more than mere error, we cannot coincide. It was error, certainly, but it was more than that. It was a transgression of a fundamental right guaranteed to every citizen charged with an offense, or whose property is sought to be taken, of being heard before he is condemned to suffer injury. Any departure from those recognized and established requirements of law, however close the apparent adherence to mere form in method of procedure, which has the effect to deprive one of a constitutional right, is as much an excess of jurisdiction as where there exists an intrinsic lack of power.

The chief justice of California, Mr. Beatty, went even further. He said: "A true report of the proceedings of a court is not a contempt. A false report may or may not be a contempt according to the circumstances. If a false report is published under circumstances as to constitute a contempt there is but one way to deal with the matter judicially, and that is by a regular citation or attachment and a hearing. If the court or judge undertakes to act upon the matter in any other way his action is extra-judicial and not in his official character. Such it seems to me was very clearly the case here. The attention of the judge being drawn to this publication, it was natural and no doubt commendable that he, believing it to be gross perversion of the facts, should so characterize it, but in so doing he was not acting as a court or judge. What he said was in no sense a part of any judicial proceeding, and the fact that he was seated on the bench at the time makes

the case no different in point of law from what it would have been if his remarks had been delivered on the street or communicated in writing to the same or another newspaper. The report of the newspaper was therefore, not an attack upon the court or an interference with the proceedings of the court, but was an attack upon the man, for which, if it was malicious and unfounded, he had the same, and no other, means of redress, that the law gives to every citizen who is the victim of a libel.

We may now dismiss the details of this special case in order to examine the general principles involved. It needs to be understood that a judge is a public servant and as such rightly accountable to public scrutiny. It is not the province of a newspaper to pass on the law points laid down by him, for there are courts of review clothed with this function; but it is clearly within the right and duty of the press to consider the bearing of his political appointments and of his affirmations of opinion upon matters broadly affecting the public welfare. Comment touching these subjects should be respectful of the judicial office if not of the man filling it; but there is nothing in law or propriety to restrain the fair expression of an honest opinion concerning a judge any more than there is concerning a school controller, a senator or a dog controller. That judge who tries to hide from legitimate and wholesome criticism by threatening to use the contempt prerogative in way of reprisal simply advertises and makes additionally notorious his own unfitness for the bench.

It is to be hoped that the attempt of Indiana Republicans to induce President Harrison to accept an election to the United States senate will succeed. Such men as he are needed in that body.

A Woman on Pensions.

The first woman lawyer admitted to the Cook county bar, and one of the best, Ada C. Sweet, contributes to the Chicago Times-Herald a number of suggestions concerning the pension problem which are interesting as representing an educated and experienced woman's view.

The cry of fraud which has been raised against the pension system may, she thinks, arrest public attention and interest to such a degree as to compel revision and reform. Close examination will reveal the fact, however, that the names of but few persons who are not lawfully entitled to pensions are enrolled. The place to begin pension reform, in her opinion, is in congress. The pension laws, she says, should be carefully revised and amended. But let us give her exact words:

"Congress will have to take the matter in hand and act intelligently and firmly before any lasting change can be secured, or any saving can be made in the national expenditures for pensions. A commission should be created to examine, modify and amend the entire mass of pension laws. Without some such medium of unbiased and systematic work and basis of action no good thing in pension legislation can be expected. The printing and publication of the entire pension list is being urged. This measure will be valuable only if the list is, after publication, examined and commented on publicly. Very few impostors or fraudulent pensioners will be thus exposed, because as a matter of fact there are only a few persons bold enough to run the risk of the penitentiary by committing perjury, forgery and practicing false impersonation, all of which are necessary, first to obtain a pension illegally and next to draw the pension quarterly after it has been granted. All pensions are paid by checks drawn on United States sub-treasuries to the order of the pensioner. These checks pass through the usual channels, the payee's signature being indorsed as genuine by responsible business men or banks, and so to the sub-treasuries, where they are cashed. It is no safe enterprise to forge a name on one of these government checks, even after the gantlets of the pension office and the war department have been run. No pension certificate is issued to begin with, except upon the favorable report as to the soldier's service by the war department.

"The good to be expected from the public examination of the pension roll is that the people will become aware how many pensioners there are who do not need pecuniary assistance from the government or anyone else. This may end in an expression of public opinion of such force as shall compel congress to amend the laws and revise the pension list so as to stop payments to those who do not need government aid. It seems an expensive and uncertain method to accomplish what is simple, but it is going to be no easy task to get congress into a frame of mind for active work in the matter of ridding the pension system of its inconsistencies and extravagances."

Miss Sweet believes that if the pension list is ever published those pensioners who draw by special act of congress should be clearly indicated, with the amount paid them. "That alone," in her opinion, "will show where a good part of the pension appropriation goes each year, and in few of these cases will it appear that the pensioner is suffering from poverty." A careful revision of all special acts would not be unjust. It would verify or disprove the impression that when these have been put through at the rate of 100 or more an hour, as has frequently been the case during night sessions of congress, justice has not always kept pace with speed.

It is prophesied that the decline of the British empire will date from the day her trade begins to fall off. As the returns for 1897 show a business of \$3,722,115,000, there seems no necessity for Johnny Bull to look for a receiver for several months hence.

A good many persons will no doubt contribute money for the relief of General Weyler's victims in Cuba, but we will wager that the most of them would much rather furnish cash for the purchase of bullets to be sent in the right direction.

After noting the fact that the production of anthracite coal is decreasing while that of bituminous coal is steadily increasing, the Philadelphia Record cites instances in its own city of the substitution of bituminous for anthracite

fuel and calls upon the Philadelphia board of health to take measures against the smoke nuisance thus threatened. This is what should be done wherever soft coal is burned in large quantities. The black fumes it pours out into the atmosphere are a pollution and an abomination.

News from Shogday is somewhat conflicting. According to certain reports the Klondike region is law-abiding and provisions are scarce. Others indicate that it is a bad place to rear a family, and that general disorder reigns. All accounts however seem to agree that the supply of whiskey is unlimited, so it is probable that those imbued with the spirit of '91 will not be deterred by trifles.

Many persons on the stage are willing to make fools of themselves for pay, but it is hard to see why some of our brethren of the press perform the act so artistically at the prevailing low rate of newspaper wages.

It is evident that some of our disappointed friends of the untimely fair would rather subsist on one meal a day than enjoy the prosperity that has already dawned under the McKinley administration.

The first eleven months of 1897 witnessed a gain in exports of nearly \$86,000,000, of which over \$28,000,000 was in manufactures. No wonder our European competitors are becoming seared.

Our conditions are what we make them. The fact that a man starved to death at Pittsburg the other day with \$700 in gold under his pillow shows that wealth alone cannot bring happiness.

The enforcement of the snow-shoveling ordinance comes a trifle late, but the action on part of the mayor and police will no doubt be appreciated if it holds good until next year.

A man really never knows how many true friends he possesses until he is safely installed in a fat office, with patronage to dispense.

No city that meets enterprise with a club can ever expect to cut much of a figure except on the county map. Just look at Wilkes-Barre!

Before the civil service debate in congress is concluded it is probable that many of the members will be pneumatically tired.

As spring approaches the heart of the local base ball crank becomes as buoyant as a rubber balloon on circus day.

The chances are that if Hanna wins, he will not be to his colleague in the senate as Damon was to Pythias.

From present indications Uncle Mark Hann will let off his bottled up mirth today.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacechus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 3:45 a. m., for Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that many good Christian men in Scranton have caused profanity by allowing snow to remain on their sidewalks. "There's no rose without a thorn," and the thorn of the rose just now appears to be the price.

Frugality is a good thing, but a spendthrift is preferable to a miser. Editor Lynett is said to be the original Bryan man for 1896, but he isn't working at it just now.

The curfew never rings on the corner loafer. Ajacechus' Advice.

In politics accept everything in sight that is not accompanied by an assessment.

A New Coal Area Must Be Faced

WART and undeveloped coal deposits will be thrown open to the world when the Crow's Nest Pass railway road, now constructing, is completed. The new line connects the transcontinental system crossing the Great plains of the Canadian Northwest, with the valley that lies between the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Selkirk on the west. One need only consider the area of these deposits, the breadth of the seams and the quality of the coal, to understand that the output from the new fields will have an appreciable influence on the markets of the whole continent. According to Dr. Selwyn, former director of the Geological Survey of Canada, the Western fields contain 48,200,000 tons of coal per square mile, and the area, with coal deposits explored up to the present, consists of about 12 square miles. Dr. Selwyn was noted for his conservative estimates, but if even a fraction of the coal which he considers available be mined from the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields, the world's supply of fuel will be greatly increased.

The coal area is in the southern part of the country known as East Kootenay. It was in West Kootenay that great mining excitement prevailed during 1896 and 1897. American miners gathering a veritable harvest of wealth for their enterprise in exploiting and opening the region. The whole Kootenay district is beyond the Northwest territories, extending some 20 miles north of the international boundary. East Kootenay alone is about two-thirds the size of the kingdom of Greece. Now that a railroad is being pushed through this terra incognita, a period of great development is anticipated. The coal fields are sixty miles southeast of Fort Steele and in proximity to Crow's Nest Pass. It is not unlikely that in the near future a network of American railways, like those in West Kootenay, tapping the mining region for the benefit of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, will traverse the eastern section.

The discovery of the deposits occurred during the early eighties. Workmen were cutting a rough trail, suitable for pack trains, through the Crow's Nest Pass. There were few prospectors in British Columbia at that time, but since the wild rush to Caribou in 1899 and to Wild Horse Creek in East Kootenay, about half a century ago, trappers and Indians have huddled down from father to son and from camp to camp traditions of lost mines and rich gold veins. The very air of the regions where placer mining once existed seems infected with mysterious and enchanting possibilities of stumbling on some wonderful discovery. The smoldering hopes, that blazed out so suddenly, were quickly quenched; for on examination it was found that the thought of gold, or rubings from upper seams, washed down the valley by mountain streams.

Like "the boat," found in mountain streams, that tells the prospector of a gold-bearing vein, a galena vein higher up the water course, the black sand was indubitable evidence of rich coal somewhere. As the trail proceeded the workers passed through outcroppings of coal. At that time there was neither railroad nor prospect of a railroad, and the disappointment of the discoverer must have been very great. The incident was merely reported to William Ferrie, the government commissioner, and it was not until 1897 that the country was thoroughly prospected for coal. Then the region, covering an area of 150 square miles, were discovered.

The first deposits are not far from the west end of Crow's Nest Pass, and consist of twenty seams of coal, one above another, clearly visible along the mountain ridges and stretching up to the summits. Fourteen of these seams are channel coal. Three of the seams are respectively fifteen, twenty and thirty feet wide. Another great series of seams is that in the Elk River Valley, where they extend for a distance of nearly forty miles. One seam, from about twenty feet thick, is 1,500 feet up the mountain, across the face of a broken sandstone. Higher is another seam, erect and thirty feet wide. Ten other seams are in close succession. The immensity of the deposits can scarcely be realized.

The quality of the coal is entirely fully demonstrated. Of coaling coal there is an abundance, which will prove of great importance to the smelters north and south of the boundary. The existing process of dealing with the refractory coal ore of that region. Some authorities pronounce the upper seams bituminous and the lower seams anthracite, but this is contradicted by other experts. In sections the coal is of a quality hitherto unknown. The Dominion government has reserved 20,000 acres of the coal area are controlled by an association of Canadian capitalists and the Canadian Pacific railway.

In two respects the coal deposits of East Kootenay are a striking example of nature's economy. To the west, north and south are the mineral regions of refractory ores, for which coaling coal is absolutely indispensable in the processes of smelting. To the east are the boundless stretches of woodless plains, in which where fuel, and ample fuel, is a necessity during six months of the year. In a climate where the winter is so severe the question of cheap and abundant fuel does not assume the same overshadowing importance. The mining regions and the smelters present their peculiar demands and, lying between the Rockies and the Selkirk, is nature's response to these demands—an exhaustless supply of different varieties of coal.

NOW OR NEVER.

From the Evening Post.

The condition of Cuba is that of a country that has been deprived of its means of livelihood more or less completely for four consecutive years. Whatever we may think of the contending parties in the island, the fact remains that the inhabitants of large districts have been and are still prevented from earning their living. In other large districts the crops have been swept away by the torch as soon as they were ready for the harvest, and not only the crops, but the machinery and buildings necessary for handling future crops. In short, the inhabitants of these districts are in a condition of desperate poverty, and if not rescued by outside assistance will starve to death. Is not this a case which appeals powerfully to the hearts of benevolent in the United States? These famishing people are our near neighbors. They have been endowed most liberally with our sympathy. We have been on the point of going to war for their supposed benefit. Fortunately, we have enjoyed the blessings of peace and a fair measure of prosperity. Shall we not help them now in a way that leaves no doubtful questions to be settled hereafter? To feed the hungry and clothe the naked is the right. If we can do this, we shall now we may never have another opportunity.

A HEALTHY GAIN.

From the New York Sun.

It appears from a review of the progress of the churches in this country during the last year, which appears in the Independent, that there has been a healthy gain in churches and ministers of the various denominations. This gain extends to all the considerable denominations. The proportionate increase is especially large and particularly striking among the Methodists, 5,225, or 62.57%. The Methodists, therefore, are nearly half as many as the Congregationalists, 620,000, or the Episcopalians, 628,460. The Roman Catholics comprise about one-third of the 5,919,027 religious communicants enumerated in the Union. The various bodies of Methodists have 5,225,888 and of Baptists 4,175,300. Next come in order the Lutherans, 1,507,406; Presbyterians, 1,490,162; Disciples of Christ, 1,011,677; Episcopalians, 628,460; Congregationalists, 620,000. The rest are scattered among a multiplicity of denominations.

A SENSIBLE BILL.

From the Philadelphia Press.

A bill is to be introduced into the New York legislature prohibiting the use of hypnotism save at the hands of licensed physicians. This is the kind of bill every state should enact into law, as it would be both salutary for the community and for misguided individuals, whose dips into this branch of psychology should be restrained. Public exhibitions of hypnotism will doubtless cease as the thing itself loses all mystery, as it is rapidly doing; it is wise to take no chances, and the use of hypnotism should be guarded as carefully as is the practice of medicine and the sale of poisons.

A PECULIAR CASE.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Congressman Connell's reported victory over Senator Quay is all the more remarkable because Connell's candidate was a supporter of the senator in the late chairmanship fight, in opposition to the congressman. The turns of politics are complex and perplexing.

BOUND TO GET THERE.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.

Something like Congressman Connell's case for getting to the top of it with all his might, and when he can't surmount an obstacle he tunnels under it.

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