The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 17, 1898.

The Lancaster Intelligencer suggests George A. Jenks as a suitable candidate for United States senator against M. S. Quay. There is no question as to the suitability of Mr. Jenks. The recent campaign has acclimated him to the inevitable result.

The Caucus.

The party caucus is coming in for a lot of criticism just now from the Wanamaker following in politics, who hope to combine with the Democrats in the election of a senator hostile to Quay. The caucus is not an institution having legal sanction, nevertheless it is a recognized instrument of necessary party discipline and the probabilities are that few Republicans will care to bolt it.

If the conditions were reversed; if the Wanamaker crowd could muster a majority in a Republican legislative caucus they would now be shouting in favor of the caucus with might and main. But being in a minority they have no use for the will of the majority. They are ready to cast party principles and everything else to the winds in the hope of thwarting the Republican majority in the next legislature. We do not believe that the Democratic members-elect are ready to play into Wanamaker's hands by abandoning their own party to help Wanamaker pull a Republican bolter through. That would be a sorry spectacle for all concerned. Inasmuch as the Democrats would have to be relied upon for two-thirds of the votes necessary to elect a Wanamaker "Republican" senator, it is preposterous to suppose that they would consent to give those votes without exacting pledges which would make the man of their choice virtually a Democrat in his senatorial affiliations. Pennsylvania does not want in the senate of the United States a man with a Democratic mortgage upon him.

If Republicans opposed to Quay can induce by legitimate means a majority of the Republican members of the next legislature to favor some other man than Quay for United States senator then Quay ought to retire from the race. If they cannot do this, they had better take their medicine like little men and not go maneuvering for help among the Democrats.

The Business Men's league, of Philadelphia, claims that its members everywhere supported Republican candidates for the national house of representatives. If it was the league's support that caused Pennsylvania to lose seven Republican congressmen at the recent election, the league will probably continue to be a good organization to have on the other side.

The Secretary of War.

There probably is no truth in the newspaper story that Senator McMillan is to go to England so that Secretary Alger may succeed him in the senate. Yet it would not be surprising if, now that he is no longer "under fire," General Alger should, at an early day, find a convenient means of retiring from the cabinet. Such a course could not fail to be a relief to him, as it doubtless would be to others, also.

Undoubtedly General Alger has been abused and criticized most unjustly for many things for which he was in no sense responsible; undoubtedly, also, he has done his utmost for his country and is entitled to sympathy rather than blame. Yet the fact remains that frictions and prejudices have arisen during his tenure of office, not only among the people but among the officers of the army, which will handicap the important future work of the war department unless removed or ameliorated. Whether these can be lessened while General Alger remains at the head is questionable. The propriety of relieving the country and the president from embarrassments now that resignation can be voluntary and not forced will in all likelihood soon appear to the secretary of war, and if this shall prove true, it will become possible for the president to select for the vacated place some man whose knowledge of military matters is modern and comprehensive and who will be in position to profit by the mistakes of his predecessors.

In this connection we quote from an article by Major General O. O. Howard, retired, published in last week's Outlook. At the conclusion of a paper showing the need of army reorganization and enlargement he offers this significant suggestion: "I cannot help thinking that the president himself had better work the army through its commanding general. There would be sufficient scope for his secretary of war to direct that general what to do, and to use all the supply departments to back up that same general in his tasks, and then hold him thoroughly responsible for the faithful execution of his instructions. If this course appears, in view of present legislation, to be impracticable or undesirable, then I would ask congress to abolish the office of commander of the army altogether, and have it distinctly understood that the honorable secretary of war was ex officio that commander. Now that the army must be enlarged, there ought never to be any doubt as to what officer commands the army. If we can fix this matter, and also prevent the lifting of inexperienced and incompetent persons into places which they are not fitted to fill, we shall have taken two steps towards relieving our army from confusion, discouragement, and unnecessary weakness."

The events of the past year have made it clear as crystal to the American people that in Nelson A. Miles the army has a commanding general who knows his business, has the qualities which his office requires and should be clothed with additional responsibility and authority. Inasmuch as circumstances have arisen which would doubtless make the advancement of Miles an embarrassment to the present secretary of war it is to be hoped that some way of adjustment will soon be found that, while sacrificing nobody, shall promote the obvious best interests of the army.

A remarkable state of public sentiment exists in Pennsylvania if Mr. Wanamaker is to be believed.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Persons at a distance are cautioned not to give too much credence to everything they hear about Pennsylvania.

Mr. Chamberlain's Speech.

There is no other English statesman, if we may except Mr. James Bryce, who understands America and American institutions more broadly or more sympathetically that Mr. Chamberlain. His family relationship and his periodical visits here have familiarized him with our laws, our customs and our manners, political and social. While most other responsible English and continental statesmen have read of us, perhaps not in very flattering terms, the secretary of state for the British colonies comes among us and lives among us from time to time a brief, but quiet domesticated life. What Mr. Chamberlain has said in regard to that better feeeling and better understanding between the two countries which now exists, and which exigency of the war engendered, is due certainly in a far greater degree to him than to any other Englishman. We can better understand Mr. Chamberlain's services to this country and to his own when we announce that it was almost through his unsupported influence in the British cabinet that a war was averted between the United States and Great Britain over the Venezuela boundary dispute. Hostilities with England would perhaps have been a fitting close to Mr. Cleveland's presidential career, but what a cataclysmal dislocation of the progress of civilization such a war would have been none knew better than Mr. Chamberlain or less than Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. Chamberlain has no wild and undigested notions of the identity of interests of the two countries. He knows how much of the British material has gone to make up the fresh novelty of American life in the world. He does not anticipate the millennium, but he believes that that entente which now exists between the great Anglo-Saxon races in the eastern and western hemispheres will do more to safeguard the peace of the world than the combined militarism of Europe. The people of the United States, on the other hand, believe in the sincerity of British professions. After an estrangement which has lasted over a hundred years it is not wonderful that this reciprocity of sentiment is less effusive on our part than it is apparently on the part of England. But, then, we are not a demonstrative race. When all is said and done, however, this affinity of race, laws, language and literature is more enduring and more unswerving than moldy parchments lined with the fading autographs of kings and diplomats.

Mr. Chamberlain was much more explict in the Anglo-French embroglio than Lord Salisbury was at the Mansion House banquet. Mr. Chamberlain states categorically England's position: "If better relations are to be established, it will be necessary for French politicians to abandon tactics whose object has been to hamper and embarrass British policy." This is plain speaking. The Fashoda incident in only one among many which have driven England to assume a position of defense and defiance. If France is alone mentioned in the text, it is plain from the context that Russia is not forgotten. It is a far cry from Fashoda to Newfoundland, from ivory to codfish. But the chain of British commercial interests binds them together and it is this chain which the French politicians to whom Mr. Chamberlain so significantly refers seek to intersect at one link now and at another again. It is evident from Mr. Chamberlain's words that there are other British interests with which the French politicians would do well not to interfere if they desire to avert a war. Our own interests in the Newfoundland fisheries are identical with those of England. The piscatorial labors of New England fishermen are thwarted by the dog-in-the-manger policy of the French government. France claims exclusive foreshore rights on the Newfoundland coast which not only embarrass Newfoundland and New England fishermen, but preclude them from acquiring the fruits of their hazardous toil and magnificent opportunities. A Newfoundland or a New England fisherman is not allowed to catch bait within a certain limit of the shore; he is not allowed to put ashore longer than three hours, except, of course, in case of peril from shipwreck; neither can he cure fish in or export fish from the zone of the French littoral. Considering that France does not own an inch of Newfoundland territory and that these rights on these shores, which she claims, are secured by antiquated treaties, and that she insists upon their literal fulfillment without her own fishermen reaping the slightest benefit in return, it would not surprise us if, now that Mr. Chamberlain has spoken, England should demand the abrogation of these treaties upon an alternative of war.

At all events Mr. Chamberlain will once more turn the eyes of Englishmen and of Americans towards the question. England just now is in the temper not merely to make no concessions, but in a matter of this kind to demand them. The war clouds are still gathering. Mr. Chamberlain's speech will do nothing to dispel them.

General Breckinridge's opinion of Shafter is not calculated to make Shafter blush with pride, but it appears to dovetail with the established facts.

Dreyfus is said to be in good health, but members of certain circles in Paris experience creeping chills whenever the announcement to this effect is made.

The Wanamaker league is strong on manifestoes; where it is shy is in the matter of votes.

The evil effects of inactivity and a continuous diet of baked beans are again apparent in classic Boston, where an anti-imperialist society has been formed for the purpose of discouraging the United States in the avowed purpose of retaining the Philippines. The dyspeptic Bostonians in this instance, as when afflicted with mugwumpism, are not entirely certain what they want, but are prepared to find fault henceforth in the most approved manner in accord with the rules of good society and real culture.

Nikola Tesla, the electrical inventor, says that at times his mind "reaches out into fields so vast that he is afraid and recalls it." We have been of the opinion for some time past that Nikola's mind ought to have a string on it.

Governor-elect Roosevelt's idea, and a good one it is, too, is that the Republican party ought to be big enough to hold every respectable man who cares to belong to it. He, also, is for widening the portals.

Schley, Dewey and Merritt having all indorsed the administration and reported their joy that the Democrats didn't capture congress, it will be in order for the Democracy to cease claiming these men.

Colonel Roosevelt emphatically discourages mention of his name for the presidency in 1900. As to 1904, that's a different matter. Even then he would be only 46.

The next mayor of Scranton should be a man in whom the city can take just pride as representing its best interests fearlessly and without reproach.

An exchange intimates that in Mr. Bryan's absence an "enemy's country" has grown up all around the boy orator's former stamping ground.

Perhaps it would be better for the United States peace commission to withdraw entirely and give Don Carlos a chance at Spain.

The hope prevails among clean Republicans that William H. Andrews' visit to the background is meant to be permanent.

Mr. Bryan has again concluded to talk for publication.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 4.08 a. m., for Thursday, November 17, 1898.

A child born on this day will never fear his enemies if his friends are loyal.

Even Hobson has lost faith in Maria Teresa on Cat Island. Requiescat!" Maria.

Woman seldom cuts her eye teeth until after marriage. If she did there would be fewer weddings.

Education is like triple plate in many instances; it brightens up the exterior.

The '99 calendar crop is ready to be harvested.

It seems about time again for something to be discovered over in Wayne county.

Mr. Bryan acts like a man who has lost his rain check.

Gen. Grosvenor on Election Results.

GENERAL GROSVENOR, of Ohio, who gained a reputation during the last presidential campaign as an expert in figures, has prepared a statement for the Washington Post, showing the results that may be expected to follow the recent elections, which is interesting and suggestive. General Grosvenor thinks the elections will reshape and reorganize the future of the Democratic party. "We (the Republicans) elected congressmen in forty-two states of the Union," says General Grosvenor, "and carried states enough to have elected 292 members of the electoral college, had it been a presidential election. The Democrats, including the states in which there was practically no election so far as a free expression by the minority was concerned, carried 151 electoral votes, so that had the presidential election been held one week from Tuesday the Republicans would have had almost two-thirds of the electoral college. The Republicans carried twenty-six states for a majority of the representatives in congress, so that, should there be a failure of election in 1900, this house of representatives will cast twenty-six votes for the Republican candidate for president.

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"A result so sweeping is necessarily significant. What is the significance? Of the states voting for Bryan in 1896, the following elected the Reublican ticket on Nov. 8: Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, Nebraska, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. These states made a complete somersault, forsaking the Democratic column and coming over to the Republican. Beginning on the Pacific slope, until we reach Montana, there is a clean sweep, and even the distinguished and venerable senator from Nevada, while his state has gone for free silver, it is said, is appealing for support, with little prospect of an election. The significance of the change of conditions clear up to and including Missouri cannot be over estimated. Now, while all this has been going on there was a significant halting of Democratic acquiescence in the platform of 1896 in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. In all these states the Democracy refused to endorse Bryan and his platform, and in those states there was such a significant reaction favorable to the Democratic party that its effect will not be overlooked.

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"The gains of congressmen, which endangered in the earlier reports the house of representatives, came almost exclusively from the states that had thus abandoned and repudiated the Democratic platform. New York and Pennsylvania were significant for their reactionary attitude. In those two states the Democracy made large gains. It is true that the unfortunate political blunder of piling up the tremendous patronage of Greater New York, where the overwhelming majority in one borough could crush the opposition in the others, had much to do with the significance of the New York gains. So, too, the revolt of a great body of Republicans in the state of Pennsylvania was mainly instrumental in the Democratic gains in that state; but there is enough in those states, including the loss of two or three members in New Jersey, and at least two in Maryland, to make it absolutely significant that the abandonment of Bryanism operated as strengthening to the party. So Bryanism is being overthrown from both sides of the controversy. It is being hemmed in between the East and West, and between the Northwest and the Ohio river. Its strength, so far as the possibility of carrying states is concerned, now lies in the practically non-suffrage states of the South, and Missouri, Kentucky, old Virginia, and so on. Had Mr. Bryan been a candidate for president last week it would have been a difficult matter for him to have secured one-third of the electoral vote. He would probably have lost twenty-five of the 154 votes nominally carried in these local elections. Now, when it is considered that from time immemorial almost in an election such as this in the mid-administration year the house has gone against the presidential incumbent, and when we reflect upon the enormous noise, confusion and shouting of the free silver men, there is added significance.

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"Political parties move along the lines suggestive of the possibility of victory for the ideas they represent, and it is very difficult to consolidate a national organization in favor of a barren ideality, and yet here is a party, the silver party, which will be driven in 1900 to put forth, if successful, a platform favoring a project that is impossible of execution. Look at the senate. There is no political revolution within the scope of possibility that can bring about the free coinage of silver until after the presidential election of 1901. Here is a house of representatives to stand like a rock in the ocean against free coinage until after the election of 1900, and then a senate to stand by the barrier, with the drawn sword of a majority, for four years after that. Can it be possible then, that the political organization will beat itself to pieces upon the rocks of absolutely certain defeat, when the proposition is an abandonment of the historical traditions and policies of the Democratic party? It may be said in the light of this impossibility and the possibility that some new platform may rally a united Democracy, that the party will abandon free silver in its platform either by silence or evasion, and seek a new national question upon which to consolidate. This would necessitate the abandonment by the representatives in that convention of more than one-half the voting strength of the party. There is not one state, from California to the Pennsylvania line, and running south to the ocean, that will not be represented, if no revolution within the party takes place during the next two years, by a strong column of earnest, shouting free silver men. They must be or they must advertise to their people the complete abandonment of a policy which they have all the time held out as the only hope of prosperity to the country. Will these men go to the national convention and be dictated to by the East? If not, will the East consent to a platform that preannounces by the very nature of events to be for the purpose of the certain and unqualified overthrow of the party? One or the other must take place. Mr. Bryan's nomination for president in 1900 would be a proclamation of defeat. The abandonment of Bryan and his platform in 1900 would be proclamation of the sure and certain sweep of Republican majorities from the Pacific ocean to the Alleghenies.

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"Another matter may well be suggested, that of the Democratic members of the house who may be counted as gains to the Democracy nearly all of them are sound money Democrats. Thus we are informed that the Democratic members elected from New York, who are new men, are without exception sound money Democrats, and the same is true in a number of instances in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. So on every hand the free silver forces have met their Waterloo. Therefore, what is there left for the Democratic party? Anti-expansion? That may be, but if they can wage a suggessful presidential campaign upon a question of that character it will be the first time in the history of this country that such a position has been indorsed by the people. Will they again plant themselves upon the repudiated doctrine of low tariff; tariff for revenue only? If they do, they must meet the rising tide of prosperity, explain it away, and induce the people of the country to abandon a policy which they fully believe has been of the highest advantage to the farmer and business man, and wheel into line in favor of a dogma of politics which the business interests of the country believe was fatal to their prosperity during the three years of the Wilson bill.

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"The Republican party is in far the best situation today from the standpoint of the outlook to the future. Upon the tariff question it is united and enthusiastic. It points with just pride to the splendid results of the Dingley bill and the returned prosperity that is manifest on every hand. On the subject of sound money, with all that implies, it stands absolutely united, and its union is intensified by the blundering of the Democratic party. Upon the question of territorial expansion there may be differences of opinion in the Republican party, but those differences are rather of detail than of general character, and there is little doubt that before the end of the unfinished congress now just ahead of us the Republican party will be a practical unit in support of its administration and will appeal to the country to indorse the administration and adopt as a permanent policy of the country the expansion of territory made absolutely necessary by the events which have passed.

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"Then the conclusions that are thus reached are as follows: First, the Democratic party is absolutely riven upon the free silver question, and the question itself is so far settled for the ensuing six, if not ten years, that it is a mere phantom of policy without the possibility of any reality of results. Again, the Democratic party must look about it for some new issue to be its main issue, or it will be disorganized in 1900 beyond the hope of reconstruction. That new issue cannot be the tariff without the overthrow of the party by a majority unparalleled, and it cannot be anti-territorial expansion without incurring the popular enthusiasm of the people of the country now everywhere so overwhelmingly manifest in favor of the present administration. Surely, the Republican party has established itself beyond dislodgement behind the battlements of sound money and protection, and waving the flag of its own prosperity will settle the incidental questions of territorial expansion along the lines of the popular dictates of the American people."

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE.

From the Archbald Citizen.

If Mr. Smith is the sincere friend of the people that he pretends to be, he will at once withdraw his objections to the counting of the vote of his late rival, Judge Gunster. If there was ever a judge elected by the people, in the truest sense of the term, that man is Judge Gunster. It will not do for Mr. Smith to say that he was nominated or endorsed by "bosses" or corporations. That makes no difference whatever. Judge Gunster's reputation as an officer and as a citizen was submitted for judgment before his fellow citizens and they have shown emphatically that he is their choice. That being the case Mr. Smith should be the first to submit to their imperious will.

MONEY IN APPLES.

From the Wayne Independent.

It is estimated that the apple yield brought about $30,000 to Wayne county farmers this year and it was counted a very poor crop, too.

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