

The Scranton Tribune

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If we are not to have a trial of Senator Quay before the adjournment of the present legislature perhaps there is a faint chance that the legislature itself will do a little probing on its own account and then come to a definite conclusion on the senatorship. This suspense is too much.

Misinformation. In a statement made in a Sunday paper John H. Fellows is credited with these words: "I have been informed that some of the members of the Tribune crowd tried to procure a promise from Captain Moir before the election that if he would listen to their dictation and advice he would support him. This, I understand, Captain Moir positively refused to do, which is only a further guarantee that he proposes to stand by the principles of true Republicanism, which means a government of the people and for the people, and not a government of the boss, by the boss and for the boss."

Mr. Fellows has been so informed, which we doubt, he has been misinformed. "The Tribune crowd" has never asked and never asks nor expects nor any favors from the handful of citizens in the city. "The Tribune crowd" has been industriously lied about and misrepresented for a number of years by a gang of pot-house boozers who, at different times, have failed to "work" it for their selfish purposes yet it stands today where it has always stood, for decent politics and fair play; and it will demand these in behalf of Captain Moir with as much cordiality and determination as if the last successful nominee for mayor had been a man of its own choosing. It is a Republican crowd, cheerfully abiding by the will of the Republican majority and anxious and eager for the continued success and supremacy of Republican principles; but it does not have to play the role of a mendicant for favors before any man or faction living.

On these lines "The Tribune" has been built up against sharp competition and in spite of the abortive malice of its pliant assailants until it has become a permanent, a profitable and an admittedly superior newspaper; and on these lines it will go on year by year to a larger growth and a firmer foothold long after the John H. Fellows type of statesman shall have passed out of the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

George Dewey is just level-headed enough to realize that during the next few years a good admiral will be fully as necessary as a good president.

The Quay Trial Postponed.

It will, we think, be learned with general regret that District Attorney Rethermel's conception of his "duty to the commonwealth," upon which phrase he based his motion for a postponement of the trial of Senator Quay until April 13, did not prompt him to state his reasons in open court, like a man. The people of Pennsylvania are vitally interested in this case and they have a right to know all the facts. If there has been shenanigan they should be informed of it. If on the contrary the case is a make-believe one for political effect and dare not be submitted to trial before a fair judge and an unbiased jury the sooner this is established the better.

We may in this connection say what has for some time been known by a few persons to be true, namely that Senator Quay's personal desire from the very inception of these prosecutions was for a speedy trial under any circumstances. He fought bitterly against the idea of his counsel to seek a postponement which would carry the case beyond the conclusion of George S. Graham's term as district attorney, and yielded only when the evidence pointing to probable unfairness under the Graham-Finletter regime was sufficient to appeal him. For this postponement he was then abused unmercifully and it remains to be seen how public opinion will now relate the employment of similar dilatory tactics by the prosecution.

It is entirely safe to predict, however, that M. S. Quay will either be fairly tried and convicted or the men who have indicted the man-hunt against him will be put off their high pedestals and landed plumply in the penitentiary. There is no conceivable middle course.

The Oregon is liable to arrive at Manila before the foreign correspondents, editorial writers and bulletin readers are able to agree upon Dewey's reason for requesting that the battleship be added to his fleet.

Now Probe. The committee appointed last night by Speaker Farr to investigate the charges of bribery preferred by the Philadelphia Press is equitably constituted and apportioned. It consists of two straight Republicans, two straight Democrats and one knicker. Krepes, of Franklin and Voorhes of Philadelphia represent the straightforward Republican element; Skinner of Fulton and Tighe of Luzerne are Democratic stalwarts and Kowitz of Somerset is the man whom the Wanamakerites a short time ago wanted to elect speaker. The proportion is fairly representative of the political complexion of the house and with their man Kowitz on hand to watch every man-over who not just refrain from showing up all the raceability that they have knowledge of.

The Press has charged that it has definite evidence of attempts to influence by corrupt means votes in the house on the question of the recon-

stitution of the McCarrall jury bill. It has announced its willingness to present before a legally constituted investigating committee both the names of the members thus improperly approached and the names of the men who tried to induce them from the path of official rectitude. Acting on this invitation the house authorized the speaker to name a tribunal, which he has done with obvious equity, and it remains to be seen how far the investigation will have to be carried. It has been intimated that the charges made by the Press were calculated rather to affect public opinion in Philadelphia during the Quay trial than to promote purity at Harrisburg; but with the Quay trial postponed for six weeks, there is no conceivable reason why the legislative probe should not in the meantime be inserted to the very heart of the legislative situation and made to uncover as much as possible of the dark-lantern intrigue which has attended this remarkable senatorial contest.

Speaker Farr is to be congratulated upon his firmness and resolution in meeting this demand in a manner which promises to let in a job of light, perhaps more than was bargained for. The men he has named will not only give air to the Philadelphia Press and the element which it represents in the tangled skein of contemporary political politics, but from what we know of them we suspect that they will give an open parliament to all other classes of accusers and yield the searchlight upon all factions and all men absolutely without fear or favor. In other words, it will be an investigating committee which will really investigate, and this promises a decided novelty in legislative proceedings.

Admiral Cervera declines to be made a scapegoat for the blunders of Spanish politicians and has demanded an open trial where he can be brought face to face with his accusers. In this painful emergency in his career the gallant old admiral will have the unanimous sympathy of decent men everywhere.

"Agin the Government."

The Democratic party leaders (whom we wish to separate as far as possible in these comments from the patriotic men forming the bulk of the Democratic party) have been peculiarly short-sighted and unfortunate in their attempts to frame political issues in time of war. Never noted for astuteness, they have allowed what little good judgment they possess to get away from them completely during great emergencies and the news from Washington shows that this habit among them has undergone no recent change for the better.

In 1861, when Grant was drawing the line out around the Southern Confederacy just preparatory to struggling it forever, the Democratic leaders held a national convention which pronounced the war for the preservation of the Union a failure and begged for a restoration of peace at any price. This bit of astuteness kept the Democracy out of office for exactly twenty years, and earned for it the just contempt of every loyal Unionist. Today a new generation of Democratic leaders are committing the same kind of harl karl. Although the Democrats in congress one year ago were the loudest of all the snorters for swift and relentless war and by their belated frenzied prevention of the president from securing the liberation of Cuba by the slower but more peaceful processes of diplomacy, yet no sooner was the war fairly launched than they began to criticize and complain at the manner in which it was prosecuted; later they fought with all their might the ratification of the treaty by which the administration had paved the way to the war's conclusion, howling not at the smallness but at the unexpected extent of the administration's victory; then they massed their strength to resist an increase in the regular army commensurate with the increased and unavoidable needs for military power called into being by this marvellously triumphant military campaign, and lastly we are told that they have solemnly met in a party caucus at the nation's capital and resolved at a time when Aguinaldo's Malay savages are shooting down the American soldiers and sailors who came to make them free that we ought to hurry up and surrender. They are afraid of the consequences; they are appalled by the possibilities; they would have Devey and Otis pack up and come home, leaving the flag which in three months swept the once imperial power of Spain from two great oceans to flutter down in cowardly retreat before a half-dressed band of Oriental bushwhackers.

What spirit of mischief has prompted this fatuous exhibition of unconsidered politics we cannot imagine; but if this is to be the modern Democracy's next line of campaign we fancy that Republicans will meet it willingly.

The anxiety of the Cubans to conduct a government of their own is a natural result of the long and painful struggle they have made for independence. But the intelligent men among them will perceive the propriety of letting the United States fix the time when the experiment can safely be instituted. The child which walks too soon is liable to become bow-legged.

The official career of howling Henry Johnson, of Indiana, will close on Friday next, when his term in congress expires. There may be a difference of opinion as to Henry's abilities as a legislator, but none of his constituents can support a claim that he has failed to attract attention.

Lady Curzon, formerly Miss Letler, of Chicago, has been decorated with the Imperial Order of the Crown of India. The pictures of the decoration suggest a bicycle racing medal, but Chicago is proud just the same.

To prevent congress from appropriating over \$1,000,000,000, but it has made a good deal more than \$1,000,000,000 worth of first-class history.

Of course there is liable to be some dissatisfaction among those of our new

proteges who imagine that the gift of freedom should place the name of the liberated on Uncle Sam's pay roll.

An increase of \$50,000,000 in the savings deposits of New York state during the past year is a testimonial which the advance agent of prosperity can well include among his future press notices.

Imperfect electric wiring caused the destruction of a dozen fine homes in New Orleans the other day. Electricity is a convenience which requires to be handled with intelligence.

Talk of a Roosevelt presidential boom is not so plentiful now as it once was but it will re-appear in good time.

NEWS AND COMMENT

In its Washington's Birthday number the Outlook quoted from the first message of President Washington to congress in which he urged "the proper establishment of the troops," showing that it would "be of importance to conciliate the comfortable support of the officers and soldiers with a regard to economy," and then added: "What Washington would regard as the proper establishment of the troops, and the proper adjustment of the army with reference to the comfort of the officers and the men, is indicated by his own arrangement of the commissariat department, when he took command of the military forces at the siege of Boston. We quote from Trevelyan's History of the American Revolution: 'The Massachusetts soldier received every day a pound of bread, half a pound of beef, and half a pound of pork, together with a pint of milk, a quart of good sprouts or malt beer, and an ounce of peas or beans. A pound of vinegar or salt fish was substituted for the meat on one day in the seven. Every week there were served out half a dozen cunes of butter and half a pint of vinegar or vinegar was to be had to each of the men, and one pound of good common soap among six of them.'"

A new feature of philanthropic effort is indicated by an interesting item taken from the New York Sun: "Mrs. George S. Studwell, of 108 West Fifty-eighth street, gave an entertainment at her home last night for the benefit of about 200 girls who work in factories and in the large department stores. Mrs. Studwell is a member of the Chi Kappa club, whose object is to entertain the girls by working girls by entertaining them and bringing them into contact with refined surroundings. Her husband is a Wall street broker. The entertainment did not differ in any respect from those held for Mrs. Studwell's society friends. The parlors were decorated with roses and carnations. The guests being women in dressing rooms, where they received every attention from maids in waiting. Mrs. Studwell received as she would have at a regular social function. A musical and literary entertainment consumed most of the evening. Among those who took part in this was Tom Karl, Lucille Scudder, Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Asa Ailing. Recitations, songs and monologues were given by professionals and amateurs. Supper was served by the girls themselves. The entertainment was given only for the girls themselves. The Chi Kappa club, of which Mrs. Studwell is a member, has given a number of such entertainments during the last six years, but that undertaken by Mrs. Studwell was on a larger scale than the previous ones. The girls who were the guests were selected by different members of the club. Mrs. Studwell said last night that her idea was to train the girls and to give them the refined associations, and that the results had been most gratifying."

The culinary life of the best people of Havana, writes a Chicago Record correspondent, is much like that of Europe. Coffee and rolls, the former black and the latter white, are the staple of the breakfast; but nutritious as are coffee and rolls, according to the wish of the partaker, breakfast, about like our breakfast, following at 12 a table d'hôte. More fruit is eaten here than with us and less meat. The latter is not demanded in this climate, and is too high and it is not as wholesome as our corn. It is a wise acceptance which precludes its free use in so warm a climate. With the coffee and rolls oranges and apples are eaten. And the manner of eating them is peculiar. They are served without their rinds and eaten from a fork. The entire fruit is pressed to the lips and the juice only partaken of, the pulp being discarded on a plate. Oranges are eaten greedily, several being partaken of at a meal. The Cuban orange is sweeter, even insipidly so, than the California one, but is not as firm nor as highly flavored. It is full of pits and equally full of juice. Oranges are eaten here in the streets in the rate of three or four per hour. The Cuban vendor pares the oranges much as our grandmothers pared the apple, without breaking the rind, and the entire fruit is bared of its peel. The latter is sold, probably for marmalade or to drugists and others for flavoring and other purposes.

Spelling reformers have not yet given up. Last week at the round table of city school superintendents which met in Columbus, O., R. B. Hoyle, of Lancaster, Pa., presented the report of the committee on spelling reform, which recommends that in all the published proceedings of this department the recommendations of the American and the British philological associations be adopted as far as sound recommendations refer to the dropping of the "u" in words in which it does not serve to lengthen the preceding vowel, but rather tends to mislead the learner; thus spell hav, six, arc, had (except definitely, as the case of "had" and "substitution of "f" for "ph" and "gh" and those digraphs representing the sound of "f" and "gh": Geography, fanaticism, and emul, and to the dropping of "gh" in all words in which this digraph is silent; thus spell that (thought), bou (bought), ai (aigh), etc. What in all words in which the amended spelling recommended by said associations is in accordance with the etymology of the word, it is in accordance with the usage of the department; thus spell count, sum, form, sin, the, hole, edit, hand, and gasty, etc. That the publishers of dictionaries be required to adopt the amended spelling of these changes by inserting those spellings with those now recognized in the body of all dictionaries published or revised hereafter, and that the publishers and editors of school books be requested to use only the amended form of spelling in such publications after July 1, 1900.

In Germany the municipal savings banks have adopted a novel method for inducing the laboring classes and small shopkeepers to save their money. Instead of requiring depositors to bring their money to the bank, collectors go about once a week, usually on pay day, to their homes or places of occupation, and collect it. This is done by the poorest class of the people and those who would be least likely to save anything from their wages unless they were thus urged to do so. During the last year, in Mayence, the receipts under this system in a single bank amounted to \$178,170, deposited by 5,793 persons, which was an

average of \$30.58 per capita. Among those who deposited \$100 or more was an average of 21 cents a week; 1,697 who deposited an average of 25 cents; 1,730 an average of 47 cents; 973 an average of 71 cents; 1,077 an average of 94 cents; 1,199 and 337 averaged \$2.38 a week.

The introduction of electric motor power does not seem, writes William H. Curtis, to affect the value of the cotton or value of the hay crop. In 1897 the acreage was larger and the yield was better, although prices were not so high, and the total value was \$28,860,000. The hay field, with one exception, is the richest source of our national wealth, richer than the coal or iron mines or the lumber forests or any other source of wealth. The value of the wheat crop in 1898 was \$32,750,300 and the value of the corn crop was \$32,022,125. Last year's hay crop of the United States was worth one-third more than all the gold the world produced and twice as much as the silver. The total product of all the mines in the United States last year reached \$510,000,000, which is only double the value of the product of the hay fields.

In the Philippines, according to the Chicago News, the law which relates to the property of married people is entirely in favor of the wife. Any property is entirely in her possession, and she has a chance settled upon the husband, and if he is poor and she well off, he can only become at most an administrator of her possessions. After death, unless she has executed a deed in her husband's favor under a lawyer's eye, the property goes to her children and blood relations. A married woman retains her maiden name and adds to it that of her husband with the prefix "de," and the children bear the names of both parents. The husband, symbolically, endows the bride with all his worldly possessions after marriage. In fact, it is clearly a case in the Philippines of "what's yours is mine and what's mine is my own," as far as women folk are concerned.

A report of the trade between Mexico and the United States for last year has been issued. Mexico's exports to the United States were as follows: Coal, 112,600 tons, valued at \$230,000; tobacco, 803,000 pounds, valued at \$25,000; raw sugar, 2,000,000 pounds, valued at \$14,500. Imports from the United States for the same period were as follows: Coal, 37,000 tons, valued at \$1,100,000; tobacco, 1,300,000 pounds, valued at \$10,000; refined sugar, 300,000 pounds, valued at \$15,000. During last year Mexico exported to the United States 30,650,000 pounds of coffee, a small amount compared with the 50,000,000 pounds of coffee consumed in the United States last year, but the exportation of coffee, coal, tobacco and sugar to the United States is a new industry and this trade is expected to grow.

Dr. Francis A. Harris, of Boston, has raised an interesting point in law and morals by suing for damages a dealer in birds and pets whom he charges with having sold to his wife an Angora kitten that was afflicted with consumption. The kitten was sold to the family by a dealer of contagion. Pets like Angora cats, he says, very often spread disease, and he has no doubt that a child or person not in good health who might have played with his wife's late pet would have contracted the disease. He considers the selling of an animal under the circumstances exposing to a very serious danger. In this case he also sees an explanation of mysterious cases of disease, where the friends of the stricken one find themselves unable to tell where it was contracted.

Western advisers tell of a new cloud on the early horizon. The Bachelor Girls' association of Michigan has determined to extend its field of operation. An effort will be made within the next sixty days to start organizations in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. It is proposed to organize societies in every town and county with a view to pleasing members. Not to entertain proposals of marriage until the age of 30 years has been reached, and stipulating qualifications for men who would be eligible for matrimony. The promoters of the movement believe that the divorce evil may be partially eradicated by such an organization.

Visitors to the Omaha exposition who, while there, inspected the Grant Smelting company's plant, the largest established in its kind in the world, which daily turns out several cubic yards of refined gold and silver, will be interested in the Denver dispatch, which says that the head of that company, ex-governor James B. Grant, a lifelong Democrat, has announced in emphatic terms that he is no longer a supporter of Bryan or the cause of silver, and will hereafter train under the banner of William McKinley.

At Fort Scott, Kan., the other day the Presbyterians and the Methodists had an old-fashioned spelling match, with 32 on each side. One by one the contestants were spelled down until only two Presbyterians and one Methodist remained. Then the master gave out the word "pitan," and all three missed it, leaving a sixtieth for neither side. The word is defined in the dictionary as a multilingual decoction used as a drink, and it is not to be expected that Presbyterians and Methodists would know much about such drinks.

Ground oyster shells were given by the sixty days doctors, who are suffering from rickets and scrofula. Now it appears that they were right. The shells contain lime, nitrogen, iron, sulphur, magnesium, fluorine, bromine, phosphoric acid and iodine, all excellent for feeble children. They say that if growing children were to take powdered oyster shells in their food the teeth would be improved.

Athens, O., has a domino game in progress that probably has no equal in the world. A gentleman and his two sons started this game several years since, and it is not finished yet. First one and then the other has been the least until now the score is one of the sons is 12,010, the score of the other son 12,025, and the father brings up the rear with 18,919.

Base ball is taking Santiago by storm. At the second game, played last week between a Cuban and an American picked nine, spectators, including members of the best native families, attended. It may cheer the patriotic feelings of our readers to record that the Americans won by the suggestive score of 15 to 1.

THE SUPERIOR COURT.

From the Philadelphia Times. The Superior court of Pennsylvania was organized on the 1st of July, 1895. It was regarded as an experiment and many had grave doubts about preserving the judiciary harmony with two appellate courts, and the junior court a tribunal of the highest rank in the state. It is now a fact that the court has been successful in its work, and has commanded very general respect for its decisions alike from the bar and the public, and the fact that it has rarely been reversed by the Supreme court is a high tribute to its fidelity and ability.

We have before us a summary of the

business of the Superior court for the three years ending on the 1st of July, 1898, and it is an interesting study. Its creation was necessitated by the greatly overworked Supreme court of the state. The labors of the Supreme judges had become so exacting that it was an utter impossibility for them to give anything like just consideration to the many cases which came before them for final decision. The record before us shows that in the first year of the Superior court 42 cases of the appeals were taken to that tribunal, leaving 28 for the Supreme court. In 1897 the percentage of appeals to the Superior court was 45 to 55 for the higher court; and in 1898 42 per cent. of the appeals went to the intermediate court. In 1894, before the creation of the Superior court, there were 1,103 appeals to the Supreme court of the state, and that number was reduced to 623 in the first year of the new tribunal. Last year there were 623 appeals to the Supreme court and 45 to the Superior court.

There is the right of appeal from the Superior to the Supreme court in cases involving constitutional questions, when the Superior court itself transfers it to the higher tribunal, and a special allocation may be granted by a judge of the Supreme court to bring up any judgment of the Superior court for review. Applications for a special allocation to remove a case from the Superior to the Supreme court by review have been refused in 41 cases. They have been allowed in 14 cases in which the judgment of the Superior court was affirmed, and also allowed in 10 cases in which the Superior court was reversed. Of the appeals taken to the Superior court 20 per cent. were discontinued or not pursued. Opinions were filed quashing appeals in 21 cases, affirming judgment in 64 cases and reversing judgment in 32 cases. In the same time 63 concuring opinions were filed and 23 dissenting opinions.

It will be seen from this record covering the whole service rendered by the Superior court, that it is now charged with the final decision of nearly one-half the cases appealed from the lower courts, and its duties have become severely exacting. With our two appellate courts the labor of both are greater than they should be to assure the careful and proper consideration of the issues and questions involved. Not only is the necessity for this Supreme court clearly shown, but its record proves that it is entitled to the confidence of the public as it has commanded the trust of the Supreme judicial tribunal of the state in a very high degree. Its creation is fully vindicated by the record it has written, and every good citizen will be gratified to learn with that fidelity it has performed its responsible duties.

KIPLING'S GREATEST POEM.

God of our fathers, known of old— Lord of our far-flung battle line— Beneath whose awful hand we hold Dominion over palm and pine— Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies— The Captains and the Kings depart. Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, An humble and a contrite heart. Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far called our navies melt away— On dune and headland sinks the fire— Lo, all our pomp of yesterday Is one with Nineveh and Tyre! Jesus and the meek and lowly King, Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If drunk with sight of power, we loose Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe— Such boasting as the Gentiles use— Or lesser breeds without the Law— Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen hearts that put their trust In cunningly tricked and deceitful ways— All shall adore and Thee to guard, For frantic boast and foolish word, Thy mercy on Thy People, Lord! Amen.

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