

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends touching on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions of whatever nature and by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 8, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:

I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Representatives of Pennsylvania, V. P. O. Box 1000, chosen representatives, will meet in convention at the opera house, in the city of Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 25, 1900, at 10:30 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices, to wit:

One person for the office of auditor general.

Two persons for the office of congressman-at-large.

Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternate delegates to the Republican national convention to be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of June next, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

In accordance with the rule adopted at the state convention held in Harrisburg on August 21st, last, the representatives in the state convention will be based on the vote polled at the last presidential election. Under this rule each legislative district is entitled to one delegate and one alternate vote cast for the presidential electors, in 1896, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two thousand voters polled in excess of one thousand. Each district is entitled to the same number of delegates as represented in the convention of 1896.

By order of the Republican state committee.

Frank Reeder, Chairman.

W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhes, Secretaries.

One of the boasts made by the organizers of the anti-Quay campaign in the forthcoming legislative primaries is that they already have at command a \$300,000 war fund. The purification of politics by men of the Van Valkenburg type is evidently somewhat expensive.

The War on Quay.

ONE OF THE peculiar things about the fight of the insurgents against Colonel Quay is that while they claim they have him politically dead and buried beyond all possibility of a resurrection, they yet feel called upon to crow furiously in triumph every time they secure an apparent advantage over him.

For example: On Friday of last week the senate committee on privileges and elections, to which had been referred for examination the certificate of Colonel Quay's appointment by the governor as a senator pro tempore, decided, by a vote of four to three, that upon such credentials the colonel could not be admitted. Although this decision had been anticipated for weeks and acknowledged by all the supporters of Quay, his enemies herald it in poster type as if it were the ultimate solution of the whole matter. As a matter of fact, the vote in committee affords no clue whatever to the standing which the issue will have when brought to a vote in the open senate. There will be a majority and a minority report; the one against seating Quay and the other in favor of seating him; and if a majority of the senators believe that he should be seated, seated he will be, regardless of the opinion of the privileges and elections committee, while on the other hand if a majority of the senators believe that he should not be seated, they will so vote entirely uninfluenced by the committee. Whether Quay has or has not the support of a majority in the senate we do not know, and until a vote is taken all prophecy must be vain.

One thing is clear, though: the public is becoming nauseated by the reckless abuse and misrepresentation characteristic of the present organized opposition to Quay. By its mendacity the insurgent cause is overreaching itself.

Inconceivably Absurd.

THE REPORT in some of yesterday's cable advices that Lord Salisbury's reply, expected today, to Ambassador Choate's protest at the seizure by British officials of American flour consigned to a neutral port in South Africa will be an affirmation of England's right to seize and search neutral ships plying between neutral ports can hardly be more than conjectural. Apart from the political folly of such a position at this time, which would not only force Germany to join the Franco-Prussian alliance but also constrain the United States to take adequate measures to protect its own commerce, it would, as Professor Woolsey points out, be an abandonment by England of all precedent.

"At the end of the last century," Dr. Woolsey notes, "Great Britain undertook to consider provisions contraband when bound for France in American ships. Our government protested. Thereupon by Jay's treaty England promised to buy the provisions instead of seizing them. That was not satisfactory to our government, and to all appearances the British government in time dropped the contention. In the Franco-Chinese war France considered rice contraband when bound for Chinese ports. England protested, and won, her point. So that now even if provisions in neutral ships were bound for the Transvaal it would not be in accord with the historical policy of this country to submit to the seizure, nor would it be in line with England's recent history."

The New York Sun recalls that during our civil war the town of Matanzas, in the south bank of the Rio Grande, occupied a position

very similar to that now occupied by Lorenzo Marques, the Portuguese port in Delagoa bay. A blockade had been established by the United States against the Confederate ports on the north bank of the Rio Grande, and, to avoid this, cargoes were shipped to Matamoros, and when landed there were conveyed across the Rio Grande to Confederate territory. The ship Peterhoff, while bound to Matamoros, was captured by the United States fleet. She carried a mixed cargo, part of which was certainly contraband, while a part consisted of provisions, which were in all probability destined for sale in the confederacy, but not necessarily for military consumption. The ship was libeled, and the case was carried to the Supreme court. That court adjudged the arms and ammunition that were a part of the cargo to be contraband, and condemned them as such, but it declared the provisions to be innocent merchandise, and, as such, not subject to condemnation.

There is no wish on the part of the United States to embarrass the progress of the British campaign in South Africa. The desire is to be a friendly neutral. But the importance of protecting American commerce is such that not even from so friendly a power as England can we tolerate seizures on the high seas as to the justice of which there is reasonable doubt. The idea that we can admit England's right to hold up our innocent trade in neutral ships between neutral ports is inconceivably absurd.

The first year's revenue collections at Havana, in spite of frauds, exceed by \$2,000,000 or nearly 25 per cent. the war department's original estimate. On its financial side expansion is undoubtedly going to prove a welcome surprise.

Scotching the Trusts.

REMEDIES FOR TRUSTS are multiplying like the cells in leavened dough. In the house of representatives at Washington two bills are pending which by reason of their novelty are worthy of a passing glance.

One of these, introduced by Representative Daly, of New Jersey, provides that when ten or more citizens present a petition verified by the oaths of at least five of them to a judge of any United States District court, alleging that a trust or combination exists within the jurisdiction of the court, it shall be the duty of the judge to make summary inquiry and report his opinion to the president, who, in case the opinion is against the trust, shall direct the collector of customs to admit free of duty the article or articles controlled by such trust; or combination. This bill, it will be seen, proposes at once to bring the matter up to the door of the complaining citizen.

The other, by Representative Gaines, of Tennessee, proposes to exclude from the use of the mails parcels which seek to abolish, abridge, or in any way affect open and free competition in trade, or exclude rivalry between the parties thereto, or to bridge competition between others; or to themselves and others engaged in like or other business. Second, to create or promote any restrictions in trade or commerce, or to limit or restrict production of any article or commodity of trade unduly to affect the market. Third, to affect the wages of employees of themselves or others, or diminish the opportunities of wage earners by contracting production, abridging competition or otherwise, or to create monopolies, etc. Just who is to decide these points of fact does not appear. If the postmaster general, he will become a busy man.

These propositions are better in spirit than in substance. Their intent is good; their methods bad. It is evident that the authors of them have not read the very able message of Governor Roosevelt upon this subject, in which he points out the most, first of all, of a knowledge of the facts as to trusts. "When a trust becomes a monopoly, the state," he claims, "has an immediate right to interfere. Care should be taken not to stifle enterprise or disclose any facts of a business that are essentially private; but the state for the protection of the public should exercise the right to inspect, to examine thoroughly all the workings of great corporations just as is now done with banks; and whenever the interests of the public demand it, it should publish the results of its examination. Then, if there are inordinate profits, competition or public sentiment will give the public the benefit in lowered prices; and if not, the power of taxation remains. It is, therefore, evident that publicity is the one sure and adequate remedy which we can now invoke." There may be other remedies, but what those others are we can only find out by publicity, as the result of investigation. The first requisite is knowledge, full and complete.

The commission appointed by Governor Roosevelt to overhaul the educational system of New York state has reported in favor of centralizing authority in the person of a chancellor of the board of regents, who is to receive \$10,000 a year and be chosen for a term of eight years. It is contemplated that this official would be the chief executive of education, with rank, dignity and pay equal to those of the chief judge of the court of appeals or of the governor himself; and with corresponding authority. In the various municipal sections or district school boards substituted and general boards substituted, of limited size and elective at large, Roosevelt has a rare knack of going to the heart of a problem.

Governor General Davis is expending on education in Puerto Rico \$330,000, which is 50 per cent. more than Spain ever spent; but he says it would take \$4,000,000 to give a fair education to all the children of school age in the island. Four million dollars could not be more advantageously invested.

What, if any, truth there is in the recurring newspaper gossip relative to frictions in Washington official society, growing out of the order of precedence at state functions, persons at a distance can hardly presume to know. Whether or not Mrs. Miles, as representing the better half of the army, or to Mrs. Dewey, as occupying a similar relationship toward the navy, the privilege of priority should be given in the ceremonious etiquette of the national capital is not for us to say. These issues may be very important but they happily do not agitate the country at large. The latter can well afford to leave them to whom they most concern.

Changed His Religion.

A Memphis man, a member of the Episcopal church, tells of an old negro who, before the war, belonged to a family of Episcopalians, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. He was their coachman, and was a staunch Episcopalian, but after the war he joined the Methodist church. His former owner saw him one day after he had changed his faith, and said: "Mose, you black rascal, you, I hear you've joined the Methodists."

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A record by years of gifts in the States of \$1,000 or more for philanthropic purposes is kept by the Chicago Tribune, presumably as an atonement for its gruesome record of crime. The showing for 1899 surpasses all precedents. Its money aggregate is \$7,749,956, as compared with \$2,584,200 in 1898, \$3,612,814 in 1897, \$3,670,129 in 1896, \$2,843,549 in 1895, and \$19,967,116 in 1894. Of the total amount shown there has been given to educational institutions the extraordinary sum of \$5,851,817; to charities, \$13,296,636; to churches, \$2,992,593; to museums and art galleries, \$2,686,560, and to libraries, \$5,012,400. The world challenged to match this record of liberality.

The nine worthy men who have been commissioned to make, in behalf of the United States, another series of profound and superfluous observations and inquiries into the matter of a transisthmian ship canal are now on the high sea bound for Greytown and they do not expect to return within four months. In the meantime, time will roll on.

Public sentiment, the American court of highest appeal, must make it warm for the parent who by carelessness, stinginess or meanness contributes to the spread in this city of diphtheria or scarlet fever.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES.

Mrs. Dewey's Wit.

The quick-wittedness of Admiral Dewey's wife, just at present one of the most conspicuous women in America, is shown by the following incident of her life in Washington when she was Mrs. Hazen, relates the New York Tribune. General Hazen was the head of the weather bureau in Washington. It was almost impossible to persuade the members of congress to vote for him the necessary funds with which to carry out his plans as he desired, and he was at the same time grumbled at as if he were positively and personally responsible for the weather, which it was a fact of the moment to say that he furnished. Mrs. Hazen was the recipient of all his woes, and gave him her full sympathy, especially one spring when the appropriation had been shamefully cut down by the economy loving chairman of the committee on that special appropriation.

A few days after the passing of the mutilated bill Mrs. Hazen was a guest at an afternoon reception at the house of one of the cabinet members, where the most detestable and undurable weather, untimely and unlooked for, was the topic of the moment. As Mrs. Hazen crossed the room to make her adieux to her hostess she was waylaid by the arriving chairman of the offending committee, who accosted her thus:

"Well, Mrs. Hazen, well, madam, and is this the best your husband can do for us in the way of weather?"

Mrs. Hazen turned, looked at him with a sudden flash in her pretty eyes, then answered, clearly and sweetly: "Yes, Mr. Blank, the very best—for the appropriation."

A Natural Mistake.

A few years before his death Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio, was engaged in counsel in a lawsuit which was tried before a country judge in one of the small towns in the central part of the state, says the Chicago Times-Herald. Opposing Judge Thurman was a young lawyer named Cassidy, who with great hair pompadour, assumed an air of great dignity and was apparently greatly impressed with his own importance. Upon several occasions during the progress of the trial Thurman referred to his legal opponent as "Mr. Cassidy." The young man arose whenever this occurred and with great gravity reminded the court that his name was Cassidy. Finally, after the offense had been repeated about a dozen times, the pompous attorney exclaimed:

"I must again remind counsel upon the other side that my name is Cassidy. I can't understand why he persists in maintaining that it is Cassidy."

"I beg the gentleman's pardon," said Thurman. "The reason I kept getting him confused with Cassidy is, I presume, due to the fact that the latter knows no law."

General Butler's Grit.

Sir Redvers Butler is credited with being of that type of officer whose "butcher bill" is rather more likely than not to be large. That he is not a person who will allow any ordinary considerations to swerve him from what he thinks is his duty was shown at a dinner at his house not long ago, relates the New York Press. A certain well known man was present, and told an anecdote which was so "out color" that the ladies were excessively displeased and distressed.

When dinner was over Sir Redvers rang the bell.

"Mr. A's carriage," he ordered when the butler appeared.

"I do not expect my brougham so early," said Mr. A., and there was a gleam of defiance in his eyes.

Sir Redvers did not reply, but he took Mr. A. by the arm and led him gently to the hall. "It is time for you to go," he said, quietly, and his guest went.

Not Impressed with Royalty.

This tale has to do with Kipling's little lost Josephine, writes Kenneth Herford in the Detroit Free Press. Once the poet was driving up Arundel street, in London, toward the Strand, when, all of a sudden, the hand of the "bobby" ahead was raised. The word was passed down the street that her majesty was coming down the Strand on an official visit to the lord mayor at the Mansion House. Josephine had never seen the queen and Kipling thought it was good opportunity to instill a little reverence in her. He raised the child high in his arms and she might see Victoria. The outriders pranced by, followed by the royal carriage. When it was all over and the finger of the law was lowered Kipling

put down the child. He said: "Well, Josephine, what do you think of it?"

Much to his amazement the child replied: "Papa, did you see the funny red soldiers on horseback?"

Thereafter Kipling never exerted himself to point out her majesty to any member of his family.

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The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. 434 Lackawanna Avenue.

FINLEY'S Ladies' Muslin Underwear. An unusually large holiday trade on this particular line has left our stock pretty much broken up, both in assortment of styles and sizes. In order to make a complete clearance of what we now have in stock, before opening up our new line for spring. Our Annual Sale For This Purpose Will Open Tuesday Morning. And continue for the balance of the week. The most tempting prices have been marked on all garments, every one of which is of the highest order—both as regards material and workmanship, and for the bare price of materials you can make your selections of Ladies' and Misses' Gowns, Skirts, Chemise, Drawers, Corset Covers, Etc., etc., and save money. Sale opens Tuesday. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

Excelsior Diaries. A complete line for 1900, for office and pocket use, numerous styles of Calendars, Pads and Stands to select from. Blank Books and the largest and most complete line of office supplies in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Reynolds Bros Stationers and Engravers, Hotel Jermyn Building, Scranton, Pa.

DUPONT'S POWDER. HIGH EXPLOSIVES. THOS. FORD, JOHN B. SMITH & SON, W. E. MULLIGAN.

A lady from North Carolina says: "My sister has used RIPANS TABLETS and speaks in the highest terms of them, and says they cannot be excelled in keeping the system well regulated. She was a sufferer from dyspepsia and indigestion for several years."