

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Mayor—JAMES MOIR. Treasurer—THOMAS R. BROOKE. Controller—P. J. WIDMAYER. School Directors—JOHN M. COURIER, MORRIS, GEORGE H. SHIRES, Assessors—WILLYM JONES, PHILIP RINSLAND, C. S. FOWLER. Election Day—February 21.

Under Republican administration the city of Scranton has invariably thrived; on the other hand, Democratic administration has been like a wet blanket. It is time to give the Democrats a rest.

For School Directors.

The school board in an institution which rightly commands the alert interest of every intelligent citizen. It touches the home at a sensitive spot. There may be wastefulness and jobbery and incompetence in other branches of the city government and the average citizen suffers chiefly to the extent of a few extra mills on the dollar of taxation—the price of a few extra pipefuls of tobacco or drinks of liquor. But mismanagement of the schools rouses parental feelings and is a handicap through life to every pupil whose educational opportunities are abridged by it. For this reason custom founded on common sense has made the selection of school controllers a matter of very marked concern on the part of the individual voter.

The courts may at any moment hand down a decision vacating the present board of control and giving power over the city's educational interests to the board of six school directors elected at large but not yet effective. Most students of the legal points involved in this controversy for authority incline to the opinion that the board of six will win. Should this expectation be realized, each member of the board will have three and one-half times the power now vested in the average controller, who is only one among twenty-one; and the election of two directors next Tuesday is equal to a ballot for seven controllers under the old system.

For the position of school director the Republican party has presented two names of men well known to the people of this city for long and creditable identification with school interests. John Courier Morris was for two terms a school controller representing the Fifth ward and for two terms secretary of the board. During these years and throughout his long career as a journalist and public worker in this community he has displayed a fidelity to school interests and a mind for progress well fitting him for election next Tuesday. The same can be said of George H. Shires, whom the city has not had a more efficient controller. The election of these men is a duty of all citizens of public instruction.

The decision in the senate on the McHenry resolution shows that the Republican leaders supported it in preference to swallowing a bitter dose. The United States senate needs a cleaning out.

The Public Library.

Librarian Carr's annual report on the condition and workings of the public library, now available in pamphlet form, is a highly satisfactory document. Perusal of it helps us to realize that we have a library worthy in every respect of the city. Its finances are administered with economy; its details are worked out with courtesy and efficiency; and the books that are day by day added to its shelves are the select and enduring literature of our own and other countries. With sufficient capital in hand it is not a difficult matter to accumulate a library to suit one's personal predilections, but in a public library all literary tastes and mental idiosyncrasies must be provided for; and this is no small task.

The number of books on hand in the Albright library in the closing month of the year amounted in sum total to 33,729. This is a magnificent collection in point of numbers considering the comparatively short time that has elapsed since the founding of the institution. But more noteworthy is the care and good judgment shown in their selection. The library shelves present no large preponderance of one class of literary subjects but a well-rounded representation of each department of literature, kept ever in the van of progress. Mr. Carr, it should be said, is a careful administrator of the funds placed at his disposal. He has not even made a requisition for a telephone, preferring instead to buy books with every available cent. Considering the amount of work that has to be done through in the time in which they are on duty, Mr. Carr's assistants have a great deal to do and their patience and skill are well tested. Moreover, it is work which requires classified knowledge and constant and undeviating attention. Imperturbable good humor is a first requisite on their part and library patrons do not find it absent. Scrantonians may well be proud of their magnificent library and of its administration.

Mr. McKinley's critics illustrate how easily a small man can point out the grave mistakes of the great.

High Time for a Show Down.

While William E. Mason and a number of other seceders in the United States senate have been calling General Otis and Admiral Dewey liars by professing to believe the assertions of Aguinaldo, Agoncillo and the other Malay half-breeds that the American troops at Manila began the recent fighting under orders from Washington, issued with a view to facilitating the ratification of the peace treaty, it is an interesting coincidence that during all this period of insinuation and fire from the rear the administra-

tion has had in its possession and has kept out of print the text of the intercepted dispatch from Agoncillo to Aguinaldo advising the latter to begin hostilities against the Americans before reinforcements for the latter could arrive at Manila. Writes William E. Curtis, one of the most trustworthy of the Washington correspondents, to the Chicago Record: "If the secret work of Agoncillo's accomplices in this country is ever fully made public certain United States senators and their unofficial associates will appear in a bad light. In the civil war people were locked up in Fort Lafayette for much less. The American branch of the Philippine Junta got into working order soon after the treaty was signed at Paris. It had its surface and its secret methods. From the beginning the government has been in receipt of confidential information that much more than moral support and encouragement has been given to the insurgents. Agoncillo and his companions have been given substantial assistance by money contributions. Their successive steps at Washington have been taken after counsel with United States senators. Proclamations, protests, appeals and ultimatums have been put out in quick succession to influence public sentiment in this country. Productions purporting to come from the Philippine Junta at Washington were inspired and written by the American sympathizers. Aguinaldo's name has been signed to papers of which he never heard. Agoncillo has been simply the puppet of men of wealth and high official position in this country. The purpose was to prevent the ratification of the treaty. All of this is plainly demonstrated by the confidential information now in possession of the government and there is a strong disposition to make it public, so that the people may know who have encouraged the Filipinos to resist the authority of the United States."

Intimations of this character have been made before and they are becoming disquieting. It is sincerely to be hoped that in the interest of justice the administration will soon divulge all that it knows concerning this matter. On the face of things the recent opposition in the senate to the peace treaty was inexplicable. Equally so is the persistent effort of certain senators, now that the treaty is assented to by this government, to nag at and embarrass the president in his requests for authority to deal with the new duties which have arisen and which have to be met. Common sense teaches that this perversity is not born of any principle. It is evidently partisan, venal or malleous. The good of the country calls for a show down of the inside facts bearing on this humiliating and exasperating spectacle and if it puts some of these sapsided senators in the pillory so much the better.

The war investigating commission censured Miles for not notifying the war department that it had been stuck by the beef packers. He says he did notify it and that his notification passed unheeded. If this is true the civilian war investigators owe him an apology.

An Inadequate Remedy.

The lament of the war inquiry commission concerning the lack of a clear definition of the respective duties and authority of the secretary of war and the major general commanding can be echoed by every citizen; but it is not so certain that public opinion will ratify the proposed remedy which would make the general of the army a kind of little 'T' dog under the custody of the secretary of war. This is the remedy which would naturally be proposed by the friends of the secretary but it is easily conceivable that in operation it might prove anything but fair or advantageous to the army.

Political accident determines the name of the secretary of war.

Sometimes he is fit; more often he is not. In recent history we have more than one example of the appointment of a war secretary on the familiar principle that something had to be done for the appointee and in the belief that in the war office he would have comparatively little to do beyond office routine and could not, therefore, get the country into serious trouble. This has been the rule of politics under both Democratic and Republican administrations; no man or party in particular is to blame, the fault is largely one of indifferent public opinion.

Not so, however, with the general in command. A man cannot rise to the position of major general in the regular army of the United States without knowing something about the army—about its needs, its capabilities, its personnel, its duties in peace and its possibilities in war. Soldiering in these modern days is no mere hit or miss profession but one necessitating careful special preparation and ripe experience. The man who can rise from one of the junior commissions to the first place in army rank and carry himself with credit in the ascent is necessary for a man having fitness for command which cannot be expected of civilian secretaries chosen under the peculiar exigencies of party politics.

If a man wanted a tooth pulled he would not go to a blacksmith, nor would he succeed in commercial speculation qualify a person to prescribe for the sick or handle the delicate instruments of scientific surgery. In private relations we recognize the need of special preparation for special service; it is only in public affairs that the notion obtains that the political Jack of all trades knows more about soldiering than the trained soldier and is a safer man to have command of military operations than the experienced general who has made military operations a life study.

The president of the United States, as the commander-in-chief of all the military and naval forces of the nation, and as the responsible head of all the nation's federal activities, should, of course, have authority to pick his general in command and to replace a poor general with a better one at his discretion. But satisfactory results will not follow in army administration so long as the attempt is made to clothe with autocratic powers transient civilians

at the expense of the trained soldiers in positions of responsibility.

Agoncillo claims that he had nothing to do with the attack on Manila, and insinuates that he has been the victim of the yellow newspaper man of America. If Agoncillo's nerve had been of a quality that would have permitted him to remain in Washington until news of the attack had reached this country, some converts might have been made to this hypothesis, but it is doubtful if even the Filipino's good friends in the senate will credit his last statement.

Whatever the ultimate form of the concentration, it has been apparent for some time that the individual coal operators would sooner or later be forced to combine for mutual protection on a basis which would insure unity of action. There have been numerous attempts at combination without unity; hence it is not surprising that the project of a combination by purchase and merger is now to receive trial as a last resort.

Among the appointments to office recently made at Washington is that of ex-Representative Moses A. Foltz to be postmaster of Chambersburg, Pa., and it is sufficiently creditable to deserve special mention. Mr. Foltz is the editor and proprietor of Public Opinion and one of the best citizens of the Cumberland valley.

Anti-expansionists will make note of the fact that an alarmist has suggested that the American soldiers at Honolulu will probably spread leprosy throughout the country when they return home.

The whole trouble in the Philippine country is the result of Uncle Sam's unwillingness to run the show and allow Aguinaldo and his friends to pocket the box-office receipts.

As the report of the failure of the Delaware peach crop comes by the way of Chicago this year, there will be no reason to doubt its authenticity.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 4:15 a. m., for Wednesday, February 15, 1899.

A child born on this day will prefer that the zero weather should come now rather than when the bluish is on the tundra.

The military spirit which makes men want to fight after the war is over is much better for the health of the subject.

There is apprehension in boarding-house circles in regard to the failure of the peach crop may precipitate a dried apple trust.

A movement to celebrate the birthday of the author of "Beautiful Snow" ought to be popular.

Has any one heard the first robin? Ajacchus's Advice.

Do not offer garden rakes for sale on this day.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The American flag has been raised on the Isle of Pines to stay, says the President and Secretary Day put into the protocol that "Spain cedes to the United States the island of Pines, and the adjacent islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies." It meant everything above water except Cuba, which was taken care of in another paragraph. It included permanent possession of the Isle of Pines, which gives us a naval station several hundred miles nearer the entrance of the great Gulf of Mexico than Porto Rico and a colony of which little has been said or written, but which promises to be of great importance. The Isle of Pines is directly south of Havana, and is reached by a railroad which runs across from Havana thirty miles to a chain of small islands like the Florida Keys, the journey is made in a few hours. From a naval point of view it is extremely important. It not only commands the south coast of Cuba, but the Yucatan passage to the Gulf of Mexico, as Key West commands the passage between Florida and Cuba. The harbor facilities are not good at present, but the coast survey is now making an examination and has already discovered two or three good bays to which navigable channels may be easily made. The Isle of Pines is about one-third the size of Porto Rico, embracing 1,214 square miles, broken up into hills and mountains, with an excellent climate and has been used as a sanitarium by wealthy Cubans. General Lee has been ordered to make preparations for a summer camp there during the sickly season to which our soldiers may be sent. The interior is mountainous and heavily wooded with mahogany and other valuable timbers. There are two or three small towns, which were used as penal colonies for political prisoners during the Spanish regime.

OF GREAT MERIT.

The Scranton (Pa.) Tribune Year Book is a work of great merit and one that exceeds by far the efforts of many more pretentious institutions. In addition to a large mass of local and general information, it prints fine half tone portraits of a number of city and other officials residing in Scranton, and, as far as known, the first instance of an artistically illustrated almanac. It is a creditable piece of work.

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The fool practical joker is apparently a permanent feature of colleges life. Here is his latest exploit as told in a press dispatch from Worcester, O.: "Ernest Weld, a freshman from Marysville, O., was initiated into the Coeex club of Wooster college, last night. He was placed in a box, gagged and handcuffed. An expressman delivered the box to his sister at Hoover cottage. The box was left standing in the cold when Weld was taken out he was almost dead from exposure, and his ears were so badly frozen that he may lose them."

The fortnightly Review's brilliant article on Lord Rosebery in the Dispatch of Liberalism will be reprinted entire in the Living Age for Feb. 15.

gas, water and drainage pipes in great cities, and even in towns, is becoming with each year one of greater importance. A prize was offered to the engineers of the United States by the Cosmopolitan magazine for the ablest article suggesting a scientific, economical solution of this problem. The paper of Henry P. Bryant has been selected by the committee as the one most ably meeting the conditions. It appears in the February Cosmopolitan.

Sir G. S. Clarke, K. C. M. G., F. R. S., contributes to the February number of the North American Review an exceedingly brilliant article entitled "Imperial Responsibilities a National Gain," wherein he discusses the new position the United States will henceforth occupy among the nations of the world. The responsibility for the government of the Philippines will, he asserts, be great, but if it is approached with high aims, a single eye to the general good, and a reverence for justice, ineluctable moral gains will accrue to the country as its reward.

In the February issue of the Forum there are two articles of especial importance at the present time. One by Commander H. B. Bradford on "Cooling Stations for the Navy." The other paper is by Hon. David J. Hill, assistant secretary of the navy, and is entitled "War and the Extension of Civilization." Mr. Hill claims that the terms "imperialism" and "expansion" do not meet the case. A more fitting phrase, he considers, to designate the aims and achievements of the nation is "the extension of civilization"; for it expresses the motive and controlling principle of the war and of the treaty by which it is to be concluded.

Current History, 4th quarter, 1898, appears from new new type, completing the eighth volume, which covers a year full of unusual historical interest. The contents include a critical estimate of Leo XIII, as pontiff and statesman. The war article reviews the peace negotiations up to the end of the year, giving substance to the treaty, the situation and outlook in the islands, and the problems of "imperialism," with the various suggested solutions and an indication of the trend of public opinion thereon. The recent Anglo-French crisis, the political developments in the Far East, and the general international situation in Europe are outlined, also the Dreyfus case, the proposed form of government for Hawaii, the Anglo-American commission, the currency question, and the issues of the recent state and congressional campaign in the "United States," with tabular statistics of Army and navy topics, the Trans-Isthmian Canal question, labor movements, political changes in various countries, progress of science and invention, notable biographies, etc., are a few of the other features of interest included within the world-wide scope of this invaluable work of reference, without which no library can be up to date. Published by the Current History Co., Boston, Mass. \$2.00 a year in advance.

G. W. Dillingham company will issue at once Edward Marshall's "The Story of the Rough Riders," illustrated with many engravings from photographs taken on the field. The book is devoted entirely to the Rough Riders, the first to land in Cuba, who raised the first American flag flown by the army on Spanish soil. It tells of the most desperate charges in the history of warfare. The author of this book fought and his name is forever linked with the Rough Riders, and he was one of the best newspaper writers in the country, and has held at one time or another the control of the greatest New York City newspaper. His work in Europe as the correspondent of the World and the Journal has made him almost as well known there as in America. His "The Story of the Rough Riders" is said to be the best work he has ever done. It is full of anecdote and episode.

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They have visiting them at the Nelsons' a Mrs. Duckworth from Kentucky, who used to be a great sufferer from constipation. She says she used to suffer greatly with headache too, due, no doubt, to indigestion and constipation, and tried every kind of remedy, but could find no relief until she began using Ripans Tablets. The very first Tablet gave relief, "and now," she says, "headache is a stranger." The indigestion and constipation disappeared, and she never felt better in her life than she does now. She considers Ripans Tablets the best medicine in the world.