

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 3, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOHR. Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKS. Controller—F. J. WIDMAYER. School Directors—JOHN FOURIER MORRIS, GEORGE H. SHIRES, Assessors—WILLYM JONES, PHILIP RINSLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Day—February 21.

The Democratic senators who think opposition to the peace treaty is good politics will discover their mistake when too late.

Bright Republican Prospects.

In notable contrast with the turbulence which characterized the recent Democratic city convention and which has left some impossible to be healed, the situation on the Republican side was and is serene. The primaries offered an open chance and their result has been cheerfully acquiesced in. The ticket nominated under the Crawford county system by good luck happens to be well distributed geographically and evenly apportioned in other respects. It is well calculated to poll the party strength and make inroads on the enemy.

Spainin Mohr for mayor has been for many years before the people in the capacity of a counsellor and his official record is open for examination. Thomas R. Brooks for city treasurer is a popular representative of the younger element of the party, a thorough business man and staunch good fellow whom the Democrats cannot hope to beat. Fred J. Widmayer for controller needs no introduction to Scrantonians after his first rate administration of that office from 1883 to 1886. Morris and Shires for school directors are experienced and trustworthy students of school problems and their Republicanism is beyond challenge. Jones, Rinsland and Fowler for assessors are a trio measuring up to every requirement and their election is assured. The ticket as a whole is greatly aided by the general consciousness that Scranton has been under Democratic control long enough. It matters not who were responsible for foisting the present malodorous administration upon the city, the thing to do now is to correct the misfortune as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.

When the president dealt with General Gomez directly through an authorized agent an understanding on disputed points was reached easily and immediately. It should be a lesson.

Election Contests.

The bill of Senator Vaughn bearing on election contests is received with favor by the press of the state. It represents an admitted necessity in legislation.

It provides, as our readers will recall, that witnesses in contests whose votes are shown to be illegal shall receive no fees or mileage, and it specifies that in contested elections of president or additional law judges and of county, borough, township, municipal officers or school directors or school controllers, if the contestant or contestants fail to establish his or their right to the office to which he or they claimed to have been elected, the petitioners and each and every one of them shall be jointly and severally liable for all the costs and the same may be collected as debts of like amount are by law collectable, or payment therefor may be enforced by attachment. This provision has been objected to on the ground that a contest might be begun in good faith and yet end in failure; but even so the petitioners should pay the costs. Their mistaken good faith should not be charged upon the public.

No law can be framed with reference to contests which might not in some rare case work conceivable hardship; but the aim of legislation should be the greatest good for the greatest number, and this principle is the basis of the public's cry for relief from speculative election contests. It is safe and just to lay down the rule that a defeated candidate who contests and is beaten should, either personally or through his indorsers, bear the expense of his failure to win. To ask the community to bear it is to put a premium on contest speculation and to invite continuous annoyance and expense. No county in the state knows this better than Lackawanna.

It Must Be Probed.

It is announced in a number of newspapers close to the administration that the president is being urged by Secretary Alger to discipline General Miles for making public expressions bearing on the unfitness of the prepared meats supplied last summer to the army. The discipline sought is trial by court martial. It is also said that the enemies of Miles want the president to remove him from the command of the army. What truth there is in these reports we do not know. If Miles has broken any military rules he should not be more exempt from punishment than any other soldier, for discipline is fully as essential among generals as among subordinates.

But if his offense consist simply in making public important information which his opponents were trying to conceal, the president will be likely to pay little heed to their requests. On the face of the case the man to discipline is not Nelson A. Miles but the person, whoever he may be, responsible for trying to feed the army on unfit beef. Miles has published reports from thirty different officers and over eighty civilians which sustain his assertions as to the unsavory character of this meat. These reports represent, we believe, every regiment and almost every company at Santiago and in Porto Rico, and they constitute

a mass of testimony not to be brushed aside. It is possible that the war department was imposed upon by the meat contractors but it is not probable that all these officers and men, constituting the brains of the decisive military campaign of the war, are concertedly lying. Neither is it Miles' fault that the meat was poor. Gunning for his scalp will not strike at the root of the trouble.

Of course the president regrets keenly as do all his friends these outcroppings of scandal and ill-feeling in the military service. The public has its own ideas as to the responsible cause of the major part of this friction; but regardless of any personal prejudices here is a matter calling for thorough investigation. Alger, Miles, McKinley, congress and everybody else ought to be of one mind as to the need of going to the bottom of this beef scandal and determining beyond any question who the guilty persons are.

A conservative estimate places the cost of the senatorial deadlock at Harrisburg to the principals alone for hotel rent and red fire at more than \$1,000 a day, not to mention the thousands and one "extras" which contribute to the excitement of politics. The cost to the state has not been estimated but it is notoriously heavy. It is a big price to pay for John Wannamater's vindictiveness.

The Business Outlook in Cuba.

Uncle Sam has not been in control of Cuba for more than a month, and in that time many vexing problems have arisen to create disturbance on the surface of affairs, yet the information at hand tells of a very perceptible improvement in the business conditions of the island, and of course this is only the beginning. Charles M. Pepper, perhaps the best qualified of the American correspondents now in Cuba, devotes a recent letter to this subject and gives a report which, while not overdrawn, is certainly cheering.

Mr. Pepper sees no portents of a boom in the American sense; the poverty of the masses of the people, the consumers, forbids this until such time as normal conditions re-appear. Neither are there large fortunes to be picked up by strolling Americans off-hand. Business customs in Cuba are exceedingly conservative. Business is on a cash basis; proprietors of stores pay cash when buying stocks and expect to receive it when making sales. Moreover, there is little or no cutting of prices; when a merchant cannot see a profit there is no sale. It will, in Mr. Pepper's judgment, take time to change these customs and until they are changed Americans striving to do business in Cuba must be willing to conform to some extent to native ways.

Yet despite these drawbacks he finds that a great deal more attention is now being paid by the people of Cuba, the better classes, to business problems than was true three months ago, and correspondingly less to politics. Bright Cubans are looking about for trade or investment opportunities, and this sign impresses Mr. Pepper favorably. He discovers, also, that a good field is open to American bankers who are willing to loan money on crop mortgages and be content with an average interest rate of 7 or 8 per cent., as against 15 to 20 per cent. charged by Spanish bankers prior to the revolution.

With the disbandment of the insurgent troops capital is expected to be released in unusual abundance, and prodigate nature, plus a little work, will do the rest.

Cuban soldiers evidently do not believe in cheap labor.

A War for the Extension of Civilization.

"The more closely we subject the matter to analysis, the more closely we perceive that we have been waging a war not of conquest, but of civilization. There are two ways of neutralizing its normal results and of repudiating its animating principles. One of these is to employ the methods which we have succeeded in destroying; the other is to drop the whole enterprise in its state of incompleteness and to confess our error in having undertaken it. Equally with the so-called 'imperialists'—if any really exist—the 'anti-imperialists' of the United States has thus far acted. That principle has been expressed as the right and duty of our government 'in the name of humanity, in the name of civilization' to enforce the end of strife and to secure a rule of justice.

"To abandon in a critical moment the populations emancipated from the sovereignty of Spain may seem more respectable than to exploit them; but neither the one nor the other is in harmony with the conception of national duty which inspired the prosecution of the war. There are only three possible positions to be taken upon the question of our proper relation to the late colonies of Spain: (1) That Spain had a right to exploit them, and, since we have defeated her, that we have succeeded to that right; (2) that Spain was wrong in the treatment of her colonies, but that we had no right to interfere; and, (3) that Spain was wrong to an extent that justified our interference and our substitution of a better order. Those who accept the last position must admit that our duty has not been fully performed until we have substituted a better order than we found—in truth, the best order that we are able to secure.

"Having invoked 'humanity' and 'civilization' as the watch words of the war, they now clearly prescribe our task in imposing peace. The current course of events has been described by its enemies as 'imperialism,' and by its friends as 'expansion'; but neither of these terms quite accurately meets the case. The purpose of our government has not been the subjection of foreign people for the sake of empire, nor the enlargement of our territorial limits for the sake of expansion. Both of these words imperfectly express the situation, and, thus far at least, are not true to history. A more fitting phrase to designate the aims and achievements of the nation is, perhaps, 'the extension of civilization'; for it expresses the motive and controlling principle of the war and of the treaty by which, when ratified, it is to be concluded."—Assis-

tant Secretary of State Hill in the Forum.

The case of Mrs. Vermule, the fair Philadelphia who has recently gained notoriety in New York courts, reads like a modern paper-bound romance turned wrong end on. Mrs. Vermule when a maiden of 16 scorned the suit of a rich man who had been selected by her mother as a husband for her, and ran away with a penniless Romeo who had the bearing of the sad young man who rescues the heroine of ten-cent drama from the villain who is about to foreclose the mortgage on her father's farm. The young husband did not prove to be a prince in disguise. In fact he had no relatives connected with any of the important trusts in this or any other country. After a brief wedded existence the husband has disappeared and the wife, known as Mrs. Vermule, is in jail for swindling. This is a romance in real life, but sentimental girls will do well to study.

The Federated Women's clubs of Peekin, Ill., have adopted resolutions asking the legislators to suppress the use of pictures of women as advertisements. The resolutions are directed more particularly to the manufacturers of cigarettes, liquor dealers, and advertisers of the class that introduce high art in calling the attention of the public to their wares. No objection seems to have been made to the faces of women who have been cured by the various patent medicines. In most instances the society probably believes these portraits incapable of exciting other interest than that of speculation as to what the subject must have been "before taking."

General Miles continues to insist that certain Chicago meat packers have discovered the principal lost art of the ancient Egyptians. The manner in which the general has met all efforts at bluff on part of the embalmers is another proof of excellent generalship in providing an ample supply of ammunition before going into a fight.

Henri Watterson is not at all discouraged by the little drawbacks encountered in his effort to boom Admiral Dewey with the Democratic candidate for president. He proposes, if Admiral Dewey will not join the Democracy, that the Democracy shall join Dewey.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 4:16 a. m., for Friday, February 3, 1899.

A child born on this day will notice that many persons experience the greatest difficulty in getting the moss from collecting upon a proud ancestral name.

When the boys of the Thirteenth return there is no question that all will join in the chorus indicating that there'll be "thormal" tomorrow in the ancient municipality this evening."

It begins to look as though many of the "coming men" at Harrisburg had engaged passage on the slow freight line. It is often better than the knowledge that prompts one to attempt brush whiskers from the moving buzz-saw.

Time can be more profitably spent in a graveyard vault than in the society of a man who has lost faith in woman.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Do not waste time setting woodchuck traps during the coming six weeks.

To the Senate of the United States

From the New York Sun.

A treaty of peace with Spain lies upon your table. On Monday, at a 3 o'clock in the afternoon, you will vote upon it. The war which this treaty brings to an end was one of unbroken victory, and the treaty accords with the war. In this statement alone it would seem that the ratification of such a treaty could be nothing more than a form, and that not a single vote could possibly be given against it by any senator. Such, however, marvellous as it may appear, is not the case. There is opposition to this treaty, an opposition violent, passionate, extremely vocal, and, sad to say, with votes behind the votes. Treaties of peace in the past have often called out opposition, discontent and criticism on the winning side, but always upon the ground that they have not been commensurate with the deserts of the victor. This treaty has the same distinction of meeting with opposition among the representatives of the victor nation because it is too triumphant and has taken too much from the vanquished. No objection is made, or can be made, to the instrument itself. The treaty is drawn with the utmost skill; it grants every American demand and commits the United States to nothing. It is as creditable to American diplomacy as the battles by sea and land were to the sailors and soldiers of the United States. It is a triumph and matches too completely the work of the American army and navy.

The position of the opponents of the treaty and the diatribes with which they sustain it are difficult to comprehend. Inexactly has been striven to show that the constitution limits the ordinary powers which pertain to every sovereign and independent nation, and to invent every kind of an impossible situation as a barrier to constitutional action. The declaration of independence has been pressed into the service and made to do duty as a statement of organic law to be construed like a statute, in a manner which would make the author and signers of that greatest of revolutionary manifestoes start with amazement and surprise. And all this heated invective of the declaration and the constitution is beside the mark and without any relation to the question in hand. At the best it is academic, and at the worst it is insulting to the American people, for it implies that they are not to be trusted to live up to the principles they have themselves constituted and to interpret aright the constitution which they themselves have given their lives and spent their treasure. Once off the ground of the constitution and the declaration of independence, the opponents of the treaty depart entirely from the practical question and plunge into a future which they cannot read and fill that future with chimerical dire and with the vain imaginings of overheated imaginations. All they say can be summed up in one short sentence, that the American people are not to be trusted with the fate of the Philippines, and are too feeble, too dishonest, too brutal to undertake the task.

The senate debate has not brought out a single argument or one valid objection to the ratification of the treaty. In fact, it is difficult to take anything said by its opponents, and it is impossible to answer them, for there is nothing to which a reasonable mind can make reply. But if the arguments are futile and without bearing on the case, the situation created by the opposition and the votes they profess to have are serious in the extreme. They have already pro-

duced much mischief, have already injured the United States in the eyes of the world, and if successful in preventing ratification next Monday would do an amount of harm to our standing as a nation, to our relations with other powers, to the people of the Philippine islands, and to our vast flourishing business interests, which it would be hard to estimate or measure.

The senate of the United States is the most powerful single chamber in any representative government in the world. Its adjustment is the only thing in the constitution which cannot be changed except with the assent of every state. Amendments may come and go, but they cannot change the representation of the states in the senate. Nothing but a complete revolution can touch that great provision. The combination of legislative and executive powers carries the authority of the senate into every branch of the government, and by the mistakes and shortsightedness of the house of representatives the legislative powers of the senate have increased and multiplied. Foremost among the duties which are conferred upon the senate is that which associates it with the executive in the making of treaties. With the memory of days when the influence of French ministers was felt strongly, and, perhaps, corruptly, in the continental congress fresh in the minds of the framers of the constitution made a two-thirds vote of the senate necessary to the ratification of a treaty. Uppermost in the thoughts of those whose politics had been tried in the bosom of Europe was the desire to guard as strenuously as possible against the peril of entangling alliances and dishonoring agreements which might result from the influence and foreign corruption. To us such reasoning seems impossible. In 1787 it was real and valid. But in this effort to protect the United States from foreign intrigue the framers of the constitution involved themselves in a strange contradiction. They gave to a majority of congress the power to declare war, and they enabled one-third of the senate to prevent peace and continue a war once entered upon. It probably never occurred to the framers of the constitution that one-third of any senate could ever be found to refuse to ratify a treaty of peace in opposition to the wishes of the country, of the majority of the majority of both houses. Such a proposition would have been deemed by them too monstrous and too fantastic to be considered as a serious objection to the purposes they were seeking to carry out. They would not have believed, if the idea had been suggested to them, that such an abuse of the treaty-making power of the senate could ever be attempted; yet the wisest of men cannot foresee every possibility of human nature, and it is that very abuse of the treaty-making power of the senate which menaces the country today.

The president, in fulfillment of the powers with which the constitution clothes him, has concluded a peace with Spain, happily beaten by the United States in war. We have wrong no indemnity from our defeated foe, but have compelled her to cede and relinquish to us her colonial possessions, over which she tyrannized, and which we have conquered and taken. By the treaty, and by the treaty alone, can we take finally from Spain the people whom we have freed, and the treaty alone, can we end the state of war and re-establish peace. The treaty binds us to no policy in the future, but leaves the future peace and prosperity of us alone to determine. But if the treaty binds us to nothing, our own honor and our international obligations bind us in the strongest way to give peace and order to the islands where we have thrown down the government of Spain, which we are bound to replace, and we are equally bound to permit anarchy and desolation to spring from victories we have won. By the treaty, and the treaty alone, can we reach a position in which we can fulfill these duties and meet these solemn obligations.

A refusal to ratify the treaty on Monday next would mean putting it over to the next senate. Delay was never more dangerous. To refuse ratification now means encouragement to the adventurer Aguinaldo and his bands, and bloodshed in the Philippines. That bloodshed will be due to the opposition in the senate, and the Democratic party, which furnishes more than a negative vote, will sink deeper than ever under that red burden. The refusal to ratify means disorders in the Philippines and complications with foreign powers, jealousy and eagerness for interference. It means the humiliation of the United States, and would justify civilized mankind in saying that we are a people unfit to play a part in great affairs, and unworthy of our own high destiny. It means alarm, anxiety, suspense, uncertainty, and the continuance of the state of war, bringing a check to business, and menacing our prosperity. The senators who vote "NO" next Monday will make themselves directly responsible for all these results, and the country will hold them to their responsibility and not suffer them to escape.

Peace or war, that is the issue and the only issue involved in the vote on the treaty now lying on your table. The country demands its ratification.

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