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TEN PAGES.

SCHANTON, MARCH 10, 1899.

There is a limit to the prerogative of pens to be a postmaster. Editor Bogart's conception of his privileges in the way of prying into his neighbors' business promises to offset in trouble for himself, the "secop" he had on bis esteemed contemporaries.

Real Ballot Reform. As noted yesterday the Kentor ballot bill has passed second reading in the state house of representatives. The essential feature of this bill is the safeguard which it throws around the admission of helpers into booths to mark the ballots of disabled voters. The Kentor bill provides "that a voter shall" paring his battet only where, under outh, he states that he cannot read the ballot or from physical cause is unable to mark it. The helper must subscribe to on oads or affirmation that ballet, and the election officers must the name of the helper."

of any disability be desires assistance. in the preparation of his ballet, the judge shall permit him to select a qualified voter to nid him in the preparation of his ballet. The mere application of the voter for assistance makes it obligatory upon the judge to permit him to have such assistance. The practical effect of this, as the Philadelphia Ledger recently pointed out, is that voters who are venal or under coercion take politicians into the booths with them, and the secreey of the ballot is lost, even if actual corruption or coercion is not accomplished.

The Keater bill, as reported to the house, also embodies the essential feacircles and grouping the names of the the office rather than with reference to the party. This, as has been frequently explained, is the real Australian ballot, the one which in operation has proved decidedly more satisfactory in other states than the present monstresity ballot law has proved in Pennsylvania. It the combined Keater and Martin bills can be enacted at this session it will go a great way to reconcile the people to the ression's numerous fallings and constitute the best single forward step toward improved political wealth. But we hardly dare hope for

all the taxes collected by them should be amended to read 100 per cent, and a leather medal to boot.

Techinicality vs Justice.

to the curious law points involved in the fase of the Brooklyn clubman, Molmeux, under indictment for sending poison which caused the death of a blackmailer of a dangerous type. Mrs. Adams The most rotable of these concerns the accountability of a man who while helding evil intent toward one person is unintentionally instrumental in sacrificing the life of another. The prosecution in the Molineax care will, it is announced, claim that Melineux stands before the law exactly as the burglar does who, being surprised in burglary, fires a pistol with intent to kill the man who has surprised him in the act, but whose bullet, instead of hitting the intended victim, strikes another person and kills him; or that Molineux, before the law, is in the same position as a man who aims a pistol at one person with intent to marder him, but whose aim is poor, and whose shot kills another person, whom the murderer did not know, and whose death he did not desire. In other words, it will be held by the proseeation that the law presumes malice when a person engaged in committing a felony also does an act which he did not really intend to do. But a technicality hereupon arises,

We use the words of "Holland," the New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Press: "The facts are that Cornish received the bottle of bromo seltzer several days before he opened the bottle, had opened it and given are disfranchised the better. some of its contents to Mrs. Adams, the familiar principle of the law would undoubtedly apply in this case, but it is regarded here as a very serious question whether, after several days, during which this bottle was in the exclusive possession of Cornish, that delay two and two together may discover a pretentious. toes not completely disconnect the giving of the drug to Mrs. Adams from the high felony of which Molineux is now accused." This, it is understood, will be the line of argument of the defence, an argument which will be sup- paper agitation to effect public reforms ported by the best ability and keenest egal ingenuity that great wealth can the notorious Allen bill. The legisla-

ticular case in the newspapers but who in ideals and methods represented simply as a matter of public interest it about all that was debasing in public could ever be confused into exonerat- ment with certain corporate influences ing the sender of a poison because the to put through a law which was subrecipient failed to use it until some sequently enacted and signed, the govtime after its receipt. Unlers there is ernor of Iillneis, John R. Tanner, lendmore in the Molineux defense than this ling his indorsement to the scheme.

The Scranton Tribune | residence, not only conveyed thither charge at the rate of not exceeding 5 | Strong Plea for There seems to be no provision in the

Humanity in Punishments.

A measure looking to the paroling of convicts by the board of managers of penal institutions has been introduced in the state senate by Mr., Muchibronner of Allegheny, one of the few men an editor even if he incidentally hap- in the legislature who have devoted time and thought to the prison problem and shown the ability to take a humane view of it. The bill provides that the paroling shall be subject to the approval of the governor and shall apply to prisoners under sentence other than for murder in the first or second degree, or rape; and who have or may serve onethird of the term for which they were entenced, and who have not previousbeen convicted and served a term for felony. Prisoners violating the conditions of the parole are to be treated as escaped prisoners.

be permitted to have assistance in pre- states and it bears the indersement of ly reconsidered the matter and fell in many of the foremost penologists. Its line with the procession. And thus the underlying theory is that it is far better to try to reclaim a first offender by working on his better nature and was given to professional corruptionhe will not attempt to influence the hidden springs of ambition and love of and courage of three splendid newsvoter or direlose the contents of the approbation than to treat him as a papers, the Chicago Times-Herald. public enemy, unworthy of confidence record opposite the name of the voter or sympathy or help. The old-time conception of justice as primarily a At present, if any voter declares to legal scheme for getting even with the judge of election that by reason criminals produced the result of overcrowded jails and groaning gallowses but it had no appreciable effect in diminishing crime. On the contrary, as familiar statuties eloquently show, the criminals multiplied faster than the population and it seemed only a queson of time when civilization itself would be engulfed in the rising tide of riminal activity and impulse.

Forkunately there were men who tudied this problem and came to the was like the divine way of curing sin -to loathe the crime but to pity and a help the criminal, as Divinity loathes sin but has for the sinner not vindictive anger but Infinite compassion. tures of the Martin bill abolishing party | These men-an honorable minority amid an indifferent and frequently a various candidates with reference to contemptuous majority-took up the work of prison reform, laying stress upon the need of getting the criminal to rise above crime, and they have persevered in this direction until slowly but surely our whole punitive system. inherited with little change from the parbaric ages, is undergoing a reconstruction along the lines of humanity and common gense.

We are glad to see the Pennsylvania legislature falling into line.

Mrs Sarah Angell, the alleged wife conditions ever taken in this common- of Jay Gould, whose attempt to secure some of his millions has made the heirs so much trouble, proves to be somewhat of a myth. Her name is not Sam Losch's bill permitting collectors Sarah. She swears she was never marof taxes in boroughs and townships to ried to Jay Gould and never saw him retain as commission five per cent, of in her life. Thus falls to the ground one of the boldest swindling ever concected. Mrs. Angell, the tool, is an ignorant woman who herself admits that she "has wheels in her head" and who evidently had but a hazy idea. We called attention a few days ago of the gigantic fraud she was assisting to perpetuate. The chief factor in the conspiracy is Mrs. Cody, who, it is hoped, will get her just deserts as a

Compulsory Voting.

The compulsory voting bill pending at Harrisburg provides that if a qualified elector fails to exercise the right of suffrage he shall be subject to a fine of \$5 unless he can prove that he was wherein he is a voter. The money thus collected is to go to the school fund. This remedy for civic indifference does not possess the favor of the people. But it is possible that a time may come when the community in general will perceive the necessity of protecting itself from the citizen who shirks his public obligations. If this shirkeer alone had to bear the evil consequences its own punishment; unhappily, while the shirker hurts himself by his neglect of civic duties he hurts others as well. If bad government comes as a result of his indifference all have to sufferthe innocent with the guilty. Hence it hand and to administer discipline. The sibly that is a more delicate subject, only question is as to the choice of

methods. Perhaps a law providing that three consecutive failures to vote shall perit. It was in his hands at least forty- manently disfranchise unless there be eight hours after the mail carrier de- adequate excuse would cover the livered it to him. After that lapse of ground. The disfranchised citizen time he opened the bottle, took from it | would constitute a walking horrible exthe amount customarily given for the ample before the eyes of all men. The cure of sick headache, and it was this roll of such unfrocked citizens would be portion that caused the death which a roll of dishonor. Few honorable nice. led to the indictment of Molineux. If would care to get on it; and as for dis-Cornish, immediately after receiving honorable men, the more of them that

> Admiral Dewey states that he may die at Manila, and in a fellowing paragraph requests that people in this | dently decided to dissect China first. country refrain from writing letters to him. Persons in the habit of putting meaning in this.

The Power of the Press.

An interesting illustration of the power of honest and intelligent newsis supplied in Illinois in the repeal of ture of that state fell into the control Without endeavoring to try this par- of a ring of Cook county politicians that the boarding-house spring lamb hath would seem that no intelligent mind life. These men entered into an agree-

the n she may expect an early verdict. This law, known as the Allen law, authorized municipalities to grant An enterprising tenant of Queens franchises for street, cable, and eleccounty, N. Y., in moving to another trie railroads for a term of years not how, a short distance from his former | exceeding fifty, and permitted them to the form

residence, not only conveyed thither charge at the rate of not exceeding 5 woodshed, and was engaged in taking animus of the law became apparent the house away by piecemeal when when, immediately following its signahis proceedings were checked by the ture, the syndicate which controls the asionished landlord. This individual is street rallways of Chicago caused to be now puzzling himself and the courts introduced in the council of that city as to how he will recover damages a bill giving it a 50-year extension of franchise rights on ridiculously low law for this sort of transfer of real terms of compensation. Thereupon the decent press of Chicago took up the matter, exposed the rottenness of the political connection between the street railway syndicate and the sponsors of the Allen bill and of the Yerkes franchise ordinance, and by dint of continuous and unrelenting effort carried the matter into every legislative district of the state and elected a new legislature pledged to repeal the Allen bill. In the meantime, as our readers may recall, the Yerkes ordinance was beaten and a new franchise grant, with a 20-year limit and the payment of equitable compensation, was substi-

One day this week Governor John R. Tanner, of Illinois, had placed before him a bill repealing the obnoxious bill which he had so subserviently signed the session before. The word had gone forth that he would veto the repealer; but when he reviewed the situation This system is not an experiment. It and found the legislature in mood to has proved its usefulness in many pass the repealer over his veto he wiseperpetration of a great wrong was averted and a wholesome object lesson by seeking to put into operation the ists-owing chiefly to the independence Record and Tribune,

> Frankness will not always ruin a man, but it frquently causes the loss

An Unfair Discrimination?

The Christian Scientists of Philadelphia are very mad. Warden Cassldy, of the Eastern penitentlary, refuses admittance to that sect of religious workers, not from choice, he says, but because such has been the ruling given to the institution by its management. There are many very good and sincere people who belong to conclusion that the way to cure crime the Christian Science faith. They like to experiment upon the prisoners as well as upon other people's children, mothers-in-law and poor relatives. They, therefore, feel very much injured at their exclusion and indignantly demand to know why in a state institution, supported by their money as well as Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist and other denominational money, they are not permitted to get "at" the inmates, and they propose to know the reason why.

They want to distribute tracts just as the brethren and sisters of other churches do. They want to have a chance to heal the mind diseased by rime and to do their share of the praying. They want to sing Christian Science hymns in the big rotunda and get some of the credit for working reform in the unregenerate hearts. But the only method that seems to offer a reasonable opportunity of affording them entrance is to commit some misdeed which will place them behind the bars. There have been occasions when the public has called their mode of practice upon the sick by a very ugly name and has suggested that the loss of life which followed was plainly culpable neglect resulting in practically killing their patients, but even this custom has not been effective in opening the prisons to them.

No really good reason seems to be advanced as to why Christian Scientists are excluded from visiting the Eastern penitentiary in a religious capacity. It isn't at all likely that they could do any harm. Certainly their literature would scarcely have a deleterious effect upon the criminals, as it is beyond the intelligence of most readers and their prayers and songs would scarcely be a menace to the peace and sick or absent from the city or county safety of those immured in the cells or to the gaurds. Why keep out the Christian Scientists?

A bill has been introduced at Harrisburg authorizing any owner or tenant and occupant of any enclosed land to arrest upon view and without warrant any person who shall be found upon such land violating the fish or game laws. This measure may be of excellent intent but it is as plain as daylight of his shirking the crime would carry that in operation it would be simply a monstrous mechanism of petty tyranny and annoyance. It should die a natural death.

A bill to prevent judges from riding on railroad passes has been introduced is clearly within the right of the public in the state legislature but nothing is in general to take the shirker's case in said about the solons themselves. Pos-

> Forto Rico must have a grudge against General Fred Grant. She keeps so quiet that it is impossible for him to secure any free advertising.

Some of our exchanges intimate that if Mr. Balley really intends to retire from action in congress the constitution is liable to get lost in the shuffle.

The juil that has fallen about his official head would seem to justify Consul Wildman in changing his name to something less suggestive.

up Turkey a short time ago have evi-

The nations that expected to carve

Pretender Carlos is becoming less

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrombe Cast: 245 a. m., for Friday,

March 10, 1899. 3 3 Call Control A child born on this day will notice

a rubber neck. The early rcbin does not seem dispos to icopardize his throttle by vocal efforts while the influenza season lasts. One may have the grip without becom-"liner" these days.

Whether or no life is an empty dream renerally depends upon the head of tue dreamer. Late news from Harrisburg indicates

that the stampede has neglected to fol-low Hen. Nate Mackey.

Ajacchus' Advice. Do your planting on the sunny side of

an Iron Reserve.

From the Daily Financial News.

THE fron trade is beeming in all the iron centers of the country. Every furnace in working order and that can command supplies of coke and ore is in blast and turning out all the pig iron it can produce, to fill orders given months ago, and which It will yet take months to complete Meantime the Iron of the country that has not some into consumption is in second hands and prices are asked for all forms of iron and steel, from pig from up, from 25 to 40 per cent. above the contract prices at which it is being produced, and the control of prices bar passed wholly from the producers. The stock of pig iron in the furnace vards of the country and in the yards of the American Pig Iron Storage Warrant company is steadily decreasing, and on Feb. 1 was down to 473,262 tons, as otficially reported, or less than a two weeks' supply.

The stock of iron kept on hand by the

trade has always been small in this ountry, producing being relied on, aided when necessary by imports, to meet special demands. But consumption is now in excess of production in the United States, and foreign stocks are low and growing smaller by reason of the large world's demand. Because of the small stocks we have usually kept. three or four weeks' supply, as a rule every business boom has found its progress hampered and finally checked and set back, heretofore, by short supply and high prices of iron, for the reason that the very first demand that every business revival calls for is upon the iron supply. Iron and its products, and steel, in their various forms, constitute the foundation of all the modern arts and of commerce, now much more so than ever before. The agriculturist, the miner, the manufacturer the carrier on land and sea, moves upon and by the power of iron and steel tools, machinery, ralls and ships. Modern construction in bridges in great buildings, and in hundreds of new ways depeds on iron and steel, so that expunsion of business calls immediately, urgently and more largely than ever before, in proportion upon the iron supply, and, failing to get it, or having to pay exorbitant and prohibitory prices, the boom comes to an end be cause new enterprises cannot be prefit ably carried on and projected improve ments become prospectively too expensive. It is an age of iron and steel.

Our prosperity has been due to many causes growing from the manifold advantages of our natural resources. In Great Britain prosperity has been very largely due to the early organisation of the iron trade. The Scotch warrant system, which has been in operation for more than half a century, has given the British iron trade a balance which, in the way of a reserve supp y has been wholly lacking in this country. In a majority of years since the warrant system was founded in Scotland the supply in the warrant yards has exceeded in six months' consumption, and in several of the years it has exceeded a year's supply. This has made it possible for contractors to undertake large works because they could supply themselves with iron under contract as quickly, as easily and with as little change of price as a flour miller or cotton manufacturer in this country could contract for wheat or continue impregnable. otton. The warrant system of Scotland has been applied throughout Great Britain, and one of the large resuits already due to it has been the British supremacy in shipbullding and prosperity in many other lines involving large and certain supply of iron and steel at stable and known prices.

The business revival of 1854 was ended by a rise in the price of pig iron from \$19 to \$50, and the panic of 1857 followed. The revival of 1863, forced by the necessities of our civil war for increased productions in many lines of trade, ran iron up from \$18 (to which price it had fallen in 1862, after the '57 panie), to \$80 in the central states and to \$74 in the Eastern states. The revival which followed the war, resulting from the development of the West and South by the soldlers of the two great armies, who had returned to peaceful production, pushed iron up from \$35 in 1870 to \$60, and checked development and brought on the panic of 1873. Iron fell to \$20 in 1879, and Its production for the preceding six years had been at a loss. The turn of 1877 from big crops and a large foreign de mand, and the revival of 1879-81, sent iron skyward again. In 1878 our production of pig iron was 2,301,215 tons and our imports of iron and steel rails 2,611 tons. In 1879 production was 2,-741,853 tons of pig iron and we imported 152,791 tons of rails. In 1880 produc tion was 3.835,000 tons, and rail imports jumped again to 302,304 tons. In 1881 the figures were 4,144,254 production and imports 295,666. Average prices were \$17.63 in 1878, \$21.50 in 1879, \$28.50 in 1880 and \$21.12 in 1881. The extreme rise in 1880 was \$30 in this country and \$15 abroad on pig iron, for we imported very large quantities of pig iron in those years. This checked new work and stopped the boom. In 1882 imports fell off to 118,000 tons, and in 1883 werdown to 7,971 tons.

The booms have run out of ammunition-iron. That tells the story, and it shows the imperative need of a reserve supply. We should have at least a six months' supply, and a year's supply would be better, in warrant yards, where every contractor and large consumer can make a supply in advance and calculate its exact cost, including interest and carrying charges. business development would be of steady growth then, and not be bolted and broken down by iron famines. We are under new conditions, both in our iron trade and in general trade in this country, and better conditions than ever before. But as our business is larger and exports of all manufactures increasing, so must it be carried on with increased conservatism and security for continuance. Our big productive machine must run full time, or there will be trouble.

As, an indication of the change in conditions, we imported, in values, from 1887 to 1896, nearly three hundred and seventy million dollars' worth of iron and steel in all forms, the years running down from forty-nine to twenty-five millions. We exported in the same years two hundred and seventy millions of iron and steel, the years running up from sixteen to forty-one millions. In 1897 imports were down to less than thirteen millions, and exports up to fifty-seven millions. For eleven months of 1898, to November, imports were eleven and a half and exports

nearly seventy-five million dollars. This shows a revolution. Revolutions do not turn backward. They either go forward, or they fall. We can run no oom on imports henceforward. ports would advertise the fact that the boom was out of ammunition. Foreign stocks are no longer our reserves. Not are there any foreign stocks available for our present expanded development We must rely on our production, and above all we must utilize the first les up in demand that will permit of accumulating a reserve to get it into the warrant yards. Then we can go on in safety in all lines of expansion.

BRYAN IN 1900?

From the New York Sun.

The discussion in Tammany circles of candidate for the presidential nomina on to be supported at the next Demo ratic national convention in opposition to Mr. Bryan may be said to be interesting rather than important. The arguments for the advisability of Mr. Augustus Van Wyck are that when he ran his unsuccessful campaign for governor of New York last year he took pains to avoid giving offence to the straight and regu ar Democracy by refusing absolutely to express himself on the silver question and that he commended himself to south orn favor by serving during the civil war on the Confederate side. The circumstance that he was unable to carry his own state so lately as 1898 is, however, an rremovable stumbling block; and, of course, his policy of hedging on the issue which most of all fires the Democratic heart, could not be repeated in a national canvass. He would be compelled to con-fess exactly where he stood in order to escape from becoming the laughing stock f the whole Union.

Moreover, Tammany has proved by its ecent proceedings that it is no longer orimarily and distinctively an organiza-tion for political purposes, but rather a machine engineered for the furtherance of money-making schemes of its leaders. Consequently even the little influence it had before in national Democratic politics has been lost to it. Wherever clae the Democratic party goes for a candidate in 1989. It may be assumed positively that the last place in which it will seek him will be the ranks of Tammany. It will not make Tammany and its methods a national issue. Nor is the suggestion of union upon Mr. Gorman by the Democratic opponents of Mr. Bryan a reason-able probability. Mr. Gorman has demable probability. Mr. Gorman has demonstrated that he cannot carry his own state of Maryland, but has been compelled to see it pass over to the Republicans under his leadership of the Democracy. Such a man is not likely to commend himself to practical politicians as a possible candidate for president.

The Democratic opposition to Mr. Bry-in, therefore, has not yet been able to lay out any programme with a plausible chance of being carried out successfully. The nucleus of it must be Tammany, necessarily, but never before in its whole history has Tammany been so complete y discredited in this city, this state, and broughout the Union as it is now. If the Democratic party suffered Tammany to direct its national policy and name its candidate, it would be in an even more desperate case in 1900 than it is at pres ent. Moreover, the Democratic national convention will know very well that Tammany will be obliged to support the party whoever the candidate or what-ever the policy, and that, therefore, its feelings in the matter are not worth consideration. The Democratic party in 1896 attracted to it about a million Populist votes by adopting the Chicago platform and nominating Bryan, and the necessity for retaining these obtainable votes rather than the forlorn hope of bringing back to the Democracy states which have con-tinued since then to stand by the Re-publicans, will influence and determine the judgment of the practical politicians in the convention. So far, therefore, the position of Mr. Bryan as the logical can-didate of the Democracy in 1900 seems to

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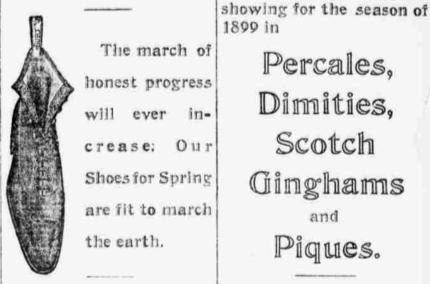
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