

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 27, 1898.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

- For School Director. Three Years—PETER NEULS, Eleventh ward. Three Years—D. I. 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 advisedly 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 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.

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.

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, 7,124,562 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.

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 Tille 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 against the Tille.

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 Ajacebus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 3.33 a. m. for Thursday, January 27, 1898.

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Mrs. Bradish has evidently concluded that \$10,000 was rather a high price for a kiss.

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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 criticized 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 they are now a part of the daily life of the city, are another example of the progress made in the decade.

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 city of New York. 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

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.

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GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR.

Extraordinary Bargains And Special Attractions For Tomorrow--Friday's --Bargain Sales. For Particulars, Read This Paper Tomorrow Morning

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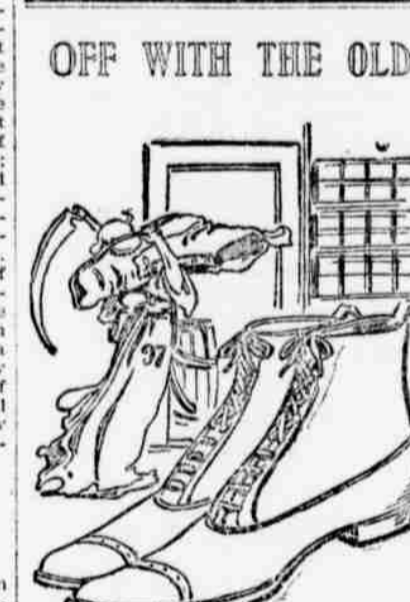
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AS THE OLD YEAR IS CAST OFF BY THE OLD YEAR, SO SHOULD YOU RESOLVE TO CARRY OUT THE NEW YEAR BY GETTING A NEW SUIT OF CLOTHING. JUST RECEIVED FOR THOSE WHO WANT ADVANCE STYLES AT BACKWARD PRICES.

THE PATHWAY CLEARED.

From the Washington Star. Probably no well-informed person in Havana or elsewhere in the West Indies is likely to be misled by the low-towing news in progress over the ordering of the battleship Maine to Havana. It is a common-sense proposition that the X-rays belong, properly, to electrical science, seeing that the rays are the result of electrical action in certain vacuum tubes. On the other hand, the data set forth by Mr. Thomson fully justify 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.

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Those Oil Heaters we told you about last week. But the fact of our having had a good sale of them WILL NOT change our resolution to clean them out.

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And judging from prices we are selling them at they won't last long.

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AT RETAIL. Coal of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Birdseye, delivered in any part of the city at the lowest price.

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