

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 28, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOIR. Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKS. Controller—R. J. WILMAYER. School Directors—JOHN COCHRAN, MORRIS GEORGE H. SHIRES, ALBERT J. JONES, PHILIP RINGLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Day—February 21.

If congress does not make Admiral Devey a "full admiral" at once, he will be justified in becoming one himself.

General Eagan's Defense.

The defense outlined by Commissary General Eagan is well calculated to appeal for sympathy. It is a kind of emotional insanity plea. In substance the attempt is made to establish that Eagan took General Miles' remarks so seriously that his mind became temporarily unhinged; that he therefore was not responsible for his actions. Assuming that this claim has been fully established by the evidence—which, of course, is a point for the court martial to decide—the question might well be asked whether an officer thus liable to lose control of himself is a fit man to have executive charge of so important a branch of the military service as the commissary department.

Without wishing to try this case in the newspapers we cannot overlook that on its face, in the best light which can possibly be cast upon it, it makes an unanswerable argument for a reorganization of the war department. Whether Eagan shall or shall not be punished for his tirade against Miles, it is evident to the country at large that a system which upheaves into and continues in responsible executive position men of the Eagan temperament is faulty and in need of repairs. Under the law as it has been heretofore Eagan might be utterly unfit and incompetent yet he could not be displaced until after some extreme dereliction had forced him before a court of inquiry or a court martial and elicited a verdict of guilty. By that time the mischief would have been done; prevention would be simply a hope, not a certainty, of the future.

This manifestly wrong. It should lie within the power of the general commanding the army or within that of the secretary of war to change these responsible staff officers at his discretion. If the commanding general or the war secretary—whoever is actually at the head of the army organization and directly responsible for work is for any reason an unsafe man in whom to place great trust, then surely he should be clothed with authority sufficient to make a change at his pleasure. His use of this authority would in turn be subject to review by the president of the United States, who would thus know at any moment where and how to locate the responsibility.

Agonillo displays talents that would make him invaluable as a procurer of franchises.

Senator Platt and the Fathers.

The distinguishing characteristic of practical common sense for which Thomas C. Platt has long been noted was exhibited conspicuously in his remarks in the senate yesterday on the constitutional aspects of expansion. Mr. Platt does not make a fetish of tradition. He admires the wisdom of the fathers, but does not feel called upon to consider that human wisdom as applied to problems of government began and ended with them. To his view they were men not greatly different from an equal number of representative, earnest men of today; they were brought together by an emergency to provide as best they could a workable scheme of popular government, and they met this need with rare prescience and ability, but not necessarily in any spirit of omniscience. It was, he thinks, far from their thoughts to lay down for remote futurity a lot of inflexible policies; their purpose was rather to construct a machinery whereby policies generated from time to time by the logic of events in the minds and consciences of a free people might be put into operation with the smallest waste of energy and the least sacrifice of efficiency.

The fathers builded a wonderful mechanism of government, but the merit of it is its continual adaptability to new conditions. The fathers could not have foreseen in any detail the conditions of today; not one of them ever saw a locomotive, a telegraph instrument or a telephone; not one of them could have imagined that in one hundred years the thirteen colonies would grow into an imperial republic, stretching from ocean to ocean and with dependencies thousands of miles on either side; they did not look forward to the wonderful social transformations which have come about since they passed to rest; but they gave a flexible constitution which has always enabled the majority will to find the means of enforcing its ideas; and in this rather than in any set rules of policy lies their indisputable claim to greatness.

Of all the absurd contentions in the annals of parliamentary debate surely the most preposterous one is on its very face that sovereignty by conquest cannot be acquired under a republican form of government. Every page of our national history speaks either of acts or of results which depend for their very existence on the sovereignty of conquest. By conquest the great west was reclaimed; by conquest the north-west was civilized; conquest gave us Texas and the South; even the thirteen colonies themselves rested on a footing of the survival of the fittest. If there were any constitutional limitation upon the vitality of the government it would be not a virtue but a sign of incapacity.

ousable weakness; instead of glorying in it the eulogists of the fathers would have cause to view it with regret and shame. But there is none. In spite of the "naivities" of today the fathers of 1787 gave us a "competent" government.

General Ludlow insists that Havana should at once have a sewerage system that will cost at least \$10,000,000. If the government will give some of Scranton's scheme promoters a chance at the business it can be arranged without much difficulty and at very slight expense to the original bondholders.

Regulating Damage Suits.

A bill in the interest of fair play for invested capital has been introduced in the state legislature by Senator Magee. It relates to casualty damages and provides that no action for damages for injuries to the person, arising from negligence, shall be brought or maintained in any of the courts unless the party entitled to bring action shall have given notice written thirty days from the date of the accident to the person, firm or corporation to be charged as the defendant in such action. This notice is to specify the time, place and cause of the accident. All action for such damages shall be brought within six months from the time of the accident.

This bill, as may be seen, is particularly for the benefit of street railway companies which now are pestered almost beyond endurance by bogus claims for damages or claims which could be settled amicably and equitably out of court were it not for the interposition of shark lawyers looking to the main chance. By requiring notice of accident to be forwarded within thirty days the bill enables railway companies first to ascertain the exact facts and then to attempt a settlement by direct negotiation. It may be held that this would give the railroads an advantage not now enjoyed by them, which is true; but it would not give them an unfair advantage. If injury is done by an agent of one individual to another, the one expects prompt notice from the other and every fair-minded man will say he ought to have it. The principle is the same when the defendant is a corporation.

Nor does it modify the equities of the case to argue that because street railways are sometimes inconsiderate of the public or extortionate in their dealings with patrons they should be treated in law as common prey. There are ways of disciplining those companies without resort to injustice. Perhaps one considerable reason why the street car magnates of the United States are as a rule so curt and unyielding in their dealings with the public is because they have to face each year a growing charge for damage verdicts continually averaging higher in amount. While some of these may be large, a large proportion are as frequenters of court rooms know, represent precludes in the jury box rather than justice or law. Street railways should not have more than their due but they can hardly be blamed for refusing to be content with less.

General Eagan's trouble appears to have been the result of getting his thinking and speaking parts mixed.

A New Reform Bill.

A new civil service reform bill has been proposed at Harrisburg, owing parentage to Clinton Rogers Woodruff. It requires that the governor shall appoint three commissioners, with the term of one of them expiring yearly, and not more than two of the members to be of the same political party. After the third year the term of office will be three years. Each commissioner is to be paid \$5,000 a year, with traveling expenses. The act shall not apply to elective offices, to appointments subject to confirmation by the senate, to the governor's or mayor's private secretary, stenographer or messenger, to the legislative clerks or employees, to assistants to district attorneys or to city solicitors, to heads of city departments or to "one person, whether called deputy, assistant, chief clerk or cashier in a city government."

In all other cases of state and municipal offices the bill is applicable. Provision is made for open, competitive examinations relating solely to matters fairly testing relative fitness. The appointing power must select from the three persons graded highest, and where practical vacancies shall be filled by promotion. Preference shall be given to applicants who served in the army or navy. So far as practicable, there shall be for each county, city or borough separate examinations under direction of a chief examiner, to be paid \$3,000 a year with traveling expenses. The commission may employ a secretary at \$2,000 a year and others assistants that may be legally authorized, with examinations, to be paid \$5 a day while at work. There shall be no removals, except for cause, which shall not be either political or religious, and which shall be detailed in writing to the commission, with a copy given to the removed person if requested. No officer or employee in the classified service shall be concerned in soliciting or receiving, nor shall any person be concerned in soliciting or receiving from him any assessment or contribution for political purposes.

This bill, we fear, represents an ideal rather than a near possibility.

A New York physician has discovered that the telephone is a transmitter of disease germs and that the indiscriminate use of the mouthpiece is dangerous. The words of warning from the New York scientist may be worthy of careful consideration. The indiscriminate use of the mouthpiece certainly does at times produce alarming symptoms at the other end of the line.

THE PROPER TYPE.

From the Boston Transcript. General Wood, a man of tact as well as talent, finds the people of Santiago willing, cheerful workers, and very different from the lazy negroes who they were pictured as being during the excitement of the campaign. Like other people, they do not love work for nothing, but fair wages, prompt pay and a steady treatment have brought them forward in thousands anxious for employment. They

like General Wood and he likes them. Mutual respect has followed mutual understanding, and as a result Santiago is doing more business today, is cleaner, more orderly, has more hotels and more street lights than in the happiest days it ever knew under the Spanish regime. It is to such men as General Wood we must look for success for our administration of dependencies, sympathetic with the people they govern, and leading rather than pushing them towards Americanism.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The sudden death of ex-Attorney General Garland has called out a number of anecdotes, among them this one told by the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun. Mr. Garland was very fond of practical jokes and during his term of service in the senate frequently turned the laugh on his colleagues. Senators and clerks and the latter filled with very friendly, finally determined to turn the tables. Mr. Garland had a habit like Voorhees of munching candy, and Senators and clerks made up between them to take advantage of his fondness for sweets to play their trick. They had some tempting-looking chocolate caramels prepared, with the letters filled with brown soap. These they took to the senate chamber and Voorhees placed them on his desk. The lid being off when Mr. Garland sauntered down the aisle, he noticed them at once.

"What have you there, Dan?" he inquired. Voorhees looked up carelessly from his writing and responded, "Caramels, help yourself." Garland needed no second invitation, and picking up two or three placed one in his mouth. Suddenly he choked away, his face betraying no sign of the conflict within him. This alarmed Voorhees, who went to Vest's desk and said: "He's eating them. What shall we do?" The staff will kill him, sure." Senator Vest replied that it could do no more than make him sick. Garland swallowed the stuff, although he was foaming at the mouth from soap suds. He related the incident afterward with great gusto, and said that he would have swallowed it if it had killed him.

Here is a bright bit from Congressman Dooliver's extemporized but effective attack on the present Philippine policy. "When we come to a question of national duty, I do not propose to allow myself to be narrowed by the view presented by the sentiment from Indiana. He says the highest duty of a nation is to take care of itself. I want the American people to take care of itself; but I do not recognize that that is the highest type of manhood which simply takes care of itself. If a man does that, providing for himself and for his family, you say, when he dies. That was a fairly good man, a good citizen. I like a man rather who is able not only to take care of himself, but to do something for the unfortunate and unhappy families that surround him in this world. I think you boys, a man like that, you do not call him a man, you call him a lover of mankind, and you build monuments to him in the streets of our great cities. I say that a nation in that respect is like a man. It is the highest output of political science that a nation is a moral personality in the exact sense in which a man is a moral personality, and it is true of nations as it is of individuals that no man liveth to himself alone. Therefore I feel that the American republic has got into a position where it cannot do a little something for the human race."

Representative Hoch, of Berks county, has introduced a bill at Harrisburg which will interest merchants. It provides that each vendor or dealer in goods, wares and merchandise at retail shall pay annually for the use of the commonwealth, as a mercantile license tax, for each separate store or place of business, one mill on the dollar of sales made in the preceding calendar year, and further that each vendor or dealer shall pay, in addition, a tax of one-half of one mill on each dollar's worth of goods sold during the year. An analysis of the proposed measure made by the Philadelphia Press shows that retail merchants who sell goods to the value of \$5,000 a year would have to pay a mercantile tax of \$5 a year; on sales of \$25,000 per annum \$25; on sales of \$50,000, \$50; on sales of \$100,000 and so on. The present mercantile tax is \$7 on sales of \$1,000 and less than \$500 per annum; \$20 on sales of \$2,000 and less than \$5,000; \$40 on sales of \$5,000 and less than \$10,000; \$100 on sales of \$10,000 and less than \$20,000. Sales to the amount of \$1,000,000 call for a mercantile tax of \$100, and on \$2,000,000 the rate is \$200, etc. The adoption of the proposed substitute for the present mercantile tax law, therefore, means more heavily on the larger lines of business. The bill is likely to become a law.

The Philadelphia North American, the oldest daily paper in the state, has been sold by Clayton McMichael & Sons to a syndicate represented by R. E. Dorr. The outgoing publishers in announcing the change make this announcement: "In closing our business relations with this newspaper—a connection began by Clayton McMichael in 1839 and continued on his part from that date until the present—without considerable absence except during periods of his active participation in the military or the civil service of the United States, of the commonwealth, or of the municipality—it is our privilege to record that in cash disbursements aggregating many millions of dollars for the wages of labor and for the purchase of merchandise there has never been a single instance of refusal or postponement of the payment of any claim when presented and justly due. In settlement, without exception, of every controversy or difference between ourselves and those we have employed, or with those from whom we bought equipment or supplies, there has never been resort to litigation or arbitration outside of this office." May the new publishers be equally successful.

Reckoned on the basis of Greenwich meridian Manila is thirteen hours east of Washington. When it is 9 a. m. at Washington it is 10 p. m. at Manila. In this connection a curious fact is noted by the Washington Star, which points out that the Philippine islands were discovered by Spanish voyagers sailing westward around Cape Horn. Borneo, a short distance to the west, was discovered by the Portuguese going around Cape of Good Hope eastward. Consequently for many years these two regions, so close in actual distance, and yet separated by almost the circumference of the globe as regards time, had different schedules, and the Philippine Islanders held their Sunday on the day that Monday in the inhabitants of Borneo. Recently this error was corrected, and these two contiguous countries are now on the same time basis. Were it not for this correction the battle of Manila would have been fought on Saturday instead of Sunday, the islands thus lying longitudinally as well as geographically west of Washington.

A scarer in air is not so improbable as it sounds. If we may believe President Meier, of the Rose Polytechnic Institute, of Terre Haute, Ind., says he: "In round numbers, it requires three tons of oxygen to burn one ton of combustibles. This oxygen always has been liberated by the action of vegetation from carbon compounds existing between the amount of oxygen and the amount of combustibles in the world. It is found that there are 36,000,000 tons of combustibles in the form of peat, gas and coal. The question arises as to the rate at which oxygen is being thrown into the air. Assume that the present surface of the earth is covered with vegetation 2,000,000 square miles in which vegetation can grow, the average, 600 tons of combustibles of each square mile in each year. This would be equal to 100 tons of the best coal. Thus it would be possible

to produce combustibles equivalent to 200,000,000 tons of coal each year. If we burn more than 100 tons of coal to the square mile the earth over we shall throw more carbon dioxide into the air than we can convert into oxygen by plant life. Thus, the danger is not that we may run out of coal, but that our supply of air may be exhausted. We shall be deprived of air before we are short of coal. We are now mining fifty tons of coal to the square mile in this country. We are already throwing into the air one-half as much carbon dioxide as it is possible to reclaim by plant life."

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Alacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Aestrolabe Cast: 4:08 a. m. for Saturday, January 28, 1899.

A child born on this day will observe that success in life often depends on the ability to say "no" in a way that will make it seem like an invitation to refreshments.

"Consumers' Beer company" has been organized in Scranton. The title suggests that it will be the largest company in the city.

Dr. Wetherill's opinion of Van Horn man indicates that Scranton lawyers do not know how to act insane. The wife of the candidate and the fellow who expects an appointment are the true constituents in the campaign.

In the present version of the song: "You never miss the margin 'til the bucket shop runs dry."

Man's good deeds live after death—especially if he is in the life insurance business.

Ajacchus' Advice. Don't tell your troubles to a policeman. Have them set to music and turned over to magic lantern slides and a poultry-vocalized vocalist.

THE DREAM-SHIP. When the world is fast asleep, Along the midnight skies— As though it were a wandering cloud— The ghostly dream-ship flies.

An angel stands at the dream-ship's helm. An angel stands at the prow. An angel stands at the dream-ship's side. With a rue-wreath on her brow.

The other angels, silver-crowned, Pilot and helmsman are. And the angel with the wreath of rue Tosseth the dreams afar.

The dreams, they fall on rich and poor; They fall on young and old; And some are dreams of poverty, And some are dreams of gold.

And some are dreams that thrill with joy, And some that melt to tears; Some are dreams of the dawn of love, And some of the old dead years.

On rich and poor alike they fall, Alike on young and old, Bringing to slumbering earth their joys And sorrows manifold.

The friendless youth in them shall do The deeds of mighty men, And drooping age shall feel the grace Of buoyant youth again.

The king shall be a beggarman— The pauper, he a king— In that reverse of recompense The dream-ship dreams do bring.

So ever downward float the dreams That are for all and me, And there is never mortal man Can solve that mystery.

But ever onward in its course Along the hazy skies— As though it were a cloud astray— The ghostly dream-ship flies.

Two angels with their silver crowns Pilot and helmsman are, And an angel with a wreath of rue Tosseth the dreams afar. —Eugene Field.

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