

The Scranton Tribune

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LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor. O. F. BYRNIE, Business Manager.

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the conditions of acceptance are that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 6, 1900.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS—C. C. Ferber, E. D. Fellows.

The vacation of the nickle-in-the-slot gambling machines in Scranton, seems to have been very brief.

The Judgeship.

THE important matter of selecting a successor to the late Judge Gunster, the opinion we find, very generally prevails that the Bar association of Lackawanna county, which, better than laymen, knows and appreciates the requirements of the judicial office and is acquainted with the men who most nearly approximate to the filling of those requirements, should, for the guidance of the appointing power, indicate its preference. It is believed that such an intimation would have great weight with the governor and it seems to be due to him that it should be given.

The Modder river land-locked evidently believed that the pro-labor people of this country should have some consolation in the way of manufactured news.

That New Railroad Project.

WE ARE PLEASED to observe that the esteemed Philadelphia Inquirer at last perceives the equity in the application of the individual coal operators for permission to construct, with their own money on a right of way already secured and piercing a country which does not at present have the benefits of rail transportation facilities, the Delaware Valley and Kingston railroad, so that the product of their mines can have the benefit of cheap freight rates to tide-water. Our contemporary admits that the experiment is worthy of a trial and cannot see why it should be opposed.

The people of Dutchess county, New York, go further than the Philadelphia Inquirer. They actually assert that unless this new railway line shall be built, to take the place of the abandoned Delaware and Hudson canal, their chief industries, now without a proper outlet, will languish and destitution will overtake many of their inhabitants. The people of the Delaware valley are practically unanimous in favoring the construction of the Delaware Valley and Kingston railroad and are taking steps to cause their wishes to be known by the New York railway commissioners.

In the face of such representations as these, the genuineness of which cannot be doubted, it becomes a problem to understand upon what theory or assumption the corporate interests allied in opposition to the new railroad project hold the belief that the desired charter will be withheld.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Macrum's long silence will not, when broken, open the floodgates of a species of oratorical mania similar to that with which Mr. Bryan seems to be afflicted.

A Lesson for America.

FROM THE REVERSES sustained by the British military forces in South Africa, and more particularly from the weaknesses in military organization and equipment which that war has revealed on the English side, the Philadelphia Press draws a lesson very pertinent to the American people.

"England," says the Press, "like the United States, has enlarged its army. But the system on which it was organized remained unchanged, as it has in this country. The United States has quadrupled its army, but left the training of its officers, their tests, examinations and qualifications, and the staff organization of its military forces exactly as they were for the smaller force of three years ago. England has done the same thing. Its army was doubled, the increase taking place for the most part in the past ten years; but the officers continued to be selected on a family 'pull,' they were practically restricted to a small upper class, their training was confined to the drill of the barrack yard, and their knowledge of fighting came only from meeting black and brown, half-savage races. The supporters of the English staff system, like the supporters here of the system whose reform Secretary Root urged in his annual report, pointed to a brilliant past, marshaled victories, new and old, and declared that an army which had done well in the past would do as well in the future. Against the self-interest of the English staff, the inertia of officers and the influence of leading families the critics of the English army system could accomplish nothing, just as the critics of a like system here can make no progress against politicians, a permanent staff and elderly officers who feel that the education which trained the leaders of the civil war is better than any 'new-fangled German non-sense.'"

"The war, the one final test and critic of military systems, has spoken. The English army is plainly inadequate. Its organization has utterly failed. Secretary Root was a great victor with Spaniards on the hills who would not shoot and would not stand. It is not pleasant to think what would have come if Boers had been there."

who could, as they have to effect at Macrorum's aid and at Colenso. The increase in the range and the rapidity of fire of modern weapons has altered the basic conditions of war. The attack has grown so difficult that it can only be carried out by men carefully trained to the work. The general officers must be schooled in strategy, so as to pass around the lines before them. The army must be mobile and swift in its march. The regimental officers must understand how to keep their men sheltered. Information as to the ground over which the attack is to be delivered must be diligently obtained. For lack of these, the English army furnishes a spectacle of defeat. Neither numbers nor bravery have availed in the absence of a good general. Having no rigid system of testing men as in Germany, the English system of selecting general officers is an in-hazard as our own, and each general has thus far been deficient. The officers are brave, but they have had no special training. They are ignorant, reckless and unprepared for their work. The practical result is that the English army, as a whole, proves unfit for its duties. A small war has required the dispatch of every man to South Africa, and in Great Britain, for the defense of London and the coast, only untrained levies are left. A more perilous position the modern world has not seen for a great empire with a quarrel on every frontier.

"Experience," said a Philadelphia newspaper man a century and a half ago, "is a dear school, but fools will learn in no other." No military tuition fees are so dear as those settled in defeat. England has paid them. If Secretary Root's advice is disregarded, the United States will some day pay a tuition fee as heavy as that of England today."

Ex-Candidate Arthur Sewall does not have much faith in the drawing qualities of his former running-mate, Mr. Bryan. This is but another proof that there is considerable truth in the remark to the effect that "distance lends enchantment" when applied to William Jennings Bryan.

Direct Election of Senators.

UNDER THE inspiration of factional troubles in many states, and legislative deadlocks in four states, there has arisen lately a new demand for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people. Those who praise this idea in the most extravagant terms are in some instances persons who would be equally quick to condemn the popular vote system if it did not bring about the results of their choice.

To any one who possesses a working acquaintance with politics and a philosophical knowledge of political history it is unnecessary to say that the proposed constitutional amendment changing the method of electing senators offers little hope of betterment. Our own opinion is that it offers no hope; that the result of such a change upon the character of the senate would, after a period of years, be more likely to be harmful than beneficial.

The popular election of senators would, under the party plan of government, necessitate the popular nomination at state conventions of candidates for the office of senator. In states where the pulse of public interest in primary elections is sluggish this would mean that the so-called "machines" would control as at present; in other states, no advantage would accrue because where public sentiment is right the senators as a rule are right, under the existing system. The demand for the popular election of senators comes, in Pennsylvania, for example, mainly from opponents of Quakerism. Suppose the change were made. Would it necessarily take out of the hands of the Quay element the ability to control the nominating convention? Or, in course of time the Quay element should be dethroned and the Dave Martin-William Flinn element enthroned, would that "machine" differ in method or principle from the much abused Quay "machine"?

To this the reply is made that if any "machine" should prevail at a state convention in the nomination of a distasteful candidate for senator, the independent element could have recourse to a stump nomination and thus defeat the "machine" nominee and force the election of a Democratic senator. This argument suits those who are suited with Democratic senators, but it is not calculated to create enthusiasm among those who believe that a great Republican state like Pennsylvania should at all times be fully represented in the senate of the United States by Republican senators.

We said a moment ago that we thought the direct election of senators would result eventually in a deterioration of the senate. We will now explain how. Those who have gone bravely over the political history of the country from its early days must have been impressed by the fact that a greater number of demagogues have soured office through direct election than by intermediate means. As careless immigration laws have added new dangers to universal suffrage and populated our cities with discontented elements whose discontent is not directly a fault of the country itself, but of their own ignorance, laziness or inability to adapt themselves to American conditions, the incentive to demagogism has increased among aspirants for elective positions until, in 1886, we had the rare spectacle of the presidency itself almost captured by a young man practically without public experience and gifted only in the knack of giving lugubrious expression to the restlessness and silly prejudices of the hour. At the risk of saying what may not be popular, we wish to record our belief that the welfare of American institutions is infinitely safer in the custody of the kind of men able to manipulate state legislatures or manage political "machines"; in other words, men like T. C. Platt, Mark Hanna and M. S. Quay, than it would be in the hands of men of the shifty, loquacious and irresponsible kind typified by Colonel Bryan. It takes a superior quality of diplomacy, executive ability and generalship to run a successful political "machine"; but al-

most anybody with a little gift of gab and a willingness to trim his sails to fit the prevalent wind can become a vote-catcher.

In theory the senate is supposed to be a check upon the house; the upper branch of congress balancing and ballasting the lower. Often the house loses temporarily its equilibrium in response to some flurry or gust of passing popular excitement or prejudice; men frequently elective are not, as a rule, men with the full courage of their convictions. It was the purpose of the framers of the constitution, in requiring senators to be chosen at less frequent intervals by a majority ballot of state legislatures or by gubernatorial appointment in certain contingencies, to interpose a safeguard upon the responsiveness of the house of representatives to what might be merely temporary and fitful outbursts of public opinion; and much as the senate has been decieved in recent years, the record shows that it has, upon the whole, grandly fulfilled this function. The entire nature of the senate would undergo a change; the whole theory of its usefulness as a check upon the house would suffer modification, in our judgment for the worse, if the senators were put upon a level with the representatives in the manner of their election.

In what states now likely represented would direct elections be likely to improve the representation? It seems to us that before so radical a constitutional change is decided upon this question should be clearly answered.

Roger Q. Mills has become one of the richest men in Texas. It is doubtful now if Mr. Mills could be persuaded even to remember the title of the pet tariff scheme which years ago made him famous and ruined many industries in this country.

T'ash threatens to elect another Mormon congressman to succeed Brigham Roberts. In this case the state should furnish the new member with return mileage in advance.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

The Conductor's Revenge.

THE STREET CAR conductor sometimes manages to "get back" at the grumbling passenger, and does it in a smooth way, too, says the Omaha World-Herald. The conductors are not allowed to talk back, and passengers often take advantage of this and roast the fare collectors. One day last week a man boarded a car at sixteenth, and when the conductor came to take his fare, the conductor collected two or three fares before making change, and the passenger thought it a good chance to make a grand-stand play.

"Say, conductor, don't forget to give me my change. You conductors have a habit of overlooking that, but you can't work it on me. I'm next to your game, fork over."

"It was a quarter you gave me, I believe," said the conductor.

"You bet it was."

"And you want 20 cents in change, I believe."

"That's what I do, and I want it quick, too," said the wise passenger, looking about for applause.

"Very well, sir; here you are," said the conductor, and twenty pennies into the outstretched hand of the passenger.

"There you have your 20 cents, sir. That is correct, I believe."

The wise passenger had nothing to say.

Picturesque Onions.

A PARTY OF young men and women were bicycling along a country road, and it was a sketching class, and every eye was wide open for an artistic subject. Suddenly the whole party dismounted with various exclamations of delight and surprise.

Just within the fence on the left grew innumerable graceful stalks, each bearing aloft globes of pale green that shaded into purple and red.

"How enchanting!" said a young woman.

"How decorative!" said a young man. "Just what we need for a school, the teacher, a full-fledged artist. A gardener was standing near at hand. 'Do tell us,' cried a girl, 'what those beautiful things are.'"

"Which?" replied the gardener.

"Why, those," said the girl.

"Them?" said the gardener, with a chuckle. "Them's onions gone to seed."

Four-Year-Old's Anger.

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD kindergarten girl was playing with a small book, which the teacher took away from her during school hours. Much incensed, the little girl arose and walked toward the door.

Shaw's Witty Rejoinder.

BERNARD SHAW, the playwright, is a wit as well by word of mouth as by word of pen. One day the small boy was observed working very hard in the back yard, digging a hole as deep as his strength would permit. He then carefully placed something in the hole and shoveled the dirt back in. Curious to know what the youth was about, his father secretly unearthed the buried object and brought to light this letter: Deere Deaver!

An Invitation.

LITTLE JOHN'S aunt was visiting the family, and John did not always appreciate her remark. One day the small boy was observed working very hard in the back yard, digging a hole as deep as his strength would permit. He then carefully placed something in the hole and shoveled the dirt back in. Curious to know what the youth was about, his father secretly unearthed the buried object and brought to light this letter: Deere Deaver!

In Woman's Realm

THERE WAS a merry party of society girls in Chicago who decided to give a charming dish supper to James E. Hackett one night after the play. One of the number was a young lady who is well known in Scranton and another was the daughter of a man of great prominence in this region. They were having a beautiful time and the rabbit was in fine condition when suddenly Mr. Hackett arose and said: "Ladies, I must ask you to excuse me, I always telephone to my wife at just midnight."

"And what do you think?" exclaimed the narrator of this incident, "if he didn't trot himself off to the long distance telephone and talk to his wife. We didn't know he had one or that she was Mary Manning, the beautiful woman on the stage. I wish you could have seen how we looked at each other. It was a real semi-comedy and we weren't sure it was our time to laugh."

It is rumored that a tearful of the New York Journal, a Mr. Little, one of his most trusted lieutenants, will start a magazine de luxe in New York something on the lines of Lady Randolph Churchill's Anglo-Saxon, to appeal only to the most cultured classes.

Honore Palmer, now a bank messenger in Chicago, was recently asked by an impudent paying teller how it was that Potter Palmer should set his sons to work. "To teach us to get along for ourselves," was the reply, "and to make us the kind of men who 'I ask such questions.'"

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CURRENT VERSE.

An Automobile Girl. With the Innate grace of a fairy queen, And head thrown back, erect; A smile that plays on a face serene, Who talk, but who won't mend a sock, A century from now.

She cares not for horses that prance and snare, No lucky, made to grin; But in her glory rolls fast by Alone, to take her spin. All eyes light up as onward she goes; Each head is in a whirl, and to make For old and young the vision well known— The automobile girl.

She cares not for horses that prance and snare, No lucky, made to grin; But in her glory rolls fast by Alone, to take her spin. All eyes light up as onward she goes; Each head is in a whirl, and to make For old and young the vision well known— The automobile girl.

A Century from Now. If you and I should wake from sleep A century from now, Back to the grave we'd want to creep, A century from now.

Yet witness such a startling change, Find everything so wondrous strange, We'd hurry back across the range, A century from now.

A woman, forty, fat and fair, A century from now, May warm with grace the speaker's ear, A century from now.

The people all will fly on wings A century from now, Of girlish, gay and but and frock, Who talk, but who won't mend a sock, A century from now.

There'll be no restaurants at all A century from now, The home will have no dining hall, A century from now.

W'y, we'll have the settlin' of him, Down in Yavapai County.

Old Times in Yavapai County. There was blood in the eyes of the Vigilance gang Of the Gray Buzzard's Gulch that night, As up with a bound to their saddles they sprang.

And wheeled down the gulch, to the right, "This horse-stealin' biz got to stop around here," said the vigilantes.

With an oath muttered Hassayamp Jim; "An' 'er Rattlesnake Tim tuk my little horse."

W'y, we'll have the settlin' of him, Down in Yavapai County.

"Who else moult it be?" quoth Catamount "I seen 'em a-splittin' the air, Comin' gallopin' down, not a half-hour ago."

T'is de gulch, on yer little gray mare, Den loosen yer reins, fellers, dik in yer spurs;

See how yer caballeros can git! Hoss-stealers and hoss-stealers' may go some-a-w'eres, But wid we-us dey never went yit, Down in Yavapai County."

On down through the gulch sped the galloping steeds, Beating down the dry sage and the grass, While the prowling coyote slunk out in the weeds.

To let the grim cavalry pass, Like the wind of their ride; not a word, not a sound.

Was heard as they flew o'er the heath, Save the beating of hoofs on the hard, dusty ground. Much incensed, the little girl arose and walked toward the door.

And the brown sage a-crackling beneath. Down in Yavapai County.

Then a shadowy speck arose in their sight, It seemed like a fugitive wraith in the night.

As on through the darkness it sped, "It is him!" with an oath muttered Hassayamp Jim; "Kain't ye see how they's splittin' the air?"

He was r'ht, for there never was rider like Tim, Nor steed like that little gray mare, Down in Yavapai County.

"It is him!" was the whisper on each horseman's lip As forward he bent for the race; Deep, deep sank the spurs, and the mer-cies who came the sound.

Urged the foam covered steeds in the chase, Like a cyclone they flew, indistinct in the night, And the hoofs thundered fast on the ground;

Ah, the fugitive knew in his hurrying flight, What was meant by that ominous sound, Down in Yavapai County.

Deep, deep in the flanks of the little gray mare, Sank the spurs of the rider ahead; Through the sage and the grass sped the fugitive pair.

While behind them the Vigilantes sped, "On, on!" urged the flying on, "On!" came the sound.

In the rear, from a dozen of lips; On, on, sped they all with a leap and a bound At the touch of the spurs and the whips, Down in Yavapai County.

How ended the race? When the gray sullen mare Looked down on the gulch with a frown, A naked old cottonwood, standing forlorn,

With the neighboring grass trampled down, Told the tale, told it well, how the Vigilantes sped, Through the gulch chased the fugitive speck.

That rose in the dark 'mid the sage and the weeds, And they won the race—by a neck, Down in Yavapai County.

PERSONALITIES. A monument on the famous heights of St. Malo will be put up to the memory of Jacques Cartier, the first European to make an exploration of Canada, and the founder of Montreal. It takes a carefully placed something in the hole and shoveled the dirt back in. Curious to know what the youth was about, his father secretly unearthed the buried object and brought to light this letter: Deere Deaver!

At the request of Lord Salisbury, Queen Victoria will in person open Parliament on Feb. 14, the first time she has done so since Jan. 27, 1885, when she

Railroad Men Get Ready for Inspection

WE HAVE now a full line of all makes of Watches that we guarantee to pass. Buy your Watches of an old reliable house. Not some agent who will open shop for two or three months and then skip out. We are here to stay. Our guarantee is "as good as gold." Prices as low as any.

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434 Lackawanna Avenue

THREE LITTLE SMILES.

Only. Hamfat—Did you leave your regular route during the tour? "Shyly—Only to let the trains go by—Syracuse Herald.

Under Social Pressure. Judge—What explanation have you to offer for stealing this dress suit? "Friedrich—Yess, I was invited to a ball—Chicago Record.

A Shining Example. "Do you believe in palmistry?" "Yes, to some extent." "Do you think the hands can indicate that a man is about to acquire wealth?" "I do in the case of pockets.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

General Agent for the Wyoming District.

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They Must Go Double-Quick

That's the order we gave to 2,000 pairs of Double-Soe Shoes for ladies and gentlemen. Prices from \$1.50 TO \$3.00.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies, 114-116 Wyoming Avenue.

FINLEY'S Annual Sale of Table Linens

Under ordinary circumstances this announcement would be sufficient in itself, without further comment in the community, but taking into consideration the recent advance on almost every line of Dry Goods, LINENS INCLUDED, and the fact that all our stock of Linens was bought early enough to secure them at old prices—makes it all the more so. Our Table Linens, as usual, are only of the best—such celebrated makes as Barnsley and Scotch Damasks, Fine German "Silver Bleach" Belgian Double Satin Damasks, Etc., Etc.

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