

The Scranton Tribune Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month. SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 7, 1898.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. For School Directors. Three Years—PETER NEULS, Eleventh Ward. Three Years—D. I. PHILLIPS, Fifth Ward. Two Years—E. D. FELLOWS, Fourth Ward. Two Years—E. S. GEDFREY, Eighth Ward. One Year—F. S. BARKER, Seventeenth Ward. One Year—ELIAS E. EVANS, Pittsford Ward. Election Day, February 15.

We are informed that from Saturday's performance in Music Hall the unspeakable fifth which had up to that time been Fenegysy's chief stock in trade was carefully eliminated, doubtless in anticipation of a visit by the police. We take pleasure in noting this slight victory for reform. But so long as Music Hall shall remain in the control of a man who boasts that want is what Scranton theater goes want and who resorts to traffic in amur, refraining only while scared, it will be necessary for the authorities to keep their eyes open. We notice with satisfaction the fact that the Federkranz has taken steps to bring its tent to time. As we suspected, it had been decided as to the quality of the performances given by him.

The Possibility of War. The London correspondent of the New York Sun, Mr. H. R. Chamberlain, a well-equipped journalist of the first rank, with conservative tendencies, has recently made a study of political conditions in Spain and his deductions are not encouraging. The danger of war between Spain and the United States impresses him as real and not far distant. Sagasta and some of his broad-minded colleagues are doing what they can to avert it, but unless they can conquer the inevitable in Cuba and thus mollify their countrymen's inordinant pride Mr. Chamberlain believes that war will be declared by Spain upon us and the awful consequences thereof deliberately invited within a few months at farthest.

The reasons which he assigns for this belief are numerous, being mostly familiar to the American reading public. But in specifying some of them he presents illuminating details. He tells of the almost incredible ignorance and patience of the Spanish peasant class, who are lied on all sides by their unscrupulous governors and who are now for the first time beginning to murmur; but he also adds that it is from this very class, whom a new war would injure most, that the danger of a war forced with the United States chiefly proceeds.

The bulk of Spain's conscript recruits for the Cuban service has been drawn from this class. Adds Mr. Chamberlain: "Hundreds of boys and young men who went out sturdy, robust specimens of early manhood have come back in the hospital ships pitiful, hopeless wrecks of humanity whom their friends and families are often unable to recognize when they reappear at their homes. Thousands more have perished miserably in Cuban fever hospitals, not to mention Cuban battlefields. It is the inviolated returned soldier who is the chief propaganda agent of hatred of the United States in Spain. It could not well be otherwise, and he is not in any sense blameworthy. He has been told by his officers all the time he has been in Cuba that it is American aid which has kept the rebellion alive. He has had no reason for disbelieving the stories of his superiors and comrades. Campaigning in Cuba has been a hellish experience for him, and the Yankees are responsible for his sufferings and for those of his comrades who are dead or left behind. His ruined constitution is proof of the horrors he has endured. He tells his story. He is honest and sincere. The people look upon his wasted frame, and they believe him. Why should they do otherwise? And believing him, they share to the full his hatred of the accursed Yankees."

This hatred is stronger now than ever before and Mr. Chamberlain thinks that it is growing. It would take very little to set it afire. It is the opinion of this writer as it is of most students of the subject that Spain has so far exhausted her financial resources as to preclude the extended continuance of an open military campaign in Cuba. In fact he discovers at Madrid that this is practically admitted by the Spanish government, which, however, at the time of his writing—Jan. 23—had great hope that General Blanco would soon bring the chief insurgents into surrendering. That hope has already failed, however, if later advices be true. Indeed there is ample testimony that it and autonomy have for all practical purposes expired together, bringing Spain face front to the final crisis of her sovereignty in Cuba. Can Spain let Cuba go without precipitating a revolution at home? Mr. Chamberlain fears that the only escape from such a consequence will be through a war wilfully provoked with the United States. The present ministry will not invite this evil until forced to, but its overthrow would mean that and its preservation may compel that.

It will be observed that the administration at Washington, while talking a good deal about peace and good will, has taken, it would seem, about every available precaution against a reverse turn of affairs. Our warships are within easy reach of every possible center of danger, and though their officers are now on dress parade, they are also ready, and we suspect willing, for sterner duty.

General Boynton writes to the Sun that "our consuls in Cuba are hearing much annoying talk from the consuls of other nations. It is based upon our position touching the Monroe doctrine. The criticism is that we have made it impossible for European powers to rebuke the horrors which have made Cuba a hell, and, on the other hand, do nothing to end the matter and compel relief. There have also been tauntings, which it is necessary to admit have point, to the effect that our congress was swift to denounce Turkish savagery in Armenia, but holds its voice over a worse situation within hours' sail of our own shores, and now, with the proximity of our fleets, under our very guns." We don't wonder that foreigners are at a loss to comprehend this anomaly. It is not any too clearly understood by Americans themselves.

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The discomfiture of the Philadelphia factional opponents of Secretary Martin was completed when on Saturday the court denied their right to place an "anti-Martin" column on the official ballot. The resort to that title was a symptom of childishness hardly worthy of grown men. It betrayed so clearly the factional pique which has for several years disrupted the Republican party in its chief Pennsylvania stronghold that chief Pennsylvania strongholds that among disinterested observers many who have no particular fondness for Mr. Martin will be glad as a matter of fair play that it has been checked. With the withdrawal of their candidate, Mr. Newmyer, the factionists should have stopped their guerrilla warfare and won credit for party regularity. Now they get neither that credit nor recognition of any kind.

We make mention of this incident because it affords a conspicuous illustration of the fatuity of factional warfare arising chiefly from individual pique. The fight on Martin was at no time a fight embodying essentially different principles of political management. It was not a revolt of outraged popular opinion but rather a manufactured bolt by leaders who envied Mr. Martin his power but lacked the strength to overthrow him in open combat. Politics of this kind can have no good consequence to the party. It is simply a form of suicide to those who engage in it. It has proved futile in Philadelphia. It is likely to prove equally futile in the state at large if the same animus shall govern in the larger struggle. Resentment, jealousy, a thirst for revenge is not a broad enough foundation for a successful political revolution in this day of abounding popular common sense.

Mr. Wanamaker may ache to down Senator Quay as some of the opponents of the Philadelphia leader have lately ached to down Secretary Martin; but a battle fed by grudges is handicapped from its inception.

The good wishes of every intelligent American accompany Miss Clara Barton on her errand of mercy to Cuba. May she soon get the assertive help of the American government.

Germany and Our Exports. The inclination of the average American, when he hears that anything American has not received its due in Europe, is to execute at once a full-blooded war dance. This tendency is indicative of a wholesome national spirit, and it deserves a good deal of respect; but usually it is the wiser plan to defer the war dance until there is an official verification of the alleged facts.

This talk about the fierce restrictions which Prussia has imposed or is about to impose upon the importation of American fruits, plants and horses is somewhat vague as yet. Nobody seems to know exactly what the terms of the restrictions are or the reasons which have impelled them. In due time the facts will be made known and then it will be possible to arrive at a rational opinion concerning them.

Four years ago we sent to Germany less than \$80,000 worth of horses; last year the value exceeded \$800,000. The fruit exports have grown even more rapidly although we have not at hand the actual figures. The reason given for the barring of American horses is that they communicate the influenza to German horses. Our fresh fruits are said to contain a dangerous parasite, which, if admitted into Prussia, would work great damage to native agricultural interests, American plants are excluded for a similar reason. But these reasons are not the official ones. We cannot act until we know the official position of the Prussian government upon these premises.

That these exclusion orders are conceived in a spirit of retaliation against the Dingley bill is wholly probable. Under her treaties, however, Germany could not specifically exclude American exports from her ports, except for cause, and if cause has been manufactured we shall have the right to protest, plus also the final right to retaliate in kind. The facts will soon appear and if they shall warrant the president in using the power of reprisals conferred upon him by congress, it will not take a very large bacillus of German export wares to bring it to the minds of the authorities at Berlin that it is a poor game at which two cannot play.

Since it takes two cabinet departments in times of peace to look after interests primarily connected with war, it is not asking much to urge the creation of at least one cabinet department of commerce and industry.

An Important Problem. In an interview with a representative of the Pittsburg Dispatch, upon a subject of growing interest in Pennsylvania—the multiplication of minor court costs and the general inefficiency of our petty court system—Attorney General McCormick recently presented some ideas which are worthy of reproduction.

The duties of justices of the peace, as originally understood and practiced, have, he pointed out, in modern times been almost wholly lost sight of. The office was an honorable one, and in our early history, and still earlier in England, was one of dignity and importance. The justice was the conservator of the peace in his neighborhood. He felt it to be his duty to prevent litigation, both civil and criminal, to the end that good order should be maintained within his jurisdiction.

Today, as Mr. McCormick remarked, the office of justice of the peace and alderman, in a great majority of instances, is held by men who too often resort to litigation and discord, and generally because it is their pecuniary advantage so to do.

"For the most trifling offense," he continued, "the defendant is required to give bail for his appearance to answer at the court of quarter sessions of the county. The large percentage of these cases that the grand jury feel bound to ignore, notwithstanding the fact that they have only the expert evidence of the commonwealth before them, proves conclusively that far too many justices of the peace and aldermen are using their power for their own benefit. Inexcusable hardship frequently comes to those that are arrested, in loss of time, cost of money, payment of counsel fees, and what is even worse, the embittering of neighbor against neighbor and the destruction of the peace and good order of the locality."

This is the evil, or a part of it—an evil known of all men. But the proper cure is another question. The attorney general thinks that a partial remedy at least would be afforded by a radical reduction in the number of justices and aldermen. He would also make it illegal for these officials to act as collecting agents. On this point he says: "They advertise and receive accounts and notes for collection, they notify the debtor, demand payment, and when payment is refused, perhaps because of the debtor having a good defense, suit is brought by the same justice or alderman before himself in the name of the creditor for whom he is acting as agent, and the necessary result is a judgment in favor of the plaintiff, because, in effect, the plaintiff is his agent, is sitting as judge in his own case. There should be some way of breaking up this pernicious practice. The courts have declared it unlawful whenever it has come before them, and I have no doubt always will do so, but it should be made highly penal for any justice or alderman to sit in judgment in a case in which he himself is practically the party, or at least in which he has an interest so far as his commissions are concerned."

These suggestions are worthy of serious attention. Factions in the judiciary are doing more harm in vogue is growing so rapidly that it will be the part of wisdom for students of the law to move toward an intelligent remedy rather than wait until impatient clamor forces perhaps a reckless one.

In this regard it is for patriotic and sincere Republicans who stand above faction and who are profoundly concerned for the unity, harmony and stability of the political system of the moment, to consider the expediency of considering this exigency demands—Philadelphia Press.

The reference here is to the coming struggle between the Wanamaker and the Quay influences in Pennsylvania politics. If the fight shall get too black, the exigency will demand patriotic and sincere Republicans the disciplining of both.

To keep something which has been lost by another after the first owner has advertised his loss amounts to larceny according to Judge Pinelet, of Philadelphia. But an exception must be allowed in the matter of political power.

It cannot be doubted that the powerful moral forces of the Republican party of Pennsylvania would warmly support Mr. Wanamaker's candidacy for governor—Philadelphia Ledger.

Their might if they hadn't already taken his true measure.

Figures Showing Our Navy's Cost. Washington Letter in the Sun.

IN VIEW of the large increase in the navy of late years, involving a great sum of money for new construction, there is a general impression that here has been a corresponding large increase of the cost of maintaining the service, and that the new vessels, in proportion to their value, are far more expensive than the old type. Even the average naval officer is inclined to believe that the modern ships require more merely to keep in commission, the wooden craft, whereas the figures compiled by the navy department of the annual expenses, including the cost of repairs, crew, stores, pay and coal, show that the new navy does not cost the government so very much more than the old and considerably less if the strength and fighting efficiency of the new ships of the fleet seven years ago. In 1890 the displacement of cruising vessels in commission of the whole year was 47,671 tons. The cost per ton for pay of crew was \$2 and total cost per ton \$3. Eight years later the cruising displacement had jumped to thirty-two times as much, the cost per ton for pay of crew was \$167 and the total cost per ton had risen to \$22. It is to be noted, therefore, that the pay of crews of the new ships is nearly a constant proportion of total cost, being 62 per cent. of it in 1890 and 60 per cent. in 1897.

An increase of 257 per cent. in cruising displacement, with only 71 per cent. increase in pay of crews, and 78 per cent. in total cost, would indicate that the new ships are not so expensive as a matter of fact the real increase has been less than these figures would seem to indicate. The proportion of the pay of the navy was \$7,250,000 in 1890, and only \$8,109,572 seven years later, with the enormous increase in the fighting complement, by some since 1890 but 51 per cent. of the appropriation was spent for the pay of cruising ships in commission for the whole year. In 1897 52 per cent. of the appropriation was so spent. Sixty per cent. more officers and 30 per cent. more men spent the year 1897 cruising on ships than in 1890, yet the appropriation for the pay of the navy was increased but 11½ per cent. The figures of the experts show that in 1890 there were but three ships attached to the home fleet, of which one was a new vessel, the total representing a tonnage of but 5,820 tons. Seven years later there were twelve vessels on the station, all modern ships, with a tonnage of 66,536, maintained by 22,419 men and costing to maintain in service for one year \$2,671,836. Three-fourths of the vessels had a greater tonnage than the combined four had seven years previous on the same station.

On the Pacific coast in 1890 there were seven old ships in service, with a tonnage of 8,500, manned by 169 officers and 902 men, and costing 1 million more than half a million to keep in service. Now there are six modern ships and two old ones on the station, with a tonnage that has risen to 25,691, manned by 198 officers, 1,781 men, and costing to maintain in service for the year \$1,322,165. The Asiatic fleet had five old wooden vessels in 1890, with a total tonnage of but 7,290, with 87 officers and 842 men. This month it has five new ships and one old one, representing a displacement of 15,216 tons, carrying 19 officers, 1,778 men, and costing to maintain \$1,000,000. The cost of maintenance of the same station seven years ago was about \$500,000 and all the ships were of the wooden class. On the

European station the four new vessels comprising what was known as the white squadron, the four original Roach cruisers, were on temporary duty. These ships represented a displacement of 12,310 tons and 55 officers and 1,075 men, and cost to maintain half a million. This month there are four cruisers on the station, with a tonnage nearly four times as great, 1,294 men, and costing to maintain about \$31,000. On the South Atlantic station the navy supported the old Richmond and the dilapidated Tallapoosa, with a total tonnage of 3,250, and at a cost annually of about \$35,000. Now it has the same number of ships, but with double the tonnage, and costing only about \$100,000 more a year to keep there.

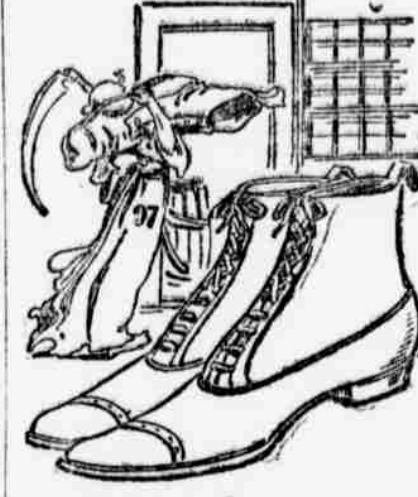
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