

The Scranton Tribune Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month. REGISTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER. SCRANTON, JANUARY 27, 1898. REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. For School Director. Three Years—PETER NEULS, Eleventh ward. Three Years—D. L. PHILLIPS, Fifth ward. Two Years—E. D. FELLOWS, Fourth ward. Two Years—F. S. GODFREY, Eighth ward. One Year—F. S. BARKER, Seventeenth ward. One Year—ELIAS E. EVANS, Fifteenth ward. Election Day, February 15.

The kind of reciprocity which Spain most deserves from this country is the kind that requires ammunition to carry it into effect. A Recipe for Harmony. Representative Adams, a Philadelphian on terms of considerable intimacy with the senior representative of this commonwealth in the United States senate, is quoted in a dispatch from the national capital to the Wilkes-Barre Record as saying adversely that the independent candidacy of Mr. Newitt for receiver of taxes in Philadelphia will be called off by its sponsors, Mr. Penrose and Mr. Durham, out of deference to the earnest desire of Colonel Quay for harmony in the Republican ranks. It will be recalled that the Newitt candidacy was set up by a minority which belied the regular Republican convention after being beaten in that convention two to one.

We do not know whether this report is true or whether, if true and in due course verified, it would suffice wholly to allay the very considerable evil wrought in the public mind by the circumstances attending the bolt itself. The calling off of Newitt, while highly creditable to Senator Quay's perspicacity as a politician, would no doubt still leave a bad taste in the mouths of those Republicans throughout the commonwealth who, as the vote for Dr. Swallow clearly indicated, are becoming somewhat tired of "set ups" and "knock downs" on the political chess board, concerning which the people themselves, while expected to foot all the bills of expense, have apparently the least to say. As a matter of party regularity Newitt should of course retire, inasmuch as among Republicans who believe in regularity as the greatest of party virtues he now has not a leg to stand on. But will his retirement alone suffice to disperse the storm clouds which are slowly gathering along the Republican horizon in Pennsylvania?

It is our belief that the Newitt affair is simply one incident, and by no means the most ominous, in a flock of significant and portentous facts. Much more dangerous to the prospects of the party in the approaching gubernatorial campaign is the spectacle afforded in the methods employed by those most actively engaged in promoting the candidacy for governor of the Hon. William A. Stone, of Allegheny. Here, according to seemingly trustworthy reports not yet responsibly denied, we have the anomalous condition of a state chairman and many direct lieutenants in the regular party organization at work with the prestige arising from their official position within the party, seeking to compass the nomination of a man for whom there is among the masses no audible call, and against whose candidacy there can be brought the same charge of political manipulation and disregard of public opinion which eight years ago proved fatal to a then equally popular citizen of North-western Pennsylvania, George Wallace Delamater. Does this tend to encourage harmony in the party? Is it calculated to popularize the organization among friends of the other candidates? Evidently not.

We feel disposed to credit Senator Quay with sincerity in his reported desire for harmony. Indeed, he has good reasons of his own for such a preference. That under any circumstances he could effect his own re-election next winter is very probable; but the triumph would be robbed of its sparkle if at about the same time the executive mansion at Harrisburg should be giving shelter to the third Democratic governor elected in this stalwart Republican commonwealth since Hon. Matthew Stanley Quay became the recognized Republican leader of it. To avert such a party misfortune, with its element of personal rebuke, Senator Quay has only to follow to the limit his own better judgment, which urges him, we believe with increasing emphasis, to cut adrift those who abuse his favor and stand forth assertively in behalf of political fair play.

It is reported that the president is at work upon a plan to take the consular service out of politics. He will need to be careful lest it at the same time should take him out of politics.

The Loss of the Tillie. Without doubt the greatest victory which Spain has won in several months in her war for the retention of Cuba was won on the high seas off Barnegat the other day, when a Cuban trader scuttled the ill-fated ship Tillie, sending to the bottom a consignment of war materials, including three dynamite guns and forty tons of dynamite, intended for delivery to the military genius of the Cuban revolution, General Calixto Garcia. The Tillie had stolen safely through the cordon of coast ships maintained by our government for the Cuban insurgents, and was on her way rejoicing when perdition in the hold, negotiated by Spain, spoiled all carrying down to an untimely death four of the brave souls who had risked their lives on this hazard for liberty.

The monetary loss resulting from this deplorable act of treachery is considerable, and it will undoubtedly be felt by the revolutionary agents in New York, who, up to this time, have sustained the enormous expense of the Cuban insurrection almost wholly from contributions made by Cubans themselves. There was a time in the history of the revolution when such a loss would not have been severely felt. One year ago news of it would have

been followed by extra subscriptions from Cubans in this country and Europe more than enough to reimburse the junta's treasury. But the Cubans who could afford to do this are relatively few and their resources are not inexhaustible. The regular monthly payments which every patriotic Cuban is making to the revolutionary cause, amounting in many cases to more than twenty-five per cent. of the donor's entire income, constitute a heavy sacrifice as the majority of American Cubans can make without reducing themselves and their families to destitution.

Put even if the money loss resulting from the scuttling of the Tillie were regained in some way, as for example by American contributions, which up to the present moment have been more liberal in words than in negotiable currency, there would remain the feeling of insecurity and distrust which every act of treachery inspires and leaves in its wake. This will constitute the junta's greatest obstacle. Spanish diplomacy has again exhibited its consummate skill. It has barbed the enemy in a way which insures pain and peril long after the arrow itself shall have been extracted. The circumstance is enough to make decent Americans heartily ashamed of the illiberal and one-sided policy of the government at Washington which, by its refusal to grant belligerent rights has made it necessary for the friends of Cuba to steal and skulk out of Yankee ports, subjecting themselves to such risks as proved fatal to the purposes of the expedition aboard the Tillie.

Fortunately, General Garcia has no present lack of dynamite and with what he has he will undoubtedly render a good account. It is to be hoped that the libel suit brought by Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Leece against the Free Press will be carried to a decisive issue. If the charges made against this couple are false, no punishment of the circulators of them can be too severe. If those charges are true, their definite establishments in a court of justice would be of manifest advantage to the community, which could then take steps to protect itself. The charges in various forms had been current for some time prior to the publication in the Free Press. The plaintiffs in this suit, if they are as innocent as we must assume them to be until proof is forthcoming to the contrary, have pursued the proper course in demanding an investigation and we trust that they will push this demand to a conclusion.

As to Promissory Notes. A decision lately rendered by the lord chief justice of England is the subject of varied comment in this country. The facts in the case were as follows: A rich young man was asked by a friend to witness a document; a piece of paper was produced, covered by other paper in which there were four openings. It was explained to the young man that the paper was a power of attorney relating to his friend's sister's marriage settlement, and that he was simply to witness his friend's signature. He signed his name in each of the openings, and afterward found that he had signed two joint and several promissory notes with his friend for more than fifty-five thousand dollars, payable to the order of a London money-lender, who afterward disowned them at the rate of forty per cent. When the notes became due it was found that the friend had gone to the continent, and the money-lender brought suit against the young man for payment of the notes.

The jury held that the money-lender had taken the notes in good faith, but that the young man had not signed them as promissory notes, and the chief justice, in applying the law, held that the defendant was not liable, because the essence of a contract was lacking and because the signature was obtained by fraud. This, of course, bears heavily upon the money-lender, but it appears nevertheless to be a just and equitable decision so far as the signer of the notes is concerned. The importance of the decision rests in its insistence that a promissory note, to be binding, must possess the essence of a contract. Where, therefore, notes are won by shapers through misrepresentation, as is frequently the case, particularly among farmers, the meaning of this decision is that the holder of the notes cannot recover. A similar ruling in this country would be most welcome.

Speaking of reciprocity with Cuba, there is already a tolerably satisfactory system in vogue, whereby the Cuban insurgents give us good money and we give them good rifles, powder and shells. Encouraging Statistics. Pig iron being at the base of a majority of our great industries, progress in its production may safely be taken as indicative of industrial progress generally. For this reason large interest attaches to the figures contained in an advance sheet of the Bulletin of the American Iron and Steel association comparing the domestic pig iron production in 1897 with the production in a number of previous years. This sheet gives the total production in 1897 as 9,652,680 gross tons, against 8,623,127 tons in 1896, 9,466,308 tons in 1895, 6,657,388 tons in 1894, 7,124,502 tons in 1893, 9,157,000 tons in 1892, 8,279,870 tons in 1891, and 9,292,703 tons in 1890. The production in 1897 was 1,029,553 tons more than in 1896, an increase of almost twelve per cent. The production of Bessemer pig iron in 1897 was 6,795,284 tons, against 4,654,955 tons in 1896, and 5,623,695 tons in 1895. The increase in 1897 over 1896 was 1,140,629 tons. The production of basic pig iron was 556,391 tons, against 236,493 tons in 1896. The production of charcoal pig iron in 1897 was 255,211 tons, against 216,244 tons in 1896, a decrease of 55,033 tons. The production of spiegel-iron and ferromanganese was 174,695 tons, against 131,940 tons in 1896, and 171,724 tons in 1895.

Inasmuch as 1897 was not free from the disastrous consequences of the preceding quadrennium of business depression, it would seem to be reasonable to expect a yet greater production in 1898. The foregoing figures offer much encouragement to the belief, now very generally held in Europe as well as quite universally in this country, that

the supremacy of the United States in the iron and steel trade will in future be even more marked than it is today.

The evident desire on part of the high officials in the United States army to adopt more tasteful wearing apparel should be encouraged. Dress goes a great way in foreign diplomacy, and representatives of this government have often been placed at a disadvantage in eastern courts through the modesty of their apparel. There is no reason, at the present moderate price of gold braid, why the United States soldier or marine should be dressed as though he had just escaped from a reformatory or an institution for the feeble-minded. It is about time that Uncle Sam began to spruce up.

It has been alleged in certain quarters that the agitation about the counterfeit one hundred dollar bills has been stirred up solely for the purpose of giving a lot of government detectives some excuse for drawing their salaries, and that the bills are all genuine. With most of us this must ever remain a theory merely.

The Chicago press is unanimous in commending the pretty Japanese custom of liberating a flock of birds at the launching of a ship, instead of spilling liquor on the deck. The Chicago editors believe in spilling the liquor where it will be more effective.

The prevailing epidemic will be called "grip" this year. So persons suffering with cold in the head will be careful about spelling it "grip" unless they wish to be considered out of date.

The governor of Illinois had rheumatism and therefore couldn't meet President Dole, but if Dole will consult the Chicago papers he will discover that he didn't miss much.

Robert P. Porter says the president offered him the superintendency of the Twelfth census, but he declined it. We fear that Brother Porter is entirely too modest.

The opinions of Grover Cleveland on matters of national interest these days carry the flavor of a last year's minstrel show.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacelus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 3.33 a. m. for Thursday, January 27, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that the backbone of winter is becoming very limited. Mrs. Bradish has evidently concluded that \$10.00 was rather a high price for a kiss. It is certain that some of the various nominations made at the convention house the other day have been made in vain with a big V.

The attorney is about the only one who receives real benefit from a libel suit, and he often gets left.

According to Chief of Police Robinson, Dr. Craft in expressing opinions of Scranton has been talking through his neck.

Decade's Progress in Electricity. From the New York Sun.

AN ARTICLE which has not yet received as much attention as it deserves is the review of electrical advances in the past ten years, contributed to the Forum by Mr. Elihu Thomson, the well known inventor. Few people realize the extent and range of the applications of electricity to useful purposes which have been made since 1887. It is pointed out, for instance, by Mr. Thomson that, at a convention of street railway men held in the city of New York in 1887, the expediency of substituting electric traction for horse power was criticised as a waste of time. A convention of the same association in the same city ten years on city railways will exist only in remembrance. Electric traction has given greater speed and better cars, which, moreover, are lighter and heated electrically, the result being an amount of cleanliness and comfort not otherwise obtainable. Electrically driven elevators, which have been multiplied to such an extent that passenger traffic on the trunk lines connecting large centers of population.

The facility with which electric service may be superposed on roads originally intended for steam traction has been demonstrated by a conspicuous railway engineering feat in the West, where single cars may be propelled at high speed with comparative safety. Even sixty miles an hour has been exceeded. It has further been shown that the construction of several huge electric locomotives for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, that such machinery can haul the heaviest train loads, and more than equal in power locomotives worked by steam. Mr. Thomson has no doubt that the latter will eventually be supplanted by electric motors driving the axles of the cars, as in street railway service. Cheap fuel can be used to generate the power in the electric stations, and water power, where it is available within thirty or forty miles, may be transmitted to the railway line. In a word, the foundations of the railway practice of twenty years hence are being laid today.

If we look back ten years we find that, although telephone and electric systems were then already in existence, there were virtually no long distance extensions. To render the latter practicable the lines have to be made of heavy copper wire, the wire, of course, becoming thicker in proportion to the distance to be covered. It follows that the cost of the copper required becomes very heavy for great distances, over a million pounds of copper being used for a single circuit from Boston to Chicago. Prior to 1887, only the largest cities possessed any electric lighting service; the alternating current, which is now so large a factor in electrical enterprises, had scarcely begun to be used. In present, even the smaller towns have their electrical stations, their arc lamps for street lighting, and the smaller incandescent lamps for general use. The incandescent lamps employed in the United States are numbered by millions; and there are several hundred thousand arc lamps in use. There are now in operation nearly 3,000 electric light supply stations, which, together with isolated electric plants, represent a capital of about \$200,000,000.

Stress is naturally laid by Mr. Thomson on the remarkable application of electricity at Niagara. Here, the power home to us the industrial importance of cheap and unfailing power developed from water in its fall. The power of huge water wheels is delivered to massive dynamos for giving out in turn electric energy. Upon the water power thus transmitted depend the electric light and electric railways of the city of Niagara, as well as a number of remarkable industrial establishments founded in that place. Here, too, the feasibility of the long-distance transmission of power is exemplified by a high-pressure line extending to Buffalo and delivering the electric energy to an electric station there. The

Niagara plant has grown into existence within the last five years, as a consequence of the advances in electrical science made within the decade just closed. There are other examples of water-power transmission, some of them far exceeding in distance that between Niagara and Buffalo, and some in which the amount of power conveyed, as well as the pressure of the current used upon the line, is much greater than is yet exhibited at Niagara.

Notable, also, are the applications of the electric current to heating and to metallurgy. By electric welding machines are now made carriages, hardware, axles, wheel tires, parts of bicycles, and tools, metal bands for pulleys, tubes, and barrels, and innumerable other articles. Electric methods have been found adaptable to the annealing of armor for war vessels. Formerly, it was almost impossible to drill or cut holes in the plates of Harveyized armor, but, by the application of electric machinery, it has been found practicable to obtain extreme localization in the heating of metal through the delivery of electrical energy and its conversion into heat at the desired point without impairing the quality of the rest of the plate. Mr. Thomson reminds us that, before the advent of the electric welding process, iron and platinum were regarded as the only weldable metals. Now all metals are capable of being welded under electric treatment. Electric heating is used in many other ways. There are electric cooking utensils, electric soldering tools and similar devices, while many street cars are provided with electric heat in winter.

In metallurgy the value of electricity has received of late a new demonstration at Niagara, where the metal aluminum, which, not many years ago cost \$2 an ounce, is now produced and sold at a price which makes it bulk for bulk, cheaper than brass. In this case, of course, the electric current's power of electrolyzing or breaking up strong chemical unions is employed. Works for the production of metallic sodium and other metals similarly depend upon the decomposition effected by the electric current. Enormous amounts of crude copper are annually refined by electrolysis, with the result that a nearly pure metal is obtained, where formerly impurities lessened the value of the copper. Not only is this the case, but, in some instances, amounts of the precious metals sufficient to pay the cost of the process have been separated in the refining.

Passing from the applications of electricity to industrial purposes, Mr. Thomson reviews the advances made in electrical engineering and in the department of physics. Among other discoveries, he refers to the demonstration made by Herz and others that signals may be transmitted by means of electric waves simply by using electric waves of some millions of vibrations per second; these invisible waves being recognized by the production of metallic sparks, or the X-rays belongs, properly, to electrical science, seeing that the rays are the result of electrical action in certain vacuum tubes. On the other hand, the fact set forth by Mr. Thomson fully justifies his conclusion that the application of electricity to the needs of mankind will be deemed hereafter the crowning glory of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

THE PATHWAY CLEARED. From the Washington Star.

Probably no well-informed person in Havana or elsewhere in the Caribbean is likely to be misled by the low-towing now in progress over the ordering of the battleship Maine to Cuba. It is a certain, and which appropriately goes with an extremely ticklish situation. But there still remain the bad facts, easily to be recognized and appreciated, that Spanish authority, even in Havana, is all but overthrown, that life there is not safe, and that whether Spain likes it or not she is too great longer to be taken. The shedding of a single drop of American blood in Havana by a Spanish bolt, after all the warning that has been given, would have overwhelmed not only the administration, but the country with shame and confusion. There will be a feeling of anxiety here as to the safety of all Americans in Havana and elsewhere in Cuba.

Meanwhile, it is well to observe how mistaken we seem to have been all along in dealing with Spain about Cuba. First came the question of General Weyler's recall, then the question of the evacuation of the island, and finally the question of offering to help secure the thousands of starving women and children whom General Weyler had penned up like beasts of the forest. This came to be a question of offending the sensibilities of Spain. Finally the offer was made, and Spain jumped at it. She even proposed to take charge of the contributions, and to distribute them to the victims of her own unshakable oppression! Her sensibilities were not wounded even a little bit.

Now we have the order as to the Maine. For months pro-Spanish circles have threatened appalling consequences at the suggestion of the United States. Spain would not hear of it. Such step, we were assured, with a look of great sternness, would be instantly resented. Has it been so? There came the question of offering to help secure the thousands of starving women and children whom General Weyler had penned up like beasts of the forest. This came to be a question of offending the sensibilities of Spain. Finally the offer was made, and Spain jumped at it. She even proposed to take charge of the contributions, and to distribute them to the victims of her own unshakable oppression! Her sensibilities were not wounded even a little bit.

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