

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed for publication, by the writer's real name.

Quay Should Be Seated.

THOUGH IT BE true that the question of the admission or rejection of M. S. Quay by the next senate upon credentials of gubernatorial appointment is one not likely to be affected by any amount of newspaper discussion either pro or con, but it is to be mainly a matter of the personal judgment of a majority of the senators already seated, yet certain general principles are at stake which seem to merit brief consideration.

Under our form of government it is clear that the intent is that each state shall at all times have two representatives in the United States senate. Full representation is an essential part of the scheme of a senate parliament of co-equal states. The deprivation of a state's complete representation, whether by death, accident or intrigue, is a destruction of the equilibrium immediately to be remedied if the senate is in session or to be remedied as soon as possible after the senate shall convene. This is the undisputed intent, the animating spirit, of the Constitution of the United States and of the men who framed it.

Upon this broad principle we erect the proposition that M. S. Quay by gubernatorial appointment should be entitled to sit in the senate of the Fifty-sixth congress. He was the caucus nominee of his party. He led the list of candidates at every vote of the legislature in joint session assembled. Although he did not have at any time a majority of the entire vote cast he came so near having it that no other candidate ranks in the same category with him. The absence of a majority from his standard was the work of treachery and intrigue, without sanction from the people, and by a margin just enough to deadlock the assembly but not enough to name any senator instead. The insincerity of the opposition was shown in its failure to bring its majority strength in for any one aspirant for Quay's place. The appointment by the governor simply completed the work where the people left off and, if ratified, will save the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania from having to get along in this important coming session of congress with a smaller representation in the national senate than will be enjoyed by the mining patch called Nevada, with a total population hardly so large as that of the section of our city commonly known as Hyde Park.

Upon the constitutional quibbles raised in Quay's case the senate at different times has decided to different purposes. Each senate is the sole judge of the questions here at issue. But on the broad ground of the natural intent of the Constitution in its creation of a senate of co-equal states and as a matter of common fairness to the six million people inhabiting the commonwealth which today has but partial representation, it is submitted that the senate should accept Colonel Quay on the strength of the credentials which he brings and the real estate to which he is entitled in every state: "Elect when you should or by failure convey the right to the governor, the people's only other immediate recourse."

Com Paul is not reading Soudan war news with any degree of exuberance.

The Next Vice President.

IT IS EVIDENT from surface indications that the president would like to have, as his next running mate, the present efficient secretary of war, Hon. Elihu Root. If the latter can be persuaded to accept, the place will be his with practical unanimity. It does not seem possible, however, that on the score of personal inclination Mr. Root would willingly exchange the active duties of the war portfolio, where he is in hourly touch with great events which have to do with the making of important history, for the innocuous delectable of the vice presidency. The impression which he makes upon one is that of a man whose natural forte is rapid activity; whose nerves are of the healthy kind which require continually to be occupied in the demands of hard work. To put a temperament of this kind in the vice-presidency without in some unofficial manner augmenting the real duties of that office would be, it seems to us, an act of cruelty.

An arrangement might be made which would obviate this difficulty. It is well known that in connection with the working out of the problems of civil government in the new territories there are large puzzles of law-making and law-construction to be solved. These come technically within the jurisdiction of the war department but they are legal problems almost wholly and require in the man who would master them the special aptitudes of a first-class lawyer as well as the practical intelligence and experience of a man of affairs. Into this hole Mr. Root would fit as if he were a peg made especially for it. It was mainly for the benefit of his abilities in this particular direction that he was asked to succeed General Alger as secretary of war, and it can easily be imagined that these are routine details in connection with the war portfolio which would distract attention from the legal problems in which Mr. Root's interest is most keen and that he might therefore welcome an opportunity to be relieved of the military part of his present work in order to give undivided attention to

the construction of governments in the new possessions. This is altogether a matter of conjecture but our hypothesis looks plausible. Should Mr. Root consent to be a candidate for the vice presidential nomination at the next national convention we would take it to imply that some view of special duty or obligation had presented itself to him which outweighed the ordinary disadvantages of the office. If a vice-president is to be chosen for only the ordinary purpose of filling a gap in the ticket, occupying a place in Washington society, and looking wise upon occasional tenures of the presidency of the senate, Elihu Root is far too useful a public servant to be wasted in that manner. He might better let the place go to the Honorable Timothy Woodruff of white vest fame.

Late despatches prove that the "supplicating Filipino" whom Colonel Metcalf has been accused of murdering, was making an attempt to run a knife through the colonel's heart when the officer shot. Thus is another yellow story robbed of its most interesting features.

An Elastic Bank Currency.

WHILE NOT professing to be any too well conversant with the intricacies of currency reform, we had often wondered how the simple extension of the note-issuing privilege of national banks from 90 per cent. of the par value of deposited government bonds, the present limit, to 100 per cent., the limit proposed by the president, would impart to our currency the elasticity of which there is admitted need. Such an extension, it seemed reasonable to believe, would be quickly followed by a corresponding amplification of business credits, and the inelasticity now felt would then be present in precisely the same old degree.

This view of the matter has received the attention of the comptroller of the currency, Mr. Davies, whose interesting annual report we abridge in another place. The demand for greater flexibility in circulation being at bottom of the recommendation for an enlargement of the bank-note issuing privilege, Mr. Davies proceeds to devise a plan whereby this flexibility will be assured and preserved in such a manner as to divide its advantages between the banks and the general public. His suggestion is that if the present tax of 1 per cent. on circulation were lowered to one-sixth of one per cent, on 90 per cent. of the circulation of national banks and a tax of 2 or 3 per cent. put on the last 10 per cent. of circulation when outstanding, the latter portion of the bank-note issue would be preserved as an emergency fund and its calling in would be rendered certain as soon as the emergency which drew it out should have passed. The comptroller's purpose in lowering the tax on the 90 per cent. of circulation is to offset the hardship of a special tax on the last 10 per cent. of circulation, so that the banks would not feel that they were being taxed unfairly on this emergency fund when in use. Should congress feel that the comptroller's consideration for the banks in this matter is too delicate, it could adjust differently the basis of taxation upon the 90 per cent. portion of circulation; but the feature of a special tax on the emergency fund is indispensable if the element of flexibility is to be insured by law.

It will be noted that the comptroller draws into the background his former proposition of a bank-asset currency. He never went as far in advocacy of that plan as his predecessor, Mr. Eckles nor as far as the Mugwump Democracy have gone in their voluminous literature labeled "Currency Reform"; but it is significant that now he practically recants the bank-asset heresy. "Nothing except the avoidance of panics can," says he, "at present justify any experiments with bank-asset currency." The doctrine that national banks should have no better security for their note issues than their available assets plus a small tax-fund reserve is a doctrine not likely ever to find favor with the great majority of our people. It is a doctrine sound enough in theory; but it needs for its successful realization in practice a percentage of honesty and good judgment in the banking business considerably higher than the existing average.

The Manufacture of Iron.

IT HAS BEEN frequently said in print; in fact it is a kind of standing boast in Pennsylvania that the first American iron furnace was the old Warwick farm furnace which was put into blast about the year 1720. Now comes a writer in the Washington Star, W. C. Dodge, who shows that this belief is nearly 100 years out of the way. "Iron works," writes Mr. Dodge, "were first built at Falling Creek, in Virginia, in 1619-'21, and Beverly wrote that 'the iron proved reasonably good, but before they got into the body of the mine the people were cut off in fatal massacre.' It appears that the works were not rebuilt, and no iron was made there after that time, and but little before. At Lynn in Massachusetts, John Winthrop, Jr., built a foundry on the banks of the Saugus river in 1643, which was eighty-seven years before that on the Warwick farm. History states that in 1646 the agent of the company bought some of the country's guns to melt over at the furnace. It was at this foundry that Joseph Jenks made the first iron casting, a small iron pot containing about one quart. Another establishment was built by Winthrop and his associates at Braintree, Mass., in 1645-'6, and in March, 1647, Robert Child, writing from Boston, says of the Lynn and Braintree enterprises: 'We have cast this winter some tons of pots, likewise mortars, stoves and skillets.' Numerous other furnaces were established at various points in Massachusetts from 1646 to 1656, and Schwank in his history of

Iron in All Ages says that 'for a hundred years after its settlement in 1620 Massachusetts was the chief seat of the iron manufacture on this continent.' By an act of parliament in 1750 the manufacture in the colonies of all forms of steel and iron except cast iron was prohibited, the object being to compel the colonists to ship their pig iron to England, where it was manufactured, and such of the articles as were needed were returned to the colonies. It was then that Lord Chatham said: 'I would not permit the colonists to make even a hob nail for themselves.'

Mr. Dodge adds: "What a comment on Chatham's assertion is the present condition of the iron and steel business in the United States and England. In 1878 Great Britain produced 45 per cent. of the world's supply of pig iron, and the United States furnished 29.30 per cent. of the world's supply of pig iron, and 34.58 per cent. of the steel, the amounts being: Steel, over 8,000,000 tons, and of pig iron, 11,773,934 tons, a total of near 20,000,000 tons. In 1898 it was still more, and the present year will far excel all previous years. Today the United States is the iron master of the world."

A new invention in telegraphy recently tested in Chicago makes possible, it is said, the transmission of 2,500,000 words over one wire in a single day and "no mistake is possible." The inventor should pick out what he wants.

When Admiral Dewey interviews that 25-pound bird from Uncle "Hod" Vasi's turkey farm he will probably forget all about the efforts of the Washington yellow reporters.

The Stroudsburg Daily Times issued a Thanksgiving number on Saturday which is included in an illuminated cover, and is in every way a meritorious publication.

The Pennsylvania town of any size that cannot produce some sort of a football team this week has no right to a place on the map.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES.

Tracy as a Wit.

General Benjamin F. Tracy, who has returned from the Venezuelan boundary commission in Paris, gained quite a reputation as a wit during his sojourn abroad, says the New York World. One of his sallies was during the Dreyfus trial. He was explaining the method of the French counselors in the use of the "hoax" in this country. The French lawyer interrupted him, saying: "But, according to what you say, my dear General, I don't see how, by your American methods, you ever succeed in convicting a man."

"Exactly," retorted the General. "And by your French methods, I don't see how you ever succeed in acquitting a man!"

Some time afterward General Tracy was engaged in a discussion with another American on Professor Markham's much-talked-of poem, "The Man With the Hoe." An Englishman who was listening to the argument asked who the man with the hoe was.

"The Man With the Hoe," repeated the general. "Why, that is the newspaper man."

Mr. Choate's Little Joke. Mr. Choate, ambassador to England, is credited with the latest joke of Philadelphia. It was at a dinner given to him by the members of the Philadelphia bar. The toast of the evening had been given, when the chairman, with a jocular remark, called for an eulogy of the Quaker City, relates the New York World.

Mr. Choate rose, and with a bow began what promised to be a magnificent eulogium upon the glories of the city of Penn. So magnificent, indeed, were his compliments that a feeling of apprehension began to creep over the company. It occurred to them that perhaps there was an element of sarcasm in these honeyed phrases. Finally the speaker paused.

"I wish to congratulate you especially," he then said, "upon the possession of two of the most distinguished citizens since the days of Washington—Albert Gallatin, of Geneva, and Benjamin Franklin, of Boston."

Two Stories of Lawyers.

The logic of wit is the most destructive logic that is employed against error. This was aptly illustrated at a public reception given a few nights ago, at which a learned lawyer, who is slightly lame in his right foot, was present. The advocate overheard a lady say to her companion, "That is Mr. C., the lame lawyer."

Turning around he replied, "No, madame, I am a lame man, but not a lame lawyer."

An amusing incident occurred in one of the common pleas courts the other day. The lawyer for the defense was making a very lengthy cross-examination of an old lady, when he was interrupted by the judge with the remark: "I think you have exhausted this witness."

"Yes, judge," she exclaimed, "I do feel very much exhausted."—Philadelphia Call

Would Change the Ratio.

The late M. Scheurer-Kahner, vice-president of the French senate, was a scientific writer of great ability, a distinguished chemist and a broad-minded philanthropist. It was in these capacities he was known to the public, of which few knew the other side of his character. His intimate friends knew him as a rascally and wit. Many of his epigrams afforded amusement to the literary world of the French capital. During the Dreyfus excitement he remarked: "Voltaire said we Frenchmen were half monkey and half tiger. Were he alive today he would change the ratio to the disadvantage of the kingly carnivora."

HAS BETTER MONEY PLAN

[Concluded from Page 1]

levying of a tax of one-sixth of 1 per cent. upon circulation to 90 per cent. of the par of the bonds and allowing the banks to issue currency to the par of the bonds by paying a tax at the rate of 2 or 3 per cent. per annum on the excess up to the par when outstanding, will result in the desired increase in our general bank-note issues, and provide a marked degree of elasticity in our circulation. The increase he estimates at \$100,000,000 and the margin of elasticity he estimates at \$50,000,000. As to whether this margin would be sufficient, he says:

As the use of redemptions and bills payable on the part of the Western and Southern banks at certain seasons of the year is regarded as evidencing the need of an elastic circulation, and as bearing upon the question of the measure of relief which may be expected from the bond-secured emergency circulation here recommended, the comptroller will state on a plain circulation of the present bank-note circulation as a result of new legislation, the possible emergency circulation of \$20,000,000 immediately available on bonds securing the present circulation amounting to more than the combined bills payable and redemptions of all the national banks of the United States outstanding at any time within the last three years, while the comptroller's estimate of a possible bond-secured emergency circulation of \$100,000,000 is correct, this amount is about double the amount of bills payable and redemptions of the entire national system outstanding within that period.

As the elastic and uncovered issues of the joint-stock banks of England, Scotland, and Ireland, comprising all the uncovered bank notes there issued, may be cited as illustrating the advantages of an elastic circulation, the comptroller would also call attention to the fact that these issues are but a small amount more than the \$20,000,000 bond-secured emergency circulation which would be immediately available on existing bond deposits in the United States under the legislation recommended. And with an increase in general bank-note circulation, the result of the proposed law, we would probably have a bond-secured emergency circulation in this country larger than the emergency circulation of the joint-stock banks of England, Scotland, and Ireland, which is secured only by the general assets of the banks, without preference over other creditors.

There is no need of any normal conditions of a large amount of emergency circulation or a high degree of elasticity in bank-note circulation. The immense volume of checks, drafts, and bills of exchange, based upon the assets of banks and often called bank-credit currency, expands and contracts in accordance with the demand of trade and business, and is the medium through which the great bulk of the business of our country is transacted. It is extremely elastic, and varies in amount at different seasons of the same year. It is generally simply adequate to the business needs of the country, except in times of disturbed confidence and financial panic.

The issuance of bank-asset notes under normal conditions and in the present development of our banking system cannot be justified by the plea that without them the needed elasticity of bank-note currency cannot be obtained. Nothing except the avoidance of panic can at present justify any experiments with bank-asset currency. When authorized for use in times of emergency, they should be so heavily taxed that they can circulate only while a panic lasts, and like clear-house certificates should be a remedy for a panic, rather than a cause of one. In seeking the theoretical advantages of fluidity in bank circulation we should take no risks with its solidity.

Other Recommendations.

Among other recommendations, the comptroller strongly urges laws authorizing the incorporation of banks national and international banking as distinguished from domestic banking. He also recommends laws authorizing the establishment in small communities of national banks with a capital of \$25,000. He repeats his recommendation of one or two laws relating to a modification of the law restricting loans to any one individual to 10 per cent. of the capital of a national bank, and advises the attaching of a penalty for making excessive loans after the present section is modified. He also gives in an eulogy of the results of an extended investigation into the development of all the different banking systems of the United States during the last ten years.

PERSONALITIES.

Miss Ruth Underhill, this year's golf champion, is a granddaughter of the late Charles A. Dana.

It is reported that Mayor Jones, of Toledo, will be petitioned to move to Cleveland and run for mayor in 1904.

Governor-elect Crane, of Massachusetts, has been elected to the private secretaryship of John B. Smith, of the Boston Herald.

The University of Illinois has secured Cornell D. Wright, retired director labor commissioner, as a special lecturer in the department of economics.

George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central railroad, is reported to be at the head of a movement to abolish the practice of "tipping" the porters on sleeping cars.

Colonel Robert W. Huntington, of the United States marine corps, whose men, under gallant fire, held Camp McCalla, at Guantanamo, Cuba, has given up the command of the marine barracks in the city of New York and begun a two-months' leave of absence, at the end of which, on January 10, 1900, he will be retired from the service at his own request.

It is reported that the degree of LL. D., will be conferred upon General Diaz, the president of Mexico, by the University of Pennsylvania. The Mexican general has been commended with by the university authorities, and a reply has been received to the effect that the head of the Republic of Mexico would be happy to receive such an honor.

THE MAN WITH THE HOE.

For The Tribune. The green fields rest 'neath a summer sky. The bee is courting the clover bloom. In the tree that stands by the streamlet's side, the squirrel seeks his home.

Over the hills the angelus chimed: We reveled in the soft, low, low. On the brown earth, 'neath the sweet sunshine, There stands the man with the hoe.

No brother to the ox is he, Who to his Maker bows his head and strength, In grateful prayer for health and strength, To toil for daily bread.

Though wrongs of ages dull his brain, In God's own image still he stands. Earth claims his body, not his soul; His faith proclaims the man.

And who shall say what hopes are ails, With what clear vision still he sees; Who looketh far beyond the skies Beyond the "swing of plowades?" No curse rests on the brow of him, Who's thankful still for blessings sent. He is no brother of the brute, Whose head in prayer is bent. His head in prayer is bent. —C. H. Boper. Scranton, Nov. 27.

THE LAFAYETTE DOLLAR.

To the Public: Within the next few days there will be struck at the United States mint in Philadelphia the most unique and significant coin issued in modern times. It is the Lafayette Dollar authorized by congress in aid of the Lafayette monument. This coin, which is a legal tender dollar, bears upon its face in bas-relief a double medallion of the heads of Washington and Lafayette, and upon its reverse a miniature reproduction of the equestrian statue of Lafayette used for the monument. The inscription on the dollar explains its purpose struck in commemoration of a monument erected by school youth of United States to General Lafayette, Paris, France, 1800.

The Lafayette Dollar thus serves not only as the memorial work, but forms a new and beautiful tie between the two great republics of Europe and America, and therefore the coin must be regarded as an international emblem. It constitutes a most desirable souvenir and memento of the Children's Monument to the "Knight of Liberty," the Universal Exposition of 1904 at Paris and the opening of the twentieth century. The limited number issued will make these coins extremely rare and in very great demand. For each 1000 of our population there is a ratio of but one Lafayette Dollar.

The first coin to be struck of the \$5,000 will be presented by the president of the United States to the president of the French Republic.

Popular subscriptions for these coins will now be entered, and honored in the order received. The price fixed on them by the commission is two dollars. All orders for coins to be considered must be accompanied by payment in full and be in the hands of the commission on or before Dec. 15, 1899, on which date the popular subscription closes. Drafts, currency or money orders will be accepted if payment. Drafts and money orders must be made payable to Edwin A. Potter, treasurer of the commission.

The commission reserves the right to limit the number of coins allotted to each subscriber. Students of schools and colleges, who wish coins, should combine their orders in one subscription and send if possible through local banks. Inquiries and subscriptions for coins to be addressed to Robert J. Thompson, secretary, in care of American Trust and Savings Bank, 110 N. Washington Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

William R. Dav, Edward Everett Hale, W. T. Harris, Archbishop Ireland, John W. Mackay, Melville E. Stone, Charles A. Coffier, Edwin A. Potter, Charles G. Dawes, Alexander H. Revell, Ferdinand W. Poek, Robert J. Thompson.

Office of the Lafayette Memorial Commission, Chicago, Nov. 25.

HAS HAD ENOUGH.

Editor of The Tribune: Sir—Will you kindly allow me to ask the newspaper people if we cannot have a rest now from this dose of ancient matrimony prescribed in a Dewey? The country has had no such medicine since Harrison made a holy show of himself. F. P. Pearl. Moose, Nov. 27.

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