

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 30, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOHR. Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKS. Controller—F. J. WIDMAYER. School Directors—JOHN COURIER, MORRIS, GEORGE H. SHIRER, ASSESSORS—G. W. JONES, PHILIP HINSLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Days—February 21.

The Wanahekeites ought to know by this time that their silly scare stories about Quay, like the one of the contemplated breaking of legislative pairs, fool nobody and only make their disseminators appear ridiculous.

A Mania Among Law-makers.

An epidemic of perversity seems to be prevalent just now in legislative circles. The numerous senatorial deadlocks throughout the country, the inexplicable antagonism which has developed in the senate at Washington to the peace treaty and the almost equally incomprehensible opposition shown in the house of representatives to a proper reorganization of the regular army are examples which severely try the public patience.

Of these instances of legislative obstreperousness the last is fraught with the most serious consequences. Defeat of the peace treaty could not be permanent. A few senators prove or lose would not matter materially, but failure at this time to profit by the mortifying lessons of military weakness taught by the events of the past few months would constitute an awkward indictment of republican institutions which more than ever are now on trial before mankind. It is known to every reflecting citizen that a larger regular army is imperatively necessary if the United States is to perform satisfactorily the work which destiny has assigned to it; and it is equally a subject of public knowledge that the mechanism of the army is in need of sweeping repairs. Not in spite of this and in utter disregard of the counsel of the president upon whom rests the chief responsibility, congress haggles over small details, expresses fear of army enlargement and most shortsightedly declines to authorize a re-casting of the staff so as to put its control under a single responsible head. If its present mood is to prevail congress will virtually let army matters rest where they are and the outbreak of our next war will find us no better prepared for an emergency than we were last autumn when there was hardly enough ammunition at command to fire one round from our larger guns.

No doubt these finks in the law-making mind are transient and reflect merely a passing mania. It is to be hoped that this is so and that sane counsels will prevail ultimately. But while this fit lasts it puts this nation in anything but a favorable light before the other nations of the world, some of whom are none too friendly at best.

If a Democrat is to be chosen, the appointment of D. T. Watson, esq., of Pittsburg, to succeed the late Henry W. Williams on the Supreme bench would undoubtedly satisfy the requirements of the situation.

Don Emilio Aguinaldo.

Interesting side-lights on the character of our Filipino ally of yesterday and foe of today, Emilio Aguinaldo, are supplied in a communication to the Chicago Record by Joseph L. Stickney, the ex-naval officer who, as a correspondent for the New York Herald stood beside Dewey on the bridge of the Olympia during the sea battle of Manila. For six weeks Mr. Stickney saw Aguinaldo almost daily and had an opportunity to get some idea of the man.

Mr. Stickney credits Aguinaldo with uncommon shrewdness and thinks that in cunning he has no equal of those who have gone up against him; but his impressions as to Aguinaldo's character are not reassuring. He cites the case of the young man's sell-out to Spain which took place in 1897. This consisted in a purchase of the insurgent leaders for the sum of \$500,000 (Mexican), equal to about \$400,000 in gold. Aguinaldo and his associates agreed to surrender all the arms in the possession of the natives and to quit the archipelago, remaining away at the pleasure of the Spanish government, and to use their utmost influence to disband and disarm all the insurgent forces. Aguinaldo was to go to Hong Kong to receive the first installment of the Spanish money, amounting to \$100,000 (Mexican), and he was then to cable to Artacho, who surrendered himself to the captain general as a hostage. On receiving Aguinaldo's cable message that the money had been paid Artacho was to dissolve the insurgent organization, disband the troops and give up their arms. "This part of the programme," writes Mr. Stickney, "was carried out in December, 1897, or the early part of January, 1898. The cash payment was divided among the Junta and Aguinaldo started for Paris. He had gone no farther than Singapore, however, when the destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor brought on an acute tension of the relations between the United States and Spain, and he remained in Singapore to see whether the Filipinos might not profit by Spain's difficulties. It was then that occurred the negotiations with our worthy representative, Consul Pratt, which, Aguinaldo now claims, in part justify his assertion that the United States made an alliance with him by which he was to assist in expelling the Spaniards from the Philippines, and in return the United States was to recognize the independence of the Philippine republic. It is, of course, impossible to tell how big a fool an American consul is capable of being, but developments at Singapore and Hong Kong lead to the belief that the record has recently been advanced a long distance. No one need

suppose, however, that Senor Aguinaldo was deceived as to the authority of a mere consul to bind our government. He is altogether too shrewd and too well read to have any illusions, though of course now it suits his game to set up the claim that his return to Cavite was due to the solicitations and agreements of our consular representatives."

To show how well Aguinaldo had studied the situation Mr. Stickney recalls a conversation between that worthy and General Anderson, the commander of the first detachment of American troops landed at Cavite. It should, thinks the present narrator, be remembered that Aguinaldo had probably never regarded the United States as anything more than a geographical expression until within five months preceding this conversation, for no one had ever thought of the possibility of our interference with the future of the Philippine archipelago. Aguinaldo at his second or third meeting with General Anderson asked him point-blank whether the United States had any intention of treating the Philippines as colonies. As General Anderson had no orders or authority to reveal the policy of his government he replied that he could not answer that question; but, he added, the United States had been a nation for more than 129 years without colonies, and Aguinaldo could judge for himself whether our government would try to colonize a distant territory at this late date. "That is true," replied Aguinaldo, "and besides I have read the constitution of the United States very carefully, and I cannot find in it any provision for colonies."

This man who now defies us owes to Admiral Dewey his transportation to Cavite from Hong Kong and to the friendly assistance of the United States all the power and prestige that he now enjoys among his people. He is evidently an egotist and an ingrate, and the sooner the senate frees the president's hand so that steps may be taken to call a halt on Aguinaldo's swagger the better it will be for all concerned.

Tax Revision.

A concurrent resolution is now before the legislature providing that a committee be appointed, consisting of five members of the house and three members of the senate, to ascertain from the boards of county commissioners the assessed valuation of all the real estate and personal property in their respective counties and the number of mills levied for poor tax, road tax and school tax in the several districts in their respective counties. This is for the purpose of ascertaining the exact number of mills real estate and personal property, subject to local taxation, has to pay under the present system. The committee is also to ascertain from the auditor general or the presidents, secretaries and treasurers of the several corporations of all kinds doing or carrying on business in this commonwealth, the value or amount invested in and by their several corporations, and the amount of state taxation they have been paying, if any, and the number of mills on each dollar invested. The whole inquiry is for the purpose of ascertaining the differences in the amount of taxes paid by real, personal and corporate property, and the total amount paid by all, and the total assessed valuation of all real, personal and corporate property combined, and to further ascertain the number of mills it would require to be levied on all of said properties on a just and equal basis.

Inasmuch as the resolution calls for a complete report by March 1, giving fewer than 30 working days for the completion of the inquiry, its good faith seems open to suspicion. But there can be no doubt that such an inquiry, if honestly and thoroughly made, would be very valuable. The question of the equalization of taxation is receiving earnest attention from an increasing number of expert investigators and the time is not remote when practical steps toward its solution will be forced upon the legislatures of all our prominent states. In this respect Pennsylvania has for long been backward but the growing divergence between its receipts and its expenses will speedily press to the front the whole subject of tax revision and readjustment and open at Harrisburg a field for intelligent law-making which has in recent years been full of weeds and thistles.

It is not surprising that the Democrats in congress should be "agin the government"; that is their traditional mission; but self-respecting Republicans ought to be the last persons in the world to think of giving them aid.

An Unavoidable Duty.

"All this talk about forcing our government upon an unwilling people, all this eloquent invocation of the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, is far and away from any real point that concerns the senate in this discussion. No senator can suppose that there exists an American statesman who approaches the consideration of the Philippine problem with any other than the most benevolent intentions concerning the Filipinos and their future. There are reasons why the natives of these islands, after their experience with Spanish misrule should misunderstand the presence at Manila of an American army, but there is no reason why an American senator should misunderstand it, and no justification of his course in misrepresenting it. He knows that there is no American in all this broad land who wishes any other fate to any single native of the Philippine islands than his free enjoyment of a prosperous life.

"He knows that close in the wake of American rule there would come to the Filipinos a liberty that they have never known and a far greater liberty than they could ever have under the arrogant rule of a native dictator. He knows, moreover, that it would be self-rule, the rule of the islanders to the full extent of their capacity in that direction, and that such successive American president would welcome the time when he could recommend new leases

of self-government to an advancing and improving people. The Filipinos may not know these things yet, but every American senator knows them, and puts himself and his country in a false position when, by attributing the spirit of conquest and aggression to those whose policy has rescued the Filipinos from native tyrants, he encourages them to doubt the generous sentiment of our people.

"I do not know, and I don't think any one else can know, just what ought to be done with the Philippine islands beyond this—that we ought as instantly as possible to complete the withdrawal of their sovereignty from the kingdom of Spain, and that we ought ourselves to assume our obligations and prudently discharge them until we have had the opportunity in our own councils to determine their best disposition. This is all that the treaty of Paris proposes or imposes. It is all that the administration has at any time suggested. It is no more than a safe and conservative policy advises. It is no less than a plain, clear, positive duty. It is one of those duties that are not to be got rid of by evasion nor even by denial. It would remain after you had rejected the treaty. It lies in the nature of the situation. Your army, your navy and your flag are at Manila. You can add to their dangers if you will. But their duty abides, and the will of the nation must be done."—Senator Thomas C. Platt.

Senator Plinn is a very busy man in these days. Besides running the anti-Quay movement in Harrisburg he incidentally shone in society on Friday last by having a big reception at his Pittsburg home for delegates to the Young Women's Christian association convention. It is evident that the senator has designs on the feminine vote of the future, since it is said that he never does anything without a motive.

A stiff fight between steam and electric roads is promised at Harrisburg over the resurrected bill to give trolley roads the right to carry freight, express and mail matter. It is a battle which the public at large can well afford to view with equanimity.

Persons who talk the loudest in the interest of good government in this vicinity often indirectly assist the Democratic party in furnishing bad government.

The senator-elect from Montana, William A. Clark, is a Democrat with an income of \$10,000,000 a year. He will probably be heard from at Washington.

Senators who prefer the leadership of Aguinaldo to that of William McKinley should be honest enough to remove from Washington to Malolos.

If Agoncillo is wise he will embrace the opportunity for lucrative employment in the dime museums before the peace treaty is ratified.

The assertion that General Eagan has placed his property in his wife's name may pass as evidence that he is not insane.

The circle of admirers of Pennsylvania's "favorite son" at Harrisburg does not seem to increase very rapidly.

STATE CAPITAL NOTES

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 28.—Representative John R. Farr has already justified the prediction of those who urged his election to the speakership, that he would make a capable and thoroughly satisfactory presiding officer. He wields the gavel in a manner indicating a familiarity with those intricate parliamentary points that have so often confounded inexperienced speakers with more legislative experience than has Mr. Farr and appears at all times to have the house under his absolute control. The young speaker does not endeavor to create the impression that he constitutes the entire legislature, and the most humble representative is accorded all the courtesy and consideration that he could desire. The senatorial conflict has considerably retarded legislation, but the machinery is being rapidly perfected and it is not doubt the important business of the session will be disposed of within reasonable time.

A conspicuous and very active figure on Capitol hill these days is Frank Willing Leach, who managed Mr. Farr's speakership fight. Naturally he is interested in the success of the speaker and gives him the benefit of his knowledge of political men and affairs. The result is that Mr. Leach is to succeed Attorney General John P. Elkin as chairman of the Republican state committee. Whether this rumor be true or not there is no question that he is one of the best organizations in Pennsylvania politics and thoroughly acquainted with all the details that constitute an effective piece of political machinery.

It is not too much to say that Senator C. L. Mages of Pittsburg, is the most popular law maker on the hill. His broad and vigorous attitude on the senatorial question has not only endeared him to the friends of Senator Quay, but has evoked admiration from the senator's opponents. Everybody listens to Senator Mages when he discusses a proposition and, expecting an argument replete with logical statements, they are never disappointed.

Some of the office holders about the various state departments who have been reporting in comfortable berths for many years have been asked to render valuable service to the Republican party should less no time hunting for other jobs. A semi-official notice has been issued which contemplates the selection of new and more available material and it is understood that Governor Stone is in hearty accord with the plan. A big demand for places has been made from all parts of the state and while all the applicants cannot be accommodated it is the disposition of those in control to at least clean up the deadwood and give some of the workers a chance.

When the new capitol building shall have been completed and it will be credit to the state notwithstanding the non-sensical talk that one occasionally hears concerning the enormous outlay of cash that will be necessary to finish the structure. Very few states in the Union have capitol buildings that cost less and it is safe to presume that from a substantial and convenient standpoint Pennsylvania's capitol will compare favorably with nearly all the other state capitols. I. P. B.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

From the Sun. The men who have been holding up the power lately are playing with fire. If it

breaks out in the Philippines they will find themselves the most detested men in the country, and they are not any too well liked now.

THE REGULAR ARMY.

From a Speech in Congress by Representative Cousins, of Iowa. "I have not lived long enough to have learned of anything in the history of the Republic of America sordid or of their service to justify that suspicion which is cast upon the institution known as the regular army of the United States, by the insinuation that it could ever be used as a menace to the liberties of American citizenship.

"Does the history of valor and of glory in the revolution prompt the gentlemen of the minority and of the opposition to warn Americans against American soldiers? Does the record of the regulars, led by General Jackson at New Orleans, fill the hearts of gentlemen with fear or apprehension for the safety of our citizens? Have the regulars ever been used as a menace to the liberties of American citizenship? Did there ever issue from the lips, now closed in everlasting love and fame in that silent museum by the Hudson, any word of menace to a future citizen, any thought save peace, any oracle save liberty and union? God spare a grateful country and an admiring world from any doubt about the matchless magnanimity of Appomattox.

"The long graves of 'regulars' dot the western plains unlettered and obscure. Can it be possible that in those sepulchres of silence gentlemen hear echoes of death and murder? Shall I, shall any thought of tyranny be attributed to Forsyth and his fifty gallant followers in that famous conflict with the Sioux? Was it not the regulars who saved us like Captain Gunnison menace anything save barbarism, or fall in their protection of great and noble enterprises? Perhaps it is to Colonel Fordman, with that famous detachment of the Eighteenth United States Infantry and the Second United States Cavalry, who were guilty of nothing save being massacred in the 'fatal valley' near Fort Phil Kearney, that the gentlemen mean to impute a tendency to usurpation of the liberty of citizens, or maybe they mean Lieutenant Grattan and his detachment of the Sixteenth United States Infantry, murdered in the Man-Trippe near Fort Laramie, Wyoming, in 1854. It could not be General Canby and the famous heroes of the Modoc war in the awful lava beds. Perhaps to the heroes of Custer and his annihilated followers this anxious and solicitous minority read some sign of usurpation which makes them fear that future regulars, inspired by their illustrious example, might encroach upon our civil liberty.

"But, after all, it may be that not until the cool and deliberate charge of Juan Hill, through murky river water up to the waistband, then through the terrible entanglements of barbed wire woven in the brush land, then up the hill to death and victory, did these gentlemen of the opposition feel so keenly the threatening danger of our regulars to the liberty of our citizens? Or, may be, not in a word of deed of soldiers, regular or volunteer, have they foreseen the tendency which they see only terminate in the destruction of the liberties of the people."

Conservative. Quinby—"Don't you think Medley carries his anti-imperialism rather far?" Pomeroy—"I don't know. What makes you ask?" Quinby—"He stopped his daughter singing 'Up in a Balloon' because it smacks of expansion."—Boston Transcript.

TO A STREET MUSICIAN.

Child of the violet-tinted skies Of sunset-splendid Italy, Where in the west the mountains rise That grandly frown upon the sea, Low, lazy clouds at evening bar; Above the sleeping harbor bar; On tired ears strikes the refrain, Deep sounding of the seas afar.

The winds blow from the Apennines And as they come a song intone; In murmur among the mooring masts, The branches yield a lulling moan, The scent of lemon-flower falls Upon the soft Italian air.

The music floats at evening ebb— Ah, well it were if thou wert there!

Here in our colder northern clime, Your song, O troubadour, boy, and sad, Like seven there lovers round their chime

The dreams of far, dear days you had, Around thee stand the smuggered throng; Their grudging pennies to thee give, Poor boy, for thy fair southern song, Yet from this pittance dost thou live.

I love to hear 'neath northern skies, Your fingers lightly touch the strings, For like a broken dream's surmise, A promise of far times it brings.

When men shall question not for race, Or where his father's mansion stood, When Earth shall be our dwelling-place, And all the world a brotherhood, C. Fred Gauss, in the San Francisco Examiner.

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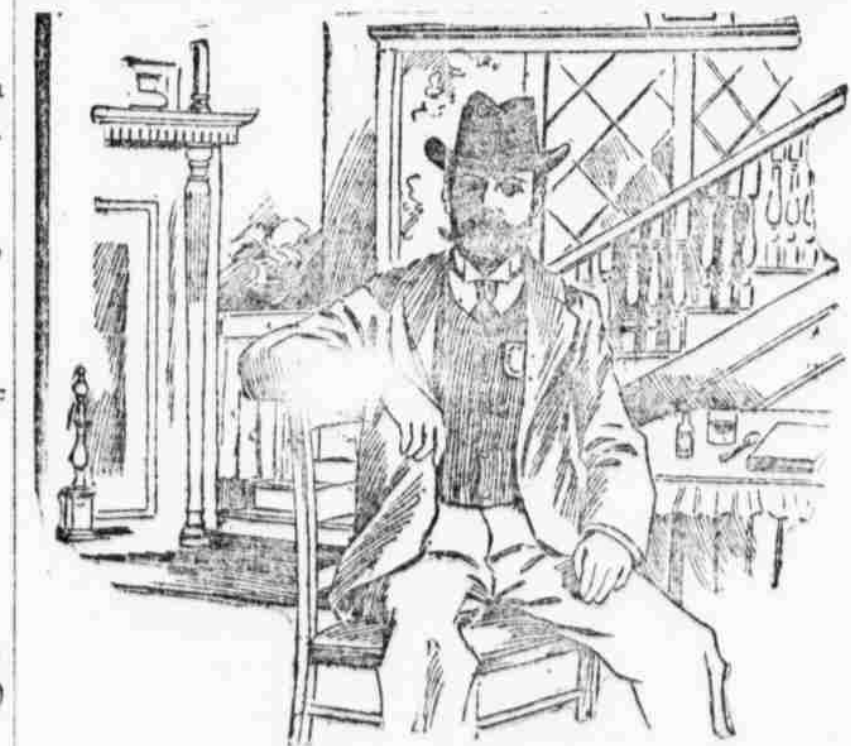


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