

The Scranton Tribune

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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 condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 19, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania: I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republican electors of Pennsylvania, by their duly 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 congress man-at-large. Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternates-at-large 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 rules adopted at the state convention held in Harrisburg on August 21th, last, the representation in the state convention will be based on the vote polled at the last presidential election. Under the rules of the convention, each district is entitled to one delegate for every two thousand votes cast for the presidential electors, in 1896, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two thousand votes polled in excess of one thousand. Each district is entitled to the same number of delegates as represented it in the convention of 1896.

By order of the Republican state committee.

W. R. Andrews, Chairman. E. E. Voorhees, Secretary.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS—C. C. Ferber, E. D. Fellows. Vote tomorrow for Ferber and Fellows for school directors, for the Republican ward candidates and for the viaduct and new sewers.

Business Prospects.

SIGNS ARE multiplying that the approaching spring and summer will see busy times in the building trades in Scranton. Last year's labor troubles spoiled that season's prospects and much of the building then postponed has already been or soon will be contracted for, the work to be begun this coming spring. If the new tin plate mill shall be pushed vigorously it will attract to the city within the year a large number of families who will increase the demand for homes and greatly stimulate building operations. The construction of three such magnificent buildings as the proposed large printing plant of the International Correspondence schools, the new armory and the Young Men's Christian association building is certain to lend an appreciable impetus to real estate values throughout the city as well as throw into active circulation a considerable amount of money. The improvements planned for Nay Aug park, the opening to purchase of large tracts of land hitherto fenced in by some of the large corporations, and the sums to be expended in viaduct and sewer construction if the majority at tomorrow's election shall favor these necessary improvements are additional indications favorable to a season of more than ordinary business activity. It is noteworthy that the local architects have been busy on the plans for months past. The dealers in building materials and supplies have ordered heavily in anticipation of a rushing spring demand, and the expectations of those who keep watch upon such matters are high.

Presidential campaigns are commonly believed to be detrimental to business and in some localities they undoubtedly are. They do not, however, appreciably affect Scranton. So far as local business goes, the outlook here is most cheerful and it will be greatly improved if the pending application for a charter for the Delaware Valley and Kingston railroad shall be favorably passed upon and an outlet secured for the anthracite coal product of the Lackawanna valley on terms which must largely increase breaker time and thus swell the volume of wages in connection with the mining and dependent industries. Sober counsel seems to have prevailed among the men who were meditating a strike in our mines; for the present this danger is past, and it will not reappear if employes and employers shall consult their mutual interests and meet each other, from time to time, in frank and honest adjustment of differences. The alarm created by disclosure of the possible removal of the local steel rail industry to Buffalo has passed, and while this removal is yet to be considered among the possibilities, conditions point to the likelihood that such a move will be made while there is profit in operations here.

England's confidence in Kitchener seems to have been well placed. A general who can resist the temptation to support a press bureau must have heroic substance within him.

An analysis of the vote in the senate on the bill riveting down the gold standard shows that twenty-two states voted for it, thirteen against and ten were divided. The twenty-two states which voted solidly for the bill contain 63.7 per cent. of the total population of the country, the thirteen which voted solidly against contain 24 per cent. of the total population and the states which divided represent 10.3 per cent. In round numbers, 70 per cent. of the people through their senatorial representatives sustained the gold standard and only 30 per cent. were for the

Bryan idea of unlimited free silver coinage. The silver question is henceforth a dead issue in American politics. It has been extinguished by the education of experience.

The suggestion of Colonel Morse in his recent lecture on "Municipal Sanitation," that if the city of Scranton will make him a present of its refuse he will light the city free, offers timely escape from the prospect of having to pay 20 cents a night for each acre light to a company which threatens, if its bid be not accepted, to shut off its service and leave the city in darkness. Let the city fathers take the colonel at his word.

Forests and Floods.

WHILE THERE has in the discussion of forestry topics been much positiveness of assertion to the effect that destruction of timber tends to increase spring and fall floods and to produce greater extremes of wet and dry weather, there has not, to our knowledge, been a definite official test of this matter. One is soon to be made.

The division of forestry in the United States department of agriculture has, it is announced, selected Southern California as the field for an exhaustive series of measurements and investigations for the purpose of securing accurate knowledge of the relation of forests to the run-off of streams. The division has chosen the watershed which embraces the sources of the Mohave river, in the San Bernardino mountains, as the best center for experiments. The work will embrace a comprehensive study of the present forest cover, considered in relation to the rainfall and the flood capacity of streams. The area selected contains, we are told, three distinct types—the Holcomb shed, a brush-covered district; the Little Bear shed, which has been denuded by lumbering, and the Deep Creek shed, still covered with heavy virgin forest. These areas are under the control of the Arrowhead Irrigation company, which has kept twenty-eight rain-gauge stations in operation for seven years, and has also measured the flow of the streams during that time; so that the government experts will have much data already on hand. The soil is similar on all portions, and the geological formation uniformly granitic. The rainfall on the forested and log-gone-off tracts is practically the same. It is believed that conditions are so nearly similar throughout the region that the observations will be as instructive as if made on the same tract before and after lumbering. The effects of grazing and fire will also be noted. It is entirely consistent with reason to believe that forest areas absorb and hold rainfall so as materially to retard the outflow of streams and to assist in the natural irrigation of cultivated lands. But to know exactly the facts in the premises is obviously desirable. This test will have universal interest.

It would not become the United States senate to dodge the Quay case. The question is one calling very earnestly for a definite and an early answer.

The Death Penalty.

THE RECENT defeat by the house of representatives at Albany, by nearly two votes, of one of a bill to abolish the death penalty in New York state is not a fair test of public opinion on this subject, for the reason that the particular bill defeated had been championed at a particular time largely for a particular purpose—the indication of sympathy for Roland B. Molineux. It was an ex parte proposition which on that account deserved its fate. The general campaign against the death penalty is not weakened by its vote. It is strengthened by it. As Professor Sumner M. Curtis, one of the leaders of this movement, said in a recent interview in the New York Sun: "It has never been a sentiment or merely ethical question with me; it is simply a reform that is needed for the good of society. I believe that the abolition of the death penalty will decrease the number of murders that are committed, will make convictions more certain, and will make witnesses more willing to testify and to testify truthfully, and will forever do away with the horrible uncertainty of circumstantial evidence. In most capital trials the question is not 'is the prisoner guilty?' but 'shall the prisoner hang?' Again and again juries bring in verdicts of 'not guilty' when the facts are such that they must have absolutely ignored them to reach such a verdict. The circumstances of the murder may be such that the jury does not believe that the extreme penalty should be visited upon the accused. But they know that he is guilty and that if they render a verdict in accordance with the facts they will force the judge to pronounce the death sentence. He has no option. And the jury solemnly pronounces the prisoner not guilty. "The aim of criminal law is the prevention of crime, and punishments prescribed to promote that end should possess qualities most likely to attain it. Justice James Wilson, in his charge to the grand jury at Easton, Nov. 7, 1791, stated the qualities which render laws fit preventives of crime to be, first, moderation, second, speediness, third, certainty. The punishment of death possesses neither of these qualities, but their opposites. The death penalty does not deter men from committing crime, but tends to incite them to disorder, as shown by the fact that in states which inflict the death penalty atrocious crimes increase, while in non-capital states they decrease. The death penalty prevents the speedy empowering of juries and deters witnesses from appearing in court and giving testimony in a clear and positive manner, thereby delaying the proceedings of the courts, multiplying expenses, and defeating the objects for which they are instituted, the affording of the means of obtaining speedy justice and the protection of property, liberty and life. Executions horrify and brutalize the sensitive and young, rouse the vicious, possess no redeeming feature. Imprisonment gives an example as much more effective as the days of confinement exceed the moments of an execution."

In this interview General Curtis made the further statement that history and statistics show that in every civilized, well-established government and state in which the death penalty has been abolished the results have been satisfactory and the crime for which it has been inflicted has decreased after its abolition and none have restored it after giving it a reasonable time to test its efficiency. In support of this statement General Curtis quoted the example of Michigan, which abolished the death penalty in 1847; Rhode Island, which abolished it in 1852; Wisconsin, which dropped it in 1853; Maine, which abolished it in 1876, restored it in 1881, and abolished it again in 1887; Iowa, which abolished it in 1872 and partly restored it in 1878, allowing juries to stipulate the death penalty in the verdict if they thought best, and Colorado, which dropped the death penalty in 1897. In all of these states, General Curtis said, the experience of the lawmakers and of the courts had been that murder was much more rarely punished than it had been before. General Curtis has statistics to show that murders have not increased in any of the states and in some of them has decreased; while the percentage of unpunished crimes has been greatly lessened. He has collected figures relating to many foreign nations which show the same thing. Between 1890 and 1894 there were, as far as General Curtis' statistics show, 509 legal executions in the United States; in that same time there were 847 lynchings. Only four of those lynchings were in states where the death penalty had been abolished. Elaborate attempts have been made to break the force of these arguments, but they have not succeeded. The drift of expert opinion is, we believe, steadily away from sanction of the death penalty. The attempt to elevate Mr. Macrum into a national issue does not hold out much promise of success.

SOCIETY ON PARADE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT'S LAST RECEPTION A GORGEOUS AFFAIR.

The Last Card Function of the Season—Only a Skeleton of the Army Represented, but the Women Form a Bewildering Panorama of White Shoulders, Shapely Arms and Elegant Gowns.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—It was simply gorgeous—the president's recent reception. It was the last card function of the season at the White House. An opera wrap, a swallow tail and carriage coat were open doors and no questions asked. The polite ushers didn't know whether the guests were self-invited or not, nor did he care. He was obligingly polite to the opera wrap, because he knew intuitively how scant was the modish gown underneath. And what the White House habitué doesn't know about "the female form divine" is not worth knowing. The army and navy reception is the most brilliant of all the season's social functions at the White House. It is the ambition of every woman who owns an evening gown (whether her neck and shoulders size up to the strictly conventional standard or not) to attend this great spectacular affair. The time when brass buttons and smaller straps conspicuously dominated the function, but the swallow tail had its first triumph in last night's affair. The boys in uniform were on the field in the camp defending the honor of the American flag when American civilization and American valor had planted it—never to be hauled down.

Only the skeleton of the army was represented. But the women? What a bewildering panorama of white shoulders, shapely arms and elegant gowns. It was "a low toned affair," as it were, shaped affair," was repeatedly observed in the writer's hearing. It was suggested, too, that the old saying of "fair women and brave men" ought, in justice to the women, be reversed.

It was a low toned affair, as it were, shaped affair," was repeatedly observed in the writer's hearing. It was suggested, too, that the old saying of "fair women and brave men" ought, in justice to the women, be reversed. The more elegant and costly the gown the lower the cut and the trimmer the neck. A magnificently gowned woman, her neck and head blazing with great big diamonds, was just ahead of your correspondent in the receiving line. It was idle curiosity, if not a little mean, to look for more, but it was just "the way it is" that every questioner is able to find. It is the regret of a lifetime. NUDITY THAT APPALLS. What a vision of blades, bones, moles and freckles, and the dear thing was charmingly unconscious of the nudity that appals rather than delights the eye in the pursuit of anatomical research. Perhaps it was the consciousness that she had lots of company in the vast throng, and so she did, or perhaps she thought her flashing jewels would obscure the bones and moles, but alas! it was just "the way it is" that every questioner is able to find. It is the regret of a lifetime.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The average wages of a domestic servant in London is \$18.5 a week. Australia is to have a naval reserve modeled on that of the United States. The cable rates between South Africa and England are to be reduced to 4s a word. The average duration of life in Chicago has been greatly increased in the last thirty years, resulting in the saving of 1,000 lives. Japan will not restore captured ships to America, but will give her 24,000 Mauser rifles and 21,000,000 rounds of ammunition at a low rate. All street railway companies operating in the city of New York are required by law to run at least one closed car in every four at all seasons of the year. The Japanese government has decided some time ago to increase the price of railway tickets by one-third. The result was a loss instead of a gain in receipts. The prevailing use of electricity has brought about a large increase in fire, owing to crossed wires. Ten years ago there were only 63 such fires and last year there were 958. About 2,000,000 false teeth are produced annually in the United States, nearly all being the product of Philadelphia factories. About 2,000 ounces of fine gold are used with this output. Prussia's anti-Polish campaign has reached the point of forbidding the teaching of Polish to children after they have left school, even by their own families, under penalty of heavy fines. People who suffer from heat in the hands and feet can obtain speedy and easy relief from the same by putting inside their shoes the young plants having a portion of very fine asbestos. Instead of issuing return checks to persons leaving a theater during the performance, the Japanese mark the departing spectator on the hand with an india rubber stamp, the mark varying each evening in form and color. A German physiologist attacks the prevalent notion that sugar is injurious to the stomach. He considers it one of the most wholesome and nourishing foods, admitting, however, that dyspeptic should not eat sweet dishes in the evening. Two-thirds of the opium consumed is produced in the island of Java, from cultivated trees, the young plants having been procured by the Dutch government from Peru in 1823. The English government also started cinchona plantations in India, which now produce large quantities of quinine.

LATTER-DAY PHILOSOPHY.

The twilight of good and evil is man's constant time of day; hence, his stumblings. Heaven cannot depend upon our sense of duty; hence, those extraordinary bribes of pleasure and penalties of pain we sample daily. Only one kind of honesty, but a million counterfeits so well executed they pass undetected. Some of the counterfeiters of honesty pass current seventy years, or longer, if the spurious coin is not sooner worn out. Nature, from time to time, issues a few genuine coins of humanity, and the race is kept busy counterfeiting them and keeping them in circulation. So exquisite is the art of fabricated honesty that only heaven knows when we corral a specimen, whether it is genuine or not. A thief is any gentleman of miscellaneous and impersonal income. The use of a free lance is quite as often indicated in morals as in surgery. The looker-on in Vienna often sees more than he can understand. The competent lay-preacher is not forbidden to find a pulpit and a text in every nook and corner of creation. Whoever there is a righteousness there will be no lack of common necessities. Life is an idealism. It is precisely what the soul can apprehend and communicate of truth, hope and love. The most impolitic being who ever existed conceived the only universal polity possible to man. Man is not to be comprehended by one mind, nor in one age. I have seen rich men, able men, eloquent men, famous men, wise men, but never one to envy. There was always a fly in that ointment. So long as we are natural, we are creative. When we ourselves become monstrosities we fall back on imitation. Wisdom is to know a part from the whole, to sacrifice the less to the greater, and to use right means to benevolent ends. Extremes meet; obedience and freedom, for instance. If you hobnob with the devil in private, he will nod to you on the street. The devil catches an avaricious man—man of it—to do that very questionable thing, to sacrifice the less to the greater, and to use right means to benevolent ends. Our individualities are in no sense our own; we are virtually non-possessors of ourselves in the interests of society. We can neither pay, nor collect, half our social duties. The sole business of life is social production and exchange. The expenses of love should be reckoned as assets.—Boston Transcript.

this unrestrained gaiety and gladness and enjoyment there was a shadow in the smile on the sweet-faced little woman whose gracious, kind salutations were given to all alike. This devoted, patient loving wife—the highest type of a good, pure, womanly Christian woman—filled a tender place in every heart in the great hosts of people who will always recall the beautiful picture of loveliness and wifely duty as they passed her by with a sidelong bow. There was a silent prayer in every tender heart that her noble, Christian life may be spared to comfort and bless the man whose tender love and gentle devotion, whose sweet and thoughtful companionship has made the wife a happy, contented woman. Penny.

THE CRUSH AND JAM.

But it is "lovely woman's way." The crush and jam at the White House last night was absolutely appalling. Once crushed in the receiving line there was no escape. After weary waiting the great, capacious east room was entered edgewise. If the wedge fitted all right, but there were so many round people in square holes that mist was the rule. The thing to do was to edge along, push, shove, talk loud and seem unconscious of rudeness, whether you were the victim or the offender. Everybody appeared to be in a good humor, and it didn't seem to make any difference whether it was a costly lace flounce or a bunion, nobody uttered a word of protest. With Ash Wednesday a few days hence it was the apparent purpose of every man to make most of the last White House card function of the gay and brilliant winter. And yet with all

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We have just opened our spring line of New Foulards, and take pleasure in calling your attention to the same, representing, as they do, the CREAM of the best manufacturers' line for 1900. Differing from last season when most everything shown was in Blacks and Navys, this season's line comes in colors and shades more appropriate for a summer garment and comprises the New Blues, Greys, Heliotropes, Flavns, etc., etc., both in the "Natural Foulard" and "Liberty Satin" finish.

Our Challies Are too handsome to describe and our assortment NOW is far more extensive than in any season heretofore, but on account of the scarcity in all the finer grades, this condition will only last for a limited time, and early buyers will get by far the best selection. See our exhibit this week.

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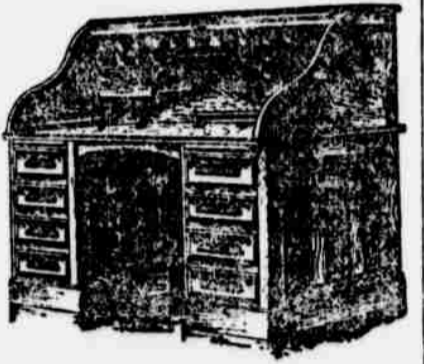
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A truck farmer, living in Owen, Indiana, describes an afflicted condition with which almost every one will sympathize. "I want to thank you," he writes, "for the good that Ripans Tablets have done me. I had been all run down for a year and could not build up on account of imperfect digestion and assimilation. I had tried various remedies without relief until I was thoroughly discouraged. My father, who had used the Tablets with good results, recommended them to me, but I had so little faith in anything, that he had to insist several times before I would try them. Finally I got a package and my improvement was both rapid and sure from the first. I shall keep them on hand hereafter for emergencies, and shall take pleasure in recommending their use to any one who may be similarly afflicted."

A new style packed containing 100 TABLETS in a paper carton (without glass) now for sale at some drug stores. FOR FIVE CENTS. The low priced cart is intended for the poor and the continental. One dozen (100 TABLETS) cost 50 cents. It is sold by mail by the Ripans Tablets Company, No. 19 Spruce Street, New York. A single extra copy TABLETS will be sent for five cents.