### The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 15, 1898.

#### REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

For School Director. Three Years-PETER NEULS, Eleventh Three Years-D. I. PHILLIPS, 19ftin ward. Two Years-E. D. FELLOWS, Fourth Two Years-F. S. GODFREY, Eighth One Year-F. S. BARKER, Seventeenth Year-ELIAS EVANS, Fifteenth

It is becoming clear that the Crawford county system among Republicans will have the enthusiastic approval of the Democrats.

#### Concerning Currency Reform.

Election Day, February 15.

If the prediction of some observers shall prove true that the next great dividing issue in American politics will be upon the question whether the government itself shall assume control wholly of the issuing of paper money or remit that function wholly to the banks: then, indeed, will there be a radical realinement, such perhaps as has not before been seen. With the tariff question answered, it is be-Heyed, for a generation as regards essential principles, there is opened a clear pathway to the settlement of this problem, that has in some form or another perplexed our statesmen almost since the Republic began; and indications multiply that a period of contention over the matter is at hand.

The favorite argument of those who oppose an extension of bank currency, or, as is more generally the term, oppose the retirement of the greenback, is that under the constitution congress has no right to delegate to the banks a function which impliedly belongs to it alone. Clause 5 of Section 8 of the first article of the Constitution empowers congress to "coin money" and "regulate the value thereof." Able men have held that in these words there is implied a sovereignty over everything performing the office of money which cannot be remitted to another agency. Even if it were desirable to permit the banks to take sole charge of the country's paper cufrency these men assert that congress would have no authority to do it, and they further contend that bank control of paper money would be unwise from the standpoint of public policy, since it would put in subjection to banking interests every other business interest in the country; that is, by controlling the paper money of the country the banks would virtually control the country. This view of the subject has been so

persistently disseminated throughout the Republic that a political campaign based on it would be likely at this time to carry every state in the Union; yet study and reflection will, we think, be likely to convince the thinking citizen that empowering the banks to issue bank notes to the par value of their approved assets, subject to such government taxation and restrictions as would be deemed necessary to protect note-holders, and also by making it obligatory on each bank to redeem its note issues in gold upon demand, the government would in no sense abdicate its sovereignty as the custodian of the country's monetary standard and the comptroller of its currency, but would simply put upon the banks the burden of sustaining each other and relieve the government of further anxicty upon the subject of its gold re-

Under a system such as is proposed by Secretary Gage or the Indianapolis monetary commission, the power given to each bank would be very little greater than it possesses at present. but the increase in the bank's responsibility would be considerable. As things are, thanks to the "endless chain," the banks can make the government supply them with gold whenever they need gold; as things would be, under currency reform, the government, or any individual, could force the banks to supply gold on demand, by simply presenting bank notes for redemption. Speculative raids on the United States treasury would thus be stopped; a new element of mutuality would be added to the banking business, since a weak bank, by reason of its outstanding notes, would force strong banks to assist it through a pinch, under the alternative of being taxed by the government to make good the deficiency should the weak bank fail and its notes fall into the government's hands for redemption; and above all else, there would be present in a bank currency safely guaranteed by the federal government a degree of elasticity and ready adaptation to local needs not to be expected of a paper currency issued only by the central government.

We recognize the political inexpdincy of forcing the currency reform wedge on a prejudiced public big-end first; but among men capable of intelligent thinking now is the time to set in motion the necessary campaign of education which will be preliminary to effective progress later on.

One of these days it is likely to dawn upon Controller Lloyd, of Luzerne, that the role of tuxpayers' friend is a thank less task after election day.

#### A Mistake.

That logic plays little part in politics even in the highest circles is shown by the transposition whereby the president has named for minister to Brazil a gentleman declared by common rumor to be unfit to go as minister to China. The cause of unfitness was not personally discreditable; the gentleman, Mr. Charles Page Bryan, of Chicago, is by every one described as an excellent citizen and first rate fellow. But he is also asserted to be a novice in diplomacy and it was thought best not to send a novice to Pekin, where ways are dark and tricks are vain and where the heathen Chinee even more than in these benighted

parts, is peculiar. But how will Brazil like it to have

plempotentiary who was not deemed ualified to cope with the delicate duties of the Chinese mission? The officials at Rio de Janeiro may not possess the sensitiveness on points of honor ommon to people of Spanish descent, nd therefore they may be entirely willing to extend the glad hand to Mr. Bryan despite his immaturity in matters diplomatie; but to go on this asemption is to take a serious risk. Suppose they should decline to consider their capital as a kindergarten for the instruction of fledglings in Ameriea's foreign service; what then? Could

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we really blame them? In this matter we fear that our amiable president has failed to exercise the good judgment that has characterized by far the larger number of his selections for diplomatic honors. He seems to have listened too much to personal friends of Mr. Bryan and too little to the promptings of that innate sense of the proprieties which must have told him that a man unfit for the Chinese mission is unfit to represent the govrnment of the United States anywhere ise on earth.

It is understood that many of Senator Quay's closest friends are advising him, as a matter of self protection, to disavow all connection with and responsibility for the revolutionary tactics of the Newitt element in Philadelphia. They perceive in that bolt the portent of coming trouble in the state at large and desire him to keep out of the storm center.

#### Those Havana Riots.

The power of the captain general of Cuba to suppress the recent rioting in Havana has been demonstrated. But the sentiment which that rioting discloses bodes ill for Blanco and for Spain.

The ability of Spain to sustain her sovereignty in Cuba with everything serene in her own household would be problematical in view of the admitted strength of the insurrection. When Weyler was in command there were no riots in Havana and no serious disaffection among the Spanish volunteers and civillans; in short, Spain had then only one enemy in front to deal with, yet Weyler failed. Blanco, with less than a third of Weyler's military strength, has to face not simply the nsurgents and the horrors of Weyler's oncentration policy, but also the opposition which is gradually gaining boldness within the Spanish lines-an opposition made desperate by declining profits, scarcity of pay and supplies and a premonition of the inevitable. No greater problem has confronted any commander in recent years, and its difficulties, it can easily be seen, are not

not unreasonable to expect that our government must soon take more than passive cognizance of the situation thus presented. The time is near when the conditions conjecturally outlined in the last annual message of President Cleveland will prevail; that is, a struggle so hopeless of any other result than the extinction of Cuba's population and resources that it will become the duty of this nation to intervene as an act of broad humanity. The fact that President McKinley has affirmed his intention of enforcing such interention should the necessity for it appear places the whole problem on a basis justifying delay only while there remains a reasonable hope of a satisfactory adjustment between the principals in the conflict. The indications are that that hope is fast being extinguished.

Spain can play just one more card. he can substitute for the present sham everture of autonomy a scheme of autonomy in fact. Whether this ill be her next move will depend upon whether the Sagasta ministry can much longer maintain itself in power. Evidence on this point is not reassuring and the probabilities of early American intervention are therefore greater now than ever before.

The courts of Brooklyn have refused to allow bills for sundries for the Thorn jury. The sundry bills included \$356.15 for wines and \$238.40 for eigars consumed during the trial of the murderer of Guldensuppe. If this spirit of retrenchment is to continue, jury duty in greater New York will soon become a very commonplace and tame occupa-

It is noticeable that neither Colonel Stone personally nor any accredited representative has yet denied that if elected governor the Allegheny congressman would approve the Andrews "Lexow" expense account should it come to him with the legislature's approval. Senator Andrews is not running Stone's campaign for his health.

the Palmer-Buckner movement was a mistake. In other words, sound money Democrats, so long as Bryanism threatens, should line up to a man with the Republican party, the country's only effective protection against political chaos.

Of Clina, the German insistance in the sound of the dangerous province. He claims it will be an evil thing for him to abandon his journey through fear of bodily harm, He says that to allow the soul to become filled with evil is a far greater loss than any injury that could harmen to the body."

Colonel Watterson now admits that

Having been fairly whipped, the thing for Hanna's Ohio enemies to do now is to take their medicine and say nothing. The attempt to nag at Hanna in smalldog fashion will simply add to Hanna's popularity.

A riot in Hayana which would force the administration to take an aggresive position in Cuba would be about the most welcome new year's present which fate could offer to the American people.

Senator Hanna asserts that he now proposes to begin a war of extermination on traitors. That is one cause in which he will have the unanimous cooperation of all believers in fair play.

The public man who does not want to go on record as a chattering idiot will do well to avoid the modern journalistic interviewer.

Again the war with Spain seems to have been caused by smoke on the brain of the overworked and overtruth-

ful correspondent. W. J. Bryan appears to be developing into an ideal specimen of the "has

In New York state they are beginning to talk about re-nominating Governor Black. He has not played for a

The Tribune acknowledges with deasure the receipt from the Troy, N. .. Times of an excellent calendarone of the finest and best seen this

Senator Foraker's congratulations to Hanna did not scoreh the telegraph

The cold wave is certainly coming t struck Columbus on Wednesday.

#### TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Diawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 1.34 a. m., for Saturday, January 15, 3808.

6 A child born on this day will notice that the cattle on a thousand hills' are likely o fall into the hands of the milk com-

The re-election of Wade Finn to the office of tax collector renders further earch for a knock-about comedian for ity hall unnecessary.

The ghoulish gies of the Scranton Times whenever the closing of a labormploying industry is reported, seems out place in a paper that claims to be the workingman's friend. Failure to shape public opinion is not

lways the fault of the educators. The pinion blamed mulish It is not necessary in many instance o give away a really good newspaper.

### Topics of the Day Put Into Dialogue

For The Tribune by H. McAlpine,

In the Twentieth Century.

ENATORIAL candidate's manager "If we can hold our doubtful men until they vote we will win. Are the two legislators that we put in the old warehouse perfectly safe?" Assistant politician: "Yes. A big gang of the opposition candidate's followers made a rush for the building, but our dynamite cannon in the upper story stopped them—blew them to pieces, so you couldn't find any remains big enough to pin a badge onto."

Manager: "The one who is in the fall is certainly searce."

Manager: "The one who is in the fail is certainly secure?"

Assistant: "The opposition's made no effort to get him yet, but we come mighty near losing him last night, just the same. A lynching party after a chap who had been arrested for upsetting a peanut stand, got hold of him by mistake: had him strung up when the militia arrived."

Manager: "Be very careful about the we members who are on the island in the river; they're the most doubtful votes

band. By George! The cowboy guard we sent for him is badly used up—four saddles empty and every man that's left bleeding like a stuck pig. I'll get the books out of the safe so we can put him

Mrs. Blank: "Such a stubborn husband for an up-to-date woman! Wouldn't walk a step. We had to carry him to the carriage and my patience is completely ex-hausted. Mr. dear, you come out of there now, or I will take you by the ear and pull you out. Why, what's the matter with him? I hope he hasn't died from the excitement; it would be just like him —oh! oh! oh! The inhuman monsters! They have stolen him and put a wax dummy in his place. Catch me, quick; I'm going to faint." Mounted Messenger: "A crowd of the other candidate's friends, armed with

Winchesters, has just escorted Mr. Blank nto the capitol."

Manager: "It's too bad to burn a two-Manager: "It's too bad to burn a two-million dollar building, but we've got to win. Tell our boys to fire the combusti-bles we placed in the capitol basement, and while the people are escaping from the burning building we must get him

#### On the Indian Frontier.

Corporal Heal: "We've been starving and fighting and dying in this bloody country for weeks, and wot's hit all for. I'd like to know? The bloomin' land is all rock and the natives have nothing to

Private Tonnalson: "No, hit's on account of the hexcessive population. These frontier for 'em to starve easy and natural, like the people down country, so they has to be reduced with a little war." Orderly Flannigan: "Tis wrong ye all are! It's mesilf has overheard the inside official information. The Quane was tould that some Roosian bears was a'comin' to ate up these people, an' she says to her-silf, says she: "Tis a wolld tribe they are, and 'tis a poor, worthless country they have, but it's own cousins to me people on the plains they be, and O'i can not allow the helpless craythurs to be aten up that way. Oi'll build a little fort or two in their country to kape the bears away.' But the pig-neaded asses. instead our being thankful, wint on a shindig and raided the forts, so we're here to tache thim what's good for thim, and, praise the saints, it's many a long-haired haythen has come to an onder-sthanding on it wid a Snider bunet in his

#### At the Chinese Court.

High Counsellor: "Oh, Great Brilliancy of China, the German missionary insists could happen to the body."

Emperor: "Then I must at once issue a decree that no German be allowed to

enter the drinking shops, dancing gardens, or other places where wickedness can be absorbed. The recompense they demand for injury to their bodies is very great, and if we should be held responsi-ble for damages to a German soul, surely the whole Empire could not pay it. High Counsellor: "It will be a most sensible precaution, but here comes the Grand Mandarin, tearing his robe and beating his head. What new misfortune can have happened?"

Grand Mandarin; "Oh. Son of the Starts kick me with your golden sandal.

Stars, kick me with your golden sandal, for I am a bearer of evil news. The calamity presaged by the eclipse has fallen upon us. The English have delivers an ultimatum that there shall be no shore especial privileges. They demand that all nations be treated alliemand that all nations be treated alike, and now, whenever a foreign devil gets hurt each of the powers must have a scaport. The foreign devils are so venturesome accidents will happen to them, and the supply of scaports is not unlimited. What can we give when they are gone? Kick me again, stamp upon my ignoble head, oh Favored One of the

#### Free Silver.

Mr. Ploughshure: "Since they to been n power, the Populists hev done lots for he farmers, but I've alleys kinder doubted if I hed much use for this free silver— till yisterday."

Pop Politician: "What occurred yester-

day to take the gold dust out of your eyes? Did you read some of my 16 to 1 articles? Mr. Ploughshare: "You know silver's seen so plenty and cheap they've had to

second term but by good work and fidelity to convictions he has earned one and it requires small gift of prophecy to foresee that he can have it if he wants it.

| Recond term but by good work and fidelity to convictions he has earned one and it requires small gift of prophecy to foresee that he can have it if he wants it. Not hevin' any other waggin to carry them in, I hardly knowed what tew do, but my boy, Bill, he's a smart 'un. He get a crowbar and drilled holes through four of them dollars and put 'em on the axies fer wheels, and, by gum, they work so well I'm goin' to leave 'em there."

#### Advice to a Red.

Advice to a Red.

Anarchist Hobo: "I don't steal because I want money or property. I hate both, but I swipe everything I can so as to injure the bloated property owners. Taking their wealth weakens them, don't it? And in that way I help the cause of anarchy, don't I?"

Wandering Willie: "That's so, and if that's the game I can put yer onto a

that's the game, I can put yer onto a big scheme. You goes to some live town and kills yer man and lies low long enough for the detectives to run up a big bill. Then you insists yer an innocent victim of the civil law, because yer a poor man. Some softie will be on hand to aid the innocent an' oppressed, and if they gets enough lawyers on the case costs'll run into twenty and who'll have to stand it, but the tax payers—the bloated property owners? You couldn't get so much boodle away from them if you was to steal for a life-

#### OUR CHIEF CONCERN.

From the Philadelphia Buletin. It seems to be impossible for our Brit-ish cousins to realize that the governmental policy of the United States is in-spired by the desire to promote Ameri-can interests and not by the wish either to serve or to injure Great Britain. When this country passes a stringent protective tariff, like the McKinley law or the Diagley law, or when it notifies our kin across the sea that the Mource destrine must be respected, as in the case of Venezuela. the London newspapers angrily accuse us of being actuated by violent antipathy to everything that is English. When Englishmen feel in a more friendly mood especially when their government is in ome dilemma and the assistance of th United States would be of immense value-these journals go to the other extreme

Ever since the beginning of German ag-gressions upon China, the London press has teemed with suggestions of an alliance between England and America which should safeguard British interests in the far East, and restore to England the po-sition of primacy in world politics which was hers under the actute and audacious statesmanship of Beaconsfield. No doubt as to the willingness of Americans to pull British chestnuts out of the fire seems to have occurred to these consident papers. They apparently consider that the honor of an alliance with the British empire would be ample recompense for our aban-donment of our traditional policy and embroilment with powers with which we are

Thus the Spectator, once notable as a conservative and influential organ of in-telligent opinion, complacently assumes in its latest issue that the United States is ready to support the British demand that Assistant; "Oh, they're safe. Since our orpedoes that surround the island sunk and remarks that "nothing short of a dione of the opposition boats and drowned every one in it, they're shy of that place. Here comes Mrs. Blank with her hused and resolved." Assuredly an alliance between this country and England would hold in its hands the balance of the world But it is sheer nonsense for English pa-pers to talk as though the American peo-ple were willing to enter upon such an arrangement. Nothing is farther from their thoughts at present. In fact, they are not thinking of England and her interests at all, incredible as this may appear to the typical London editor.

The fundamental consideration which guides the action of the men who conduct the government of the United States is the protection of American interests and the maintenance of American rights, Britain. It may be very hard for con-ceited Britons to believe this, but it is a fact, nevertheless. If the newspapers of the British metropolis could bring them-selves to understand it, they would not print so much nonsense.

#### ABOLISH THE SEED HUMBUG.

From the Times-Herald.

In spite of popular denunciation and protest the ancient swindle known as the free seed distribution will bob up serence as usual at the present session of con-ess. The agricultural bill which wil ome up for consideration this month contains an appropriation of \$130,000 for seeds which are to be given away through tax, hxcep: their own 'ldes, wot we're shootin' holes into."

Private Atkins: "They're a havin' us lick the bloody haythans into shape so it'll be zafe to send missionaries to 'em."

| Seeds which are to be given a senators, representatives ar cultural department. [This i has already been approved i but may fail in the senate.] enators, representatives and the agri ultural department. [This item, in fact has already been approved in the house

The original object of the free gift en terprise was dcubtless praiseworthy, in that it was designed to introduce new varicties of plants to general use and to secure reports upon their value for public information. The people were perfectly willing to encourage this mild form o paternalism so long as it was used to pro mote the genuine interests of husbandry Realizing that all wealth and all pros-perity have their source in the soil, the ncouragement of agriculture has been regarded as a legitimate function of gov-ernment. But instead of being used for he promotion of husbandry the seed distribution for several years past has been diverted to the promotion of the interests politicians among the granger cor tiplying the products of the soil the fre eed fraud is used to make represent tives solid with agricultural voters.

A report of the department of agricul-ture recently declared that "a careful review of the department reports during decade in which over a million dollars was expended for free seed distribution falls to reveal a single instance of benefit to agriculture attributable to this dis-tribution." The whole system is a fraud on its face. It represents a form obribery that is a reproach to the gov ernment. Congress will never have a better time to abolish it than at the present session when public revenues demand retrenchment,

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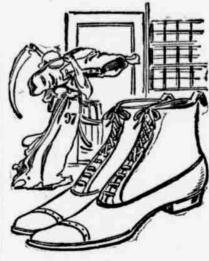


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