

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 1, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOHR. Treasurer—THOMAS H. BROOKS. Controller—F. J. WIDMAYER. School Directors—JOHN COURIER, MORRIS, GEORGE H. SHIRRES, ALEXANDER, DWIGHT M. JONES, PHILIP HUNSLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Day—February 21.

Reports abound of disaffection within the ranks of the local Democracy. Democratic disaffection is a Republican opportunity.

The Senatorial Fight.

In view of the fixing on an early date for Senator Quay's trial, his friends at Harrisburg are more than ever justified in giving him their unwavering support. The hope of his adversaries in bringing these indictments against him was that they would involve him in odium as to make easy his defeat for re-election. The prosecution was not begun in good faith, but as one part in a cunningly planned political conspiracy aiming at his extermination in the politics of the state. He was to be enveloped in a cloud of suspicion and then knifed before the truth could prevail.

The loyal friends have balked this project, as regards both the proposed setting-up of a jury in the Philadelphia courts and the intended elimination of the senatorial party caucus at Harrisburg. By an appeal to the supreme court the case at law was carried over until it passed out of the jurisdiction of a prejudiced judge and a vindictive district attorney. By a rallying of forces in the face of the elaborate conspiracy of detraction the case at politics was so strengthened by a regular caucus endorsement that the deadlock will be continued until Senator Quay himself gives the signal for it to cease. An election may occur before the trial, but if not it is certain to take place shortly afterward. While the ring-leaders in the combine against Quay care nothing for the truth as to Quay's innocence or guilt and would oppose him as bitterly after a verdict of acquittal as they oppose him now, the effect of an acquittal upon public opinion would be irresistibly in the senator's favor. The assertions of his friends as to the character of the conspiracy against him would be vindicated and no power on earth could hold back honorable members of the legislature now arrayed against him from going over to his support.

It is a long time that has no turning. The plotters against Quay rigged up an intricate snare and appearances for a time were in their favor, but the day of reckoning approached and it will undoubtedly tell a different story. Messrs. Martin and Finley will probably not do a great deal toward revolutionizing the Republican organization in Pennsylvania until they get safely out of the senatorial fight. Their ability as politicians is not illimitable.

Miles' Gallant Fight.

The central fact in army reorganization, whatever the number of troops, should be the supremacy of the trained soldier over the politician influence in army management. This lesson is indelibly impressed upon our history as it is upon the history of every other nation having to deal with troops in mass. Whenever our trained soldiers had their way in the war with Spain there were victory and glory for the American arms; wherever the politicians predominated there were shame and scandal.

"Before the war began," says General Miles, "I submitted a plan of mobilization. I had had about thirty-seven years' experience in active military life, four years of which were spent in one of the most terrible wars of modern times. I had also studied on the ground the system of organization and methods of administration of all the great armies of the world. It was, therefore, to be inferred that I knew something about such matters. The history of the expeditions to the Crimea and to Egypt, which must be familiar to every professional student of military matters, demonstrated the imperative necessity of perfect equipment of every military organization, down to the least in every department if we expected efficient services. This should include tentage, camp equipment, arms, ammunition, marching tools, transportation, medical supplies and food for men and animals for not less than six months. These official recommendations were set aside. Volunteers were mustered in in the clothes they were when enlisted and were rushed off to camps where, unreasonable as they were, they were left without change of clothing for two and three weeks, compelled to sleep on the ground without tentage and often in drenching rains and without food for many hours. It is to be wondered that nature succumbed to that sort of treatment? "I recommended that the men be left in their states near their homes. I might say near their mothers or families or friends, so that they might get a change of clothing and have other conveniences so necessary to health until the camps of mobilization were ready to receive them. In the meantime the men might be drilled in company or even regimental formation, so as to make some progress in the duties of a soldier while waiting for their uniforms, equipments, tentage and camp equipage. I recommended that the state camps should be maintained sixty days or as much thereof as necessary. The state of Pennsylvania was one of the best prepared for such a sudden emergency, but some states had made no provision at all for their state militia. No one but an officer trained in the details of organization

knows what under army regulations constitutes a completely equipped regiment. In all such matters of routine officers and non-commissioned officers had to be instructed. All this accomplished in their respective states, they would follow large camps of instruction by brigades and divisions with their proper general officers and their staffs. I am not saying this now that the active operations are over. I recommended it before they began. There were 5,000 troops engaged in foreign service in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, and 300,000 in camps at home. The troops in the home country suffered more in their own country without an enemy to increase their dangers and exposure than those abroad. I think it would be easy enough to get at the gist of the difficulty if it was approached in the right way. It is a mistake to think that this is to be disposed of by a departmental commission. The real tribunal is the commission of the American people. They will get at the facts sooner or later.

For this frank challenge of the mediocrities political influence in army matters General Miles will probably be made to suffer. But the truth in his words will not die down. It is not a matter of one man or one administration; it is the fabric at headquarters has been in progress since Grant's time. Every general since Grant has suffered from it, not only in personal and official humiliation but in viewing wrongs done to brave subordinates while powerless to interpose remedy. Somebody had to take the problem by the horns and throw it or be thrown. Nelson A. Miles, in his fight for due consideration of the trained soldier element, is entitled, irrespective of politics or personal feeling, to the cordial support of every honest man. His defeat would mean the crippling of our standing army at a critical moment in its history.

Governor Stone is reticent in all his new appointments—Dr. Stormaker for surgeon general, Colonel Porter for quartermaster general, Colonel Rippe for assistant adjutant general, and Colonel Robbins for commissary general—but he is pre-eminently so in his designation of Gov. Dr. Reed to be state librarian. Dr. Reed is a man who by character and attainments would grace any position of dignity and responsibility, however eminent, but the position of librarian comes well within the sphere of his special interest and fitness, and the commonwealth may count itself exceptionally fortunate to be able to secure his services in this relationship.

No Compromise.

Most persons will agree with Senator Carter of Montana, that those senators who demand the adoption of a resolution defining the nature of American intervention in the Philippines are guilty of an impertinence. Nor is their demand excused by the apologetic explanation that such a resolution would in no contingency mean anything in particular.

The time has not come when the nature of our stay in the Philippine archipelago can be intelligently defined. There is no need to declare that we intend to treat the native inhabitants of those islands fairly. The man who thinks there is display ignorance of American history and insulting suspicion of the American character. As Senator Carter affirms, no political party could survive one general election on a platform proposing perfidy or dishonor in the new dependencies. The majority of our people are not ignoble.

But for the very reason that we want to treat these down-trodden Filipinos fairly we should be slow and sure about making promises to them; we should make certain where our duties and what it requires of us before publishing our proclamations before the censorious world. The ascertainment of the facts is obviously the first step to be taken in dealing with this intricate dilemma. These facts are not to be taken on the endorsement of mere adventurers like Aguinaldo or Agoncillo, or on the strength of dogmatic assertions by men like Andrew Carnegie and Senator Hoar. They must be acquired by patient inquiry in the affected territory—by a careful and thorough canvass of the actual situation as it exists in the Philippine archipelago itself. The president has named a reputable commission to undertake this inquiry. Senators and public can well afford to await the issue of its investigations.

In the meantime, ratification of the treaty of peace clothes us with the power to settle this problem as we shall eventually deem just and wise. Shall the treaty be ratified or rejected? This is the issue and the only issue for present determination. The friends of the administration should make no compromises with the allies of the Aguinaldo insurrection.

Ex-Minister Woodford's remarks concerning America's supply of ammunition at the opening of the war has caused the features of the official heads of the navy to assume an embalmied beef expression.

Maximo Gomez.

There is nothing to occasion surprise in the fact that "Old Fox" Gomez is discredited. He is not an educated man, as were Garcia, Marti and Maceo; he has few civil attitudes and he has by flattery continued during many years been led to assume an exaggerated view of his own importance. Moreover the infirmities of old age are overtaking him and his aching bones accompany an excitable temper. In plain words, not unkindly meant, his days of practical usefulness are nearly ended; upon younger men must necessarily fall the burden of Cuban reconstruction. Seeing these things do not add to his tranquility but notwithstanding all these peculiarities he has, it is believed, too much practical sense born of experience to get in the way of American administration in Cuba. His moods of petulance and grumbling are unpleasant but harmless.

In forming an estimate of this man we must allow for attendant circum-

stances. He has been a fanatic; life has held but one ideal for him—the ideal of Cuban independence. For this he has for nearly thirty years alternately plotted and fought, starved and been a fugitive. His rule as a guerilla chieftain has been despotic and, to American eyes, often cruel. In the accomplishment of his purposes he has spared nobody and nothing. Within the circle of his arbitrary authority his word has been sovereign law. Yet during all these years of turmoil, incendiarism and slaughter which finally reduced Cuba almost to a waste plain there has been no successful challenge of his personal honor or fidelity to the insurgent cause. He may have been narrow and bigoted and merciless but he has been at all times earnest and true. Amidst bribery and treachery and deceit he kept a straight path with not a spot on his integrity of purpose. This fact, like charity, covers a multitude of sins.

Cuba in future will need in her public service a broader class of men, but for what Gomez did for them and for the object lesson in fidelity which his career supplies, the intelligent inhabitants of Cuba are properly grateful.

The honor which has come to our fellow-townsmen, George M. Halstead, through his appointment to the governor's staff as assistant commissary general, is worthily bestowed and will be noted with pleasure by his numerous friends in this and in other cities.

Mr. Halstead will bring to this position a degree of business training and executive skill which will strengthen materially the military administration of the Stone regime.

According to an interview, General Gubin evidently believes that there will be more warfare about the state capital this winter than in any locality that the Pennsylvania troops will visit.

It is too bad that the medicine prescribed for General Egan cannot also be distributed among the traitors in congress who are maliciously fighting the peace treaty.

All save the peace-loving statesmen in congress seem to realize that the white dove cannot alight until the Paris treaty has been ratified.

Gold brick agents will take notice that in spite of recent exposures many Philadelphians still have faith in the Keely motor.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by A. J. Achus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast: 2:40 a. m., for Wednesday, February 1, 1899.

A child born on this day will notice that ignorance is never a bar to the happiness of the egoistical.

Angel food made by some cooks certainly has a taste that is unearthy.

Men seldom profit by the good advice they give to others.

All candidates in favor of clean streets in Scranton will please hold up their hands.

The month of a great man often makes a false joke of his name.

A. J. Achus' Advice. Some one should call Candidate Williams' attention to the cold wave flag.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

A natural soap mine and a paint mine are two of the latest mineral discoveries in the northwest. Several soda lakes have been found in the foothills near Ashcroft, B. C. Their bottoms and shores are incrustated with a natural washing compound, containing borax and soda. No two analyses agree exactly as to the composition of the material. A New York analysis gives 25 per cent. borax while a Montreal chemist, from the same sample, gives 46 per cent. borax. An Ottawa analysis shows only a trace of borax. Tests prove the substance to be equal to the washing powders in common use for cleaning purposes. Trials by alkalinizing and farm women show that it will remove grease and dirt quicker than soap. After many such tests a syndicate of British Columbia men has been formed to put the product on the market. One of the members is now in New York for that purpose. About 275 tons of this compound have been cut and taken out of one lake. It is handled precisely as ice is handled. The blocks are more than nine inches in thickness; are sawed in blocks 10 by 15 inches and weigh fifty pounds each. It is calculated that this lake alone contains 20,000 tons, proving that the industry, if successful, will reach large proportions. An immense deposit of gravel or mineral paint has been discovered in the Skagit mining district, about five miles above the mouth of Baker river, in Washington. The gravel runs from eight to ten feet in width and between well-defined walls. The mineral is of such a friable nature that pick and shovel alone are necessary for its working, and is of such purity that it requires only roasting and pulverizing to prepare it for the market. After roasting and pulverizing it remains only mixing with oil to fit it for immediate use. Experts pronounce the oil to be first class in all respects. It is proposed to establish a paint factory in Skagit county to work the material into commercial form.

W. E. Curtis is informed by a prominent Philadelphia business man that John Wasmaker's profits from his Philadelphia store last year were over \$175,000 and that those from his New York establishment will run close to that figure. The Saturday before Christmas the receipts in New York were even greater than those in Philadelphia and exceeded \$200,000. The New York store has paid a profit from the very day it was opened, although two firms which occupied the establishment since A. T. Stewart's death have failed. The reason of Mr. Wasmaker's great success, both in New York and Philadelphia, is his skillful and extensive advertising. It has been his rule to confine his advertising to newspapers and magazines, on which he has spent usually more than \$200,000 annually. The advertising bills of his New York establishment exceeded even that sum last year.

crush, as if the very roots of the hills were being torn from their home in the ages. The lightning would last but a long while without end. At last the old darkey in blacker night than ever. But the thunders were incessant; their rollings were without end. At last the old darkey became frightened, and following a thunderous peal of unusual horror, he plumped down on his knees in the mud and began to pray. "Oh, Lawd! he cried 'far be it from me so humble as I to tell 'Tee Thee' business. But if it's all de same to Thee an' don't pester Thee or change too much 'Tee' minute plans, couldn't this storm be managed so as to give us a little less noise an' a little more light? Amen!"

The comptroller of the treasury has rendered a decision holding that there is no law permitting the payment of a fee to the comptroller for the purchase of bonds of the United States. The comptroller, of Vermont, for services rendered, at the request of the president, in reviewing the proceeds and findings in the trial case of Captain Carter, corps of engineers, senator Edmunds charged for these services a legal fee of \$500 and submitted an account of nearly \$90 in addition. Under the decision he cannot receive a cent unless there is some special provision made, probably by congress.

One of the most popular of nonsense rhymes ever written in the English language was written some years ago by Ben King, a Louisville, Ky., journalist. He addressed them to "The Pestmist," and they will certainly bear one more repetition.

Nothing to do but work. Nothing to eat but food. Nothing to wear but clothes. To keep one from going mad.

Nothing to breathe but air. Quick as a flash 'tis gone! Nowhere to fall but off. Nowhere to stand but on.

Nothing to comb but hair. Nowhere to sleep but in bed! Nothing to weep but in tears. Nothing to bury but dead.

Nothing to sing but songs. Ah, well, alas, alas! Nowhere to go but out. Nowhere to come but back.

Nothing to see but sights. Nothing to quench but thirst! Nothing to have but what we've got— Thus thro' life we are cursed.

Nothing to strike but a gait! Everything moves that goes! Nothing at all but common sense— Can ever withstand these woes.

THE PHILIPPINE QUESTION.

From the New York Commercial.

Some people are talking a great deal nowadays about the extent of the government's responsibility to a government of any kind by Americans. Here in the United States we govern, or profess to, with the consent of the majority, even the majority is composed of a single individual. That is, if there are 1,000,000 votes cast and 500,001 are found to be for Smith and his party, with their sort of government, and 499,999 for Jones and his party and their sort of government, Smith & Co. win and govern, and make just what laws they please within the constitution which Jones & Co. have to obey. In fact, they govern to their hearts content against the will of all out two less than a majority of the whole people and nobody kicks. It does no good if he does.

Now, if the Philippines were permitted to back off by themselves, it is likely that their government would be any more by the consent of the governed than if they remained under the American flag? Certainly not, unless Aguinaldo or Agoncillo reduced his subjects to unanimity by cutting off the heads of all who differed from him. That would be the only avenue through which a unanimous consent could be reached in the Philippines. Now, having picked this irrelevant soap-bubble as to the righteousness of government without the consent of the governed, the next step is to inquire how the government of the Philippines by a clique of native Filipinos would be likely to be better than a government of the islands by the whole enlightened American people. In what points could it be better? In more intelligence? In less selfishness? In less natural depravity, race-hatred and corruption?

Americans are human and make mistakes accidentally quite frequently, and sometimes on purpose. But there is one thing that Americans as a nation never could do, and that is knowingly oppress any people who depended on them for protection. Nor would they give their words any smaller rights before the law for any other opportunities to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness than the themselves enjoy. Death would come to that American politician early during whose period in power any wrongs were ever perpetrated upon the Filipinos.

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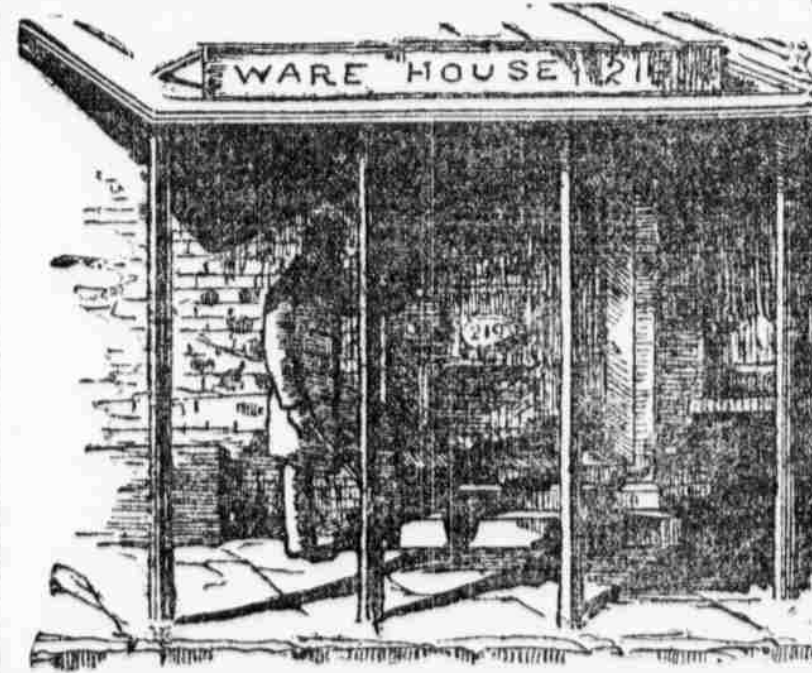


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A Brooklyn policeman, living on Lafayette Avenue, makes some well-considered remarks on the habits of the force: "Their sleep is irregular, their meals irregular, and their business is an irregularity from beginning to end." He says: "Is it any wonder that you find many of them of irregular character and habits, brought on by a disordered stomach? I wish samples of Ripans Tabules could be placed in the hands of every policeman in the country, if for no other reason than the purifying effect upon their character and habits. Ripans Tabules can never be known except by trial. I shall continue to take one whenever necessary. I have found them to be unsurpassed by anything. Policemen are subject to indigestion and dyspepsia perhaps more than others. For them I consider Ripans Tabules a great blessing."

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