

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 14, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOHR, Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKS, Controller—J. W. WIDMAYER, School Directors—JOHN COTTRIER, MORRIS GEORGE H. SHIRES, Assessors—WILLYM JONES, PHILIP BINSLAND, C. S. POWLER, Election Day—February 21.

The senate's enactment of the bill revising the grade of admiral is a welcome step. This means Dewey's promotion and not only that, a deserved compliment to the entire American navy.

Election Day One Week Hence.

The failure of either candidate for mayor to make public an announcement of policy compels the discriminating citizen to draw comparisons between the parties and the men. Politically, it is an indisputable fact that the city of Scranton has always prospered best under Republican administration. Under it the public credit has been good, there has been a vigilant enforcement of law, vice has been held under intelligent restraint, instead of, as now, holding wide open doors and taking its pick of locations in the city, and the general welfare has been guarded and promoted. If we compare the parties there is no incentive to the prolongation of the existing condition of things and every reason to prefer a change back to Republican principles.

Personally, the opposing candidates for mayor are both men of experience in municipal affairs, but, while the Democratic nominee has been known as the conciliatory champion of the corporations and is today in receipt of their support, the Republican nominee has stood up for the common people. His attitude in council on questions involving the disposition of public privileges has been favorable to the people as opposed to those who would enrich themselves at the people's expense, and for this he is entitled to the votes of the people.

The campaign has been quiet, but the concluding week should not pass without careful study of the situation by each taxpayer. The affairs of the city are in bad shape; taxation is burdensome, public conveniences are few, the police department is disorganized, the streets, when cleared of snow, will be in horrible condition; and, unless an administration with a head to it is called to power one week hence, Scranton will begin to travel on the downgrade instead of pushing forward to increased prosperity and prestige. The voter should think of these things.

The report of the war commission cost, it is said, \$100,000. We could have found men who would have given the same kind of a report three months ago for a hundredth part as much.

One Drawback.

The committee appointed by the last Republican county convention in Luzerne county to formulate a new set of party rules based on the Crawford county primary system has made public its report. This report differs little from the rules now in vogue in Lackawanna county. We note, however, one feature calculated to cause disappointment if retained, a feature also in the local rules but in need of revision.

In reference to the registration of candidates the drafted rules require each candidate to register in person; by inference no candidate can be registered by proxy. Yet it frequently happens, more especially in city elections, that the men best qualified for public office are men least willing to appear as active seekers of office. In the recent municipal canvass for the nomination in this city an effort was made on two or three occasions to secure the entrance into the field of men more than ordinarily fitted for public honors. These gentlemen were willing to accept if nominated and were willing that their friends should enter their names, but were unwilling to appear before the community as active aspirants. Under the ruling of Chairman Chittenden such vicarious registration was prohibited. Mr. Chittenden was doubtless correct in his rendering of the rules, yet it is apparent that the requirement of personal registration is not an essential condition to the success of the Crawford county system but may upon certain occasions operate to discourage instead of facilitate the selection of the best men for office. It is not necessary a dis honor to be an office-seeker, but very often the men who are the most persistent in their pursuit of office are men least qualified to reflect credit upon the community if elected, and in many cases it would be a genuine relief to the people if they could draft some retiring citizen of good character and qualities and make it his duty to accept. In municipal campaigns especially a rule which compels every candidacy to be self-assertive is obviously calculated to benefit the active politicians and handicap the business element.

Our neighbors in Luzerne, if we may judge from the optimistic expressions of their principal newspaper, are looking forward to the installation of the direct primary system with enthusiastic anticipation and will be disappointed if it does not work miracles in their political regeneration. Let us trust that their fond expectations may all be realized.

An exchange makes the timely suggestion that while giving due honor to the military heroes at Manila, a word should be said in favor of the brave men who have stood on the front platform of the trolley cars during the past few days facing the Klondike-tempered bias.

Inasmuch as pretty nearly everybody in authority in the German empire has taken the trouble to deny unfriendly

intent toward the United States we suppose we must take their word for it. But let us hope they will next time find an easier way of displaying their good will.

Whitelaw Reid does not apologize for the peace commission's work but shows that the commission deserves the country's amplest gratitude. There is no Mugwump taint on Whitelaw.

A Scrap of Scribbled Paper.

Today the senate at Washington will consider the McEnery resolution affirming our purpose with reference to the Philippines. This resolution reads: "Resolved, That by the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain it is not intended to incorporate the inhabitants of said island into citizenship of the United States, nor is it intended to permanently annex said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States. But it is the intention of the United States to establish on said islands a government suitable to the wants and conditions of the inhabitants of said islands, to prepare them for local self-government, and in due time to make such disposition of said islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the inhabitants of said islands."

The objections to a resolution of this kind are that it is ineffective, almost meaningless and therefore useless; and that its adoption at this time might embarrass instead of aid the executive in his task of putting down insurrection and compelling order in the Philippines. A resolution of the senate passed in 1899 would have no force whatever in 1900 or any subsequent year if in the meantime conditions and public opinion had undergone substantial changes. Its presentation now is only partly in good faith, while it undoubtedly expresses the prevalent popular belief at this time, it is offered and supported by men aiming a political blow at a Republican president, and its enactment would be equivalent to saying that a majority of the senate does not have confidence in the patriotism and good judgment of the chief executive—a statement which, when put in this form, is obviously not true.

Our future in the Philippines may well be left to the future. There is no need of haste in defining the limits of our intervention or subsequent jurisdiction. The duty of the hour is to put down armed insurrection; liberate trade and the pursuits of peace from the terrorism of a native dictatorship imposed upon the people of the Philippines through deception and by force; set in motion the fundamental energies of Anglo-Saxon civilization and then give attention to how the experiment works. To this end the senate of the United States might much better be engaged in passing the army reorganization and the Pacific cable bills than in wasting precious time in a fruitless debate over a qualifying resolution which, passed or unpassed, is nothing more than a scrap of scribbled paper.

Even in respect of the weather we are keen deep in history-making times.

For a Pacific Cable.

Inasmuch as two years at least will be required for the completion of a Pacific cable line after its authorization by congress, and in view of the growing necessity for speedy communication between the government at Washington and the American officials in Hawaii, at Guam and in the Philippines, the special message of the president urging the present congress to take the initiative in this important matter is fully justified. In this message the executive says:

"Such communication should be established in such a way as to be wholly under the control of the United States, whether in time of peace or war. At present the Philippines can be reached only by cables which pass through many foreign countries, and the Hawaiian islands and Guam can only be communicated with by steamers, involving delays in each instance of at least a week. The present conditions should not be allowed to continue for a moment longer than is absolutely necessary. The time has now arrived when a cable in the Pacific must extend as far as Manila, touching at the Hawaiian islands and Guam on the way. Two methods of establishing this cable communication at once suggest themselves—first, construction and maintenance of such a cable at the expense of the United States government, and, second, construction and maintenance of such a cable by a private United States corporation under such safeguards as congress shall impose. I do not make any recommendation to congress as to which of these methods would be the more desirable."

Expansionists and anti-expansionists should be as one on the proposition here set forth. For a considerable time at least American soldiers will do police duty in the principal islands of the Philippine group and the question of time in exchanging information between them and their superior officers at Manila and in Washington is likely to be at any time a question of life or death. Then, too, private interests require facilities for quick correspondence. The newspapers which keep the people informed as to what is going on in this far off corner of the world, the shippers whose cargoes are at stake; traders of various kinds and friends and relatives of Americans in these distant places all are interested in having congress act promptly on the president's recommendation. The people will expect a cable bill to pass ere this congress adjourns.

People of luxurious surroundings who have the least cause to complain seem disposed to howl the loudest about the inconveniences of the cold wave.

There is a suspicion that the latest fake story concerning Andree, the north pole balloonist, may have been founded on fact.

The Dreyfus case should be settled one way or another. Better frankly avowed injustice than idiotic indecision.

Certain portions of the recent report of the army investigating commission suggest that the members may have been laboring under the impression

that Major Daly was on trial before them.

If "ambassadors" Agonillo actually advised the recent attack on Manila after travelling the breadth of the American continent, it is evident that he belongs to the class that will never learn from experience and observation.

Chicago rejoices over the fact that it is becoming too cold in that city to commit murder.

NEWS AND COMMENT

According to foreign dispatches Professor Walter Nernst of Göttingen university has invented an electric lamp which does not require inclosure in vacuum as is the case with the present glow lamp. The Nernst light is emitted by a rod composed of rare earths, similar to those used in the manufacture of the Weibach mantle. These rods do not conduct electricity, cold, but heated. They give out a mild, yellowish light, and work equally well at any pressure, with consequent economy in copper. Concerning this invention the New York Sun says: Prof. Nernst's lamp is intended to take the place of the ordinary incandescent electric lamp, and according to the records which he has made in experimental work, it promises great economy in the production of light. As used in the present incandescent or glow lamps the electric current is conducted to a filament of carbon, which, because of its electrical resistance, or choking effect upon the current, is raised to a white heat, and thus emits light. To prevent the destruction of the carbon by burning it is enclosed in glass bulbs from which the air has been exhausted. The Nernst lamp does away with the glass bulb entirely, for in place of the combustible carbon filament he uses filaments of magnesium oxide, which are not combustible. These materials are notable for the large proportion of visible light rays which they radiate. The filament of the Nernst lamp is made of thin plates of magnesium oxide, which are examples of their value in this regard. These materials are, however, under ordinary circumstances non-conductors of electricity, and Prof. Nernst's discovery, which admits of their use, is that when they are heated they become conductors. Using this principle in his experiments with a glow magnesium tube, he obtained results which showed the expenditure of only 56 watts of electrical energy per candle power, against about three watts per candle power for the ordinary glow lamp. This economy in the use of electric energy could be utilized either by placing the glow lamp on a wire circuit or by reducing the size, and consequently the cost, of the copper conductors for the current. The cost of these is now very great.

What is known as the Torrens system for the registration and transfer of land titles is now in vogue in Cook county, Ill., and the Chicago Record gives this explanation of it: The procedure of bringing land under the operation of the law is not difficult. Officials may the services of an attorney are not necessary. The first step is to make application to the clerk of either the Circuit or the Superior court to have the land registered. Blank applications may be procured either from the clerks of the courts or at the office of the recorder of deeds, who under the law is the register of titles. The application is referred by the court to one of the examiners of the Registrar's office, who makes a careful examination of the title and reports upon it. The court then passes on the title, and if it is approved the Registrar registers the title as provided by law. The owner is given a certificate of title, which, after the expiration of two years is incontestable. The fees required for registering and the cost of the title which the owner has a clear title, unincumbered by conditions or limitations are as follows: Payment to clerk of court on filing application \$5 Registrar's fee for examination of title \$5 Advertising \$5 Total fees (except charge for indemnity fund) for bringing land under the act \$15 For land subject to mortgage or other limitation, or where the titles are derived from more than one source, the fees are somewhat more. There is another charge which will vary in amount according to the value of the land. When the title is first registered a payment of one-tenth of 1 per cent. of the value of the land is required for the creation of an indemnity fund. Under the law the title to land is made incontestable after two years. In order to prevent possible injury to persons, such as minor heirs, who may have claims to land which are not presented within two years, this indemnity fund is created, from which such persons may recover for their injuries. On land valued at \$10,000 the charge for the indemnity fund would amount to only \$10. When land is once brought under the operation of the act transfers thereafter may be made on payment of the similar fee of \$5 for registration. The transfer and issuing and registering the new certificate of title.

According to a Honolulu correspondent of the Chicago Record, nowhere in the world, perhaps is the telephone a greater factor in life than in Hawaii. In the islands there are about 10,000 telephones to a population of 100,000, or one telephone to every fifty-two inhabitants. On the island of Oahu, on which Honolulu is situated, there are 1,500 telephones to a population of about 45,000, or about one to each forty-one of the population. The correspondent adds: "The telephone is much more of a public institution here than it is in most places. Isolated as the islands are, the arrival of a steamer from a foreign land is of personal interest to almost every individual. The government maintains a lookout station on Diamond Head, from which approaching vessels in any direction can be sighted while still from twenty to forty miles distant, depending on the state of the atmosphere. As soon as a steamer is sighted 'Central' is notified. 'Central' then notifies the pilot office, the port physician, the board of health, the custom house, the postoffice, the newspaper offices and a few other persons who have a particular interest in having early information of this character. Then the electric light company is notified and it gives two long whistles if the steamer is from America, and three if it is from any other part of the world. For two minutes after these whistles are blown no telephone conversations are made, but the force at 'Central' keeps repeating the name of the steamer and its location, as 'Australia off Koko Head,' or 'China off Waialae.' So that all any individual needs to do is to go to the nearest telephone, put the receiver to his ear and listen, and he will know what steamer it is, where it is, and if he has lived here any length of time he can form an accurate judgment as to how long it will be before the steamer will be at the wharf. If the steamer is from America, a piece of news of general interest 'Central' gives it to everybody who calls up for a connection. In this way the destruction of the Maine was announced all over the island within ten minutes after the Zealandia, which brought the news, was at the wharf."

"Leaving the disgrace and humiliation out of sight, many an officer in the army or the navy would be glad," writes W. E. Curtis, "to receive the sentence that was passed upon General Eagan. In fact, nine-tenths of the population of the earth would grab at his situation if they could get it, speaking from a financial point of view. While it is true that he is permanently dishonored, and will bear the badge of disgrace the remainder of his life, his financial condition is assured to be beyond that of any other officer of the army or navy, and it furnishes some striking contrasts. Gen. Eagan will draw from the treasury of the United States during the next six years while he is under suspension a salary of \$5,500 a year, without being called upon to perform any

duty or bear any responsibility. He will have his entire time to himself. Capt. Clark of the Oregon while awaiting orders at his old home in Michigan, received \$100 less than one-half of the pay of Gen. Eagan in discharge. Having recovered his health, he is to be assigned to shore duty, and his pay with all his honors will be \$1,500 a year, or \$2,000 less than Eagan's. Admiral Dewey is now commanding at the Brooklyn navy yard, where his responsibility and cares are less than his pay. He will receive a salary of \$10,000 a year, or \$1,500 less than Eagan. If he should go on waiting orders or take a leave of absence, or be relieved from duty he would receive only \$3,000. Admiral Dewey at Manila is paid \$500 more than Eagan while he is in command of the Asiatic squadron. When he comes home at the end of his cruise and is assigned to shore duty he will be paid \$500 less than Eagan, and while he is awaiting orders or on leave of absence he will be entitled to \$1,500 less."

The first question that the newly appointed board of advisors appointed by the president to help the war department handle colonial matters will take up, according to a resident of Manila, is the organization of a complete system of taxation and collection of taxes of Cuba and Porto Rico. There is no system now in force; no equalization districts. The plan will be to furnish both islands with an equitable and just a system as can be arranged for the islands, to fall equally among the people. The proceeds are to be distributed for purposes of education, improvements, polling and matters of municipal affairs. Heretofore taxation has been based on the incomes and everything has been done on crude principles. The next general question in the work will be looking to recommendations for a system of taxation to certain franchises. The policy will be to have the people dealt with fairly in giving franchises, privileges and grants. Those who are interested must do a fair and just equivalent to the Cubans, and whatever profits accrue must go to Cuba's benefit. The board will make the appointment of tax collection districts. These collectors shall have charge under restrictions to be provided by the War department. There is to be no interference with the municipal authorities, but to aid them in their proper collection and distribution of their own taxes and more especially to relieve them of oppressive and unfair taxes.

Citizens of Buffalo are noted for their civic pride. One of them visited Washington the other day and a Post reporter that Buffalo would soon be the leading city on the continent and these are his reasons: "Already it stands sixth in the list of the great commercial cities of the world. Since 1890 it has forged ahead at the rate of 20,000 a year. Its shipping trade is enormous. Its annual tonnage is five times greater than that which passes through the Suez Canal. It is the largest flour depot and one of the largest grain markets of the world. It is also the largest lumber and coal market in the world. As a cattle market the city stands next to Chicago and Kansas City. In 1898 the stock market was \$5,000,000. Between 1890 and 1898 the increase in number of factories was 200 per cent. greater than that of any other city of the United States for the period. The four mills alone have a capacity of 1,500,000 barrels annually. Twenty-six railroads enter the city, and within its limits are 500 miles of steam railway tracks. With the aid of electrical power from Niagara it bids fair to become known as the 'electric city of the world.'"

If the naval appropriation bill authorizing the construction of twelve more warships passes without amendment, we shall be getting a sixth to fourth place among naval powers. We have now thirteen battleships, with a tonnage of 44,644 tons, and shall have sixteen of 45,154 tons, and five more of 48,000 tons, and will have six more of 15,000 tons. The total fighting strength of the navy now is 103 vessels of 236,304 tons, but the proposed increase will bring it up to 115 vessels of 428,431 tons. Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Italy having a heavier tonnage than we, although Italy has not so many vessels. Great Britain has 81 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,638,782; France 105 of 792,663 tons; Russia 111 of 518,552 tons; Germany 110 of 492,256 tons and Italy 87 of 361,415 tons.

Some innovations with respect to jury trials were introduced last year. In this it was provided in a new law that in certain instances a jury trial in civil cases shall be deemed to be waived unless it is expressly demanded and a jury fee of \$5 is paid. Otherwise the judges will try the case. Enactments of this character indicate to the Philadelphia Ledger's mind a tendency to adopt in the United States the practice of the judges of the continental countries, in which civil issues are not submitted to juries. The Louisiana Constitution provides that in criminal cases, in which the punishment is hard labor, nine members of a jury of twelve may render a verdict.

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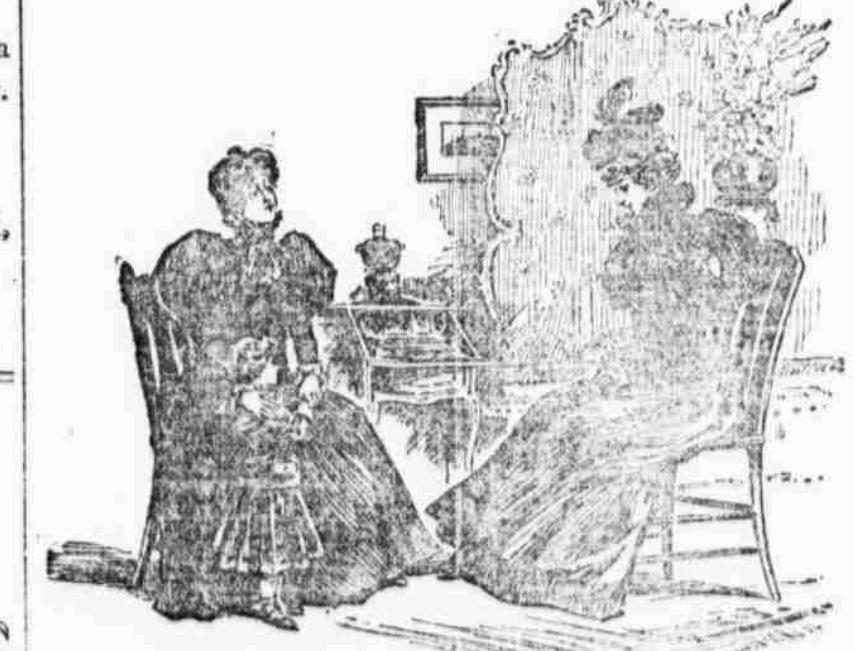
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