

The Scranton Tribune

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REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOIR. Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKS. Controller—F. J. WIDMAYER. School Directors—JOHN MORRIS, GEORGE H. COURTIER, Assessors—GWILYM JONES, PHILIP HINSLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Day—February 21.

Recent events have again suggested the need of a paid fire department in Scranton. The conflagration of Saturday morning fully demonstrated that material for a first-class paid fire department can be obtained right here in Scranton and it is a disgrace to the city that these brave men are allowed to risk their lives without remuneration in the work of protecting property.

For City Controller.

Under the law the powers of the city controller are almost absolute within the sphere of his duties. He is the watch dog of the city treasury; not a cent of city funds can be paid out except upon his indorsement. While it has not hitherto been the custom of controllers in this city to go far behind the face of the bills and vouchers submitted for their examination, yet if the controller should suspect crookedness or extravagance in a given direction his authority would be ample to bring out the facts and protect the city against loss. The value of the office to the community depends entirely upon the character, ability and experience of the man in it.

A Battle Royal.

Persons familiar with such matters say the court of inquiry called to investigate the embalmed beef scandal will be in session for several months. So much the better if that time shall be required to get to the bottom of this case. Thoroughness is far preferable to haste. The country demands and the professional honor of the eminent soldiers constituting this respected tribunal requires the development of all the facts.

The civilian commission of inquiry which has just concluded its labors had no standing in military circles because it was not provided for by law and did not have power to enforce its alleged jurisdiction. But the court of inquiry created by the president on Feb. 3 is a body which every soldier is bound to respect. It is regular and lawful and it has plenary powers. There is no secret of camp or battle line which it cannot probe and conquer if it will. In the line of military duty its present assignment is of the utmost importance, since upon its investigations, deliberations and conclusions the whole future of the American army depends. Let us bear in mind the nature of the case.

It is affirmed by the general in command of the army that among the foods supplied to the soldiers of the nation during the war with Spain were meats in large quantity, utterly unfit for human use. He affirms that some of these meats were doctored with chemicals until they were poisonous as an army ration, while others were state fakes from which practically all the nutriment had been extracted. In this affirmation he is corroborated by a host of witnesses who saw and tried to eat the meat. Denial is made by contractors, politicians and personal enemies, and the cry is raised that no matter what kind of meat was dolmed off on our suffering troops, nothing should be said about it lest our export trade be injured.

There has been a lot of silly mud-throwing at General Miles tending to discredit him as a witness in these premises and to convict him of unworthy motives in bringing these charges to the knowledge of the public, but the people have not permitted it to obscure in their minds the importance of ascertaining, first of all, whether what Miles says is or is not true. If it is not true, his finish is not a matter of uncertainty. He will be kicked out of the uniform so quickly that he will not know what struck him. But if it is true; if there is even approximate truth in it, then not Miles, but the contractors who sold this stuff to the government and the politicians or war department officials who bought it on the government's behalf will have to toe the chalk mark and explain.

It is not supposable of any honest man holding an office in gift from the people that in his mind the welfare of the export trade is held to be of greater value than the welfare of the men fighting in tropic lands the battles of their country. This being true, the court of inquiry will consider the situation of the soldier first and leave the export trade to sustain itself on its own merits.

The prospective new librarian of congress, Representative Samuel J. Barrows, of Massachusetts, when young, was a messenger boy, a telegrapher, a stenographer and a reporter. Later he was a theological student and war correspondent, and subsequently he occupied a Boston pulpit and the editorial chair of a denominational paper, being successful in each calling, finally landing in congress. Such a career is a pretty good recommendation.

The Democratic senators who have banded together to fight the army reorganization bill are welcome to all the glory they can get out of such a course. Public sentiment demands that the president who conducted so successfully the amazingly triumphant war with Spain shall have put in his hands the means to discharge its recognized and ratified responsibilities and the party or the public servant who would rob him of his power simply composes a dishonorable obituary.

It is good but not unexpected news that the government has decided to modify the regulations governing the admission of travelers' personal effects through the New York custom houses. These regulations in their original form could not stand in any country having free government and a self-respecting citizenship. Has hysteria usurped the place of reason in the editorial sanctum of the Chicago Times-Herald? That journal's

shrilling appeal to the government at Washington to buy off the Malay traitor, Aguinondo, with an office would be ludicrous if coming from a less important source. The only office fit for the custodianship of a coffin.

The oldest inhabitant is convinced that there must have been something wrong with the thermometers during the past few days.

The army "embalmed beef" is probably like butter coloring material, harmless if taken in small doses.

As between Aguinondo and Jack Frost the Americans at Manila are probably to be congratulated.

Gomez has reached Havana. Now let the sphers move on.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaachus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast: 4:08 a. m., for Monday, February 13, 1899.

A child born on this day will notice that the ex-officio holder who never expects a reelection makes the most active and sincere reformer.

Persons not too lazy to take exercise will notice a change for the better in the temperature.

The present definition for mercy seems to apply to the guilty and to the innocent that mercy is accorded the innocent.

The man who cuts no fee these days is not taking advantage of his surroundings.

Definitions

Price—Something that depends entirely upon the depth of a man's conscience.

Luck—That which baffles many a man in the catch-as-catch-can struggle with fortune.

Hope—That which prompts man to figure a bad account in his column of assets.

The Reclaiming of Arid Land

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, Feb. 12.—A new and distinct policy is being strongly advocated, for giving to the arid states and territories which have no harbors or great navigable rivers, their proportionate share of the water of the Missouri and its tributaries under the river and harbor bill.

The senate committee on commerce has just heard arguments in favor of the construction of a comprehensive system of storage reservoirs in the arid west as a part of the established national policy of internal improvement. As urged by the national irrigation congress and recommended in a report of Colonel H. M. Chittenden, of the engineer corps on reservoirs in Colorado and Wyoming.

Senator Carter, of Montana, addressed the committee in behalf of his proposed amendment appropriating \$5,000,000 for the construction of a system of reservoirs in all the arid states. He urged that such a policy would store at the head waters of the Missouri and its tributaries in great natural reservoirs, the water which now goes down to the destruction on the rivers far below. Then the reserve could be drawn from these reservoirs when needed in the dry season for irrigation and navigation and so besides preventing tremendous damage from excessive and overcast, would raise the water for navigation and irrigate and reclaim vast areas of fertile lands, now dry and worthless, but which, under irrigation, would be the richest in the world.

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, through whose efforts the Chittenden report was made, argued in favor of the project, stating that he had submitted an amendment to the bill, providing that the water should be used for irrigation and navigation, and that the construction of reservoirs in Wyoming and Colorado, but that he earnestly advocated the adoption of the broad policy of the construction of a comprehensive system of reservoirs in all the arid states and territories, believing that it would be a sound national policy and result in enormous national benefits. "Such a system," Senator Warren said, "would not only enrich the arid states, but it would also benefit the great west as a whole, where now are nothing but stock ranges or deserts, but it would do vastly more. The great west is now sitting unutilized millions of acres of fertile soil, which are being wasted to the benefit of the eastern factories."

George H. Maxwell, of California, representing the national irrigation congress, was also heard in advocacy of the policy. He urged that the broad question was whether the great region known as Arid America, which would be reclaimed, sustain a greater population than there is now in the whole United States, should retain its desert forever, or should be transformed into prosperous communities by conserving the flood waters for beneficial use. Mr. Maxwell stated that the construction of reservoirs in the headwaters of the Arkansas river would restore to Kansas the waters diverted by Colorado appropriations, over which interstate litigation is pending, and storage on the Platte river would prevent the Nebraska irrigators on that stream from losing their supply from diversions in Colorado and Wyoming. Mr. Maxwell urged finally that this policy went to the root of a great evil and removed the cause of floods, while it saved

AMERICAN RAILROAD RATES

From the New York Sun. Not quite, but very nearly one-half of the railroad mileage of the world is in North America. If to the railroad mileage of North America be added that of Brazil and Australia in South America, 13,000 miles collectively, the total will exceed the mileage of all the rest of the world—Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the other South American countries included. Moreover, railroad building is being carried on much more rapidly in the United States than elsewhere. But it is not only in respect of the extension of their railroad system that the United States take precedence, for some recent computations show that the United States furnish to travelers and shippers the best service at the lowest cost. In many states of the country there are laws fixing a maximum charge for passengers at a cent a mile, and in some European countries, notably France, the average rate charged is in excess of that figure. The minimum of some European countries is higher than the maximum allowed in the United States. According to the computations referred to, the average rate charged for passenger service in the United States is 2.25 cents a mile, and the fact is that in many eastern states where railroad system have been long established, the average rate is a cent a mile on local traffic in the south is not unusual, but, taking the country through, the average rate, as stated, is 2.25 cents a mile. In Belgium, a country in which there are practically no mechanical obstacles in railroading, are comparatively few, the average rate is 2.25 cents a mile; in Germany, a country in which there are practically no mechanical obstacles, the rate is 2.25. In Hungary it is 3.01 cents, in Austria-Hungary it is 2.65, in France it is 3.20 and in Spain it is 4.50.

In no other country in the world are the facilities for passengers so many as in the United States, and the increase of these facilities and conveniences is constant. On many western roads seats in chair cars, corresponding with parlor cars on eastern lines, are furnished gratuitously. The sleeping car service is more general and better in the United States than in any other country, and light and heat, two essentials of up-to-date railroad travel, are better furnished here than in any other country.

The freight charges, too, estimated on the basis of carrying a ton of freight a mile, are lower than in other countries. In England the average rate is 2 cents. In Belgium it is 1.90, in France 1.25 and in Germany 1.05 cents. In the United States it is .97 cent, or less than 1 cent a mile per ton of freight moved, taking the whole country through. If the average of American freight rates was as high as it is in Germany the people of this country would have paid the railways last year about \$20,000,000 more than they did. If the rates had been as high as they are in England the people of this country would have paid the railways about \$40,000,000 more than they did. An illustration of the excellence of the service on American railroads is furnished by the fact that although the collections from freight are larger in Europe than they are in the United States and the number of passengers carried is materially greater than in this country, the expense of maintenance of American railroads is \$100,000,000 more in a year than for those operated in Europe. And the American railroad system is better than any other in the world. At all the time, the freight and passenger rates are being reduced and the character of the service being improved and quick freight is better every year.

RESPONSIBILITY.

From Whitelaw Reid's Speech at the Lotus Club Dinner. I was not one of those who were eager to begin this war with Spain; but I protest against any attempt to evade our just responsibility in the position in which we have left us. We shall have trouble in Cuba and in Porto Rico, and we shall have, and he will lead them to think we fear them and fear trouble, our trouble will be great. If on the other hand we grasp this nettle daring, if we act promptly, with inexorable vigor, and with justice, it may be slight. But the graver the crisis the plainer our duty. God give us courage to purify our politics and strengthen our government to meet these new and grave duties.

THE REMEDY.

"I am in favor of giving the Filipinos independence," said one debater. "So am I," answered the other. "And I'm satisfied that the United States controls the only reliable brand, and that if we can get them to hold still and try it they will like it."—Washington Star.

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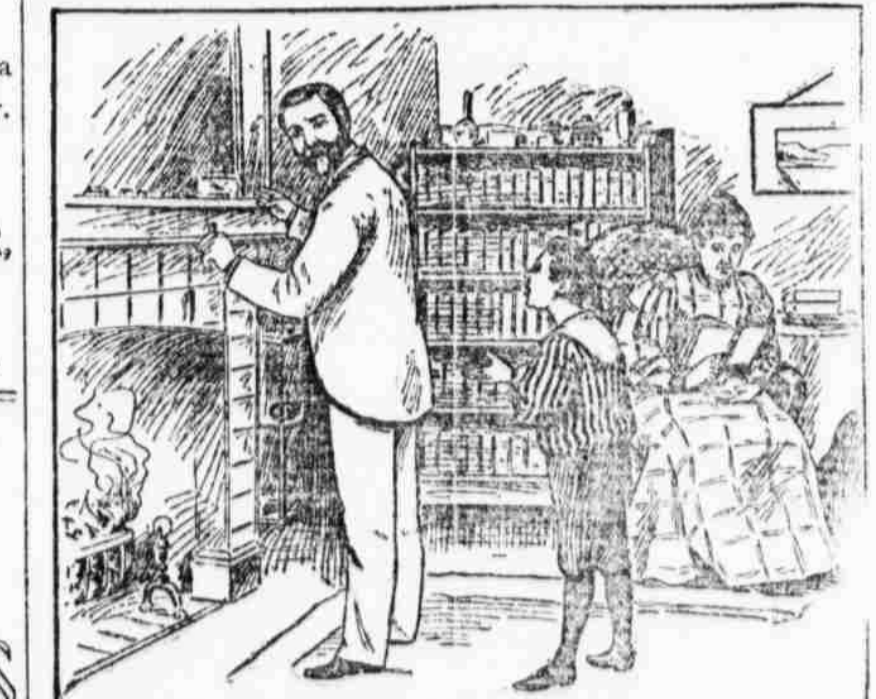


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A business man of Toledo, O., asserts that in his case dyspepsia was an inheritance. He obtained his first supply of Ripans Tabules from Chicago because he could not then find them in Toledo. Now the druggists there all have them. He carries one of the little packages with him all the time, and if he has that distressed feeling after a hearty meal, or a headache, he takes a Tabule. "My wife also uses them," he writes, "and if my boy feels sick he asks for one."

FINLEY'S

NOTICE EXTRAORDINARY.

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Will fill a special one week's engagement at our store commencing MONDAY, February 13th, and ending February 18th. Miss Tuttle will be glad to explain the merits of this Celebrated Corset and give fittings, thus illustrating its superiority over others. Engagements can be made with Miss Tuttle by mail or telegraph. We desire to be distinctly understood that ladies will not be expected to purchase a Corset after a fitting is made unless they so desire.

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