

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, this 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 26, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania: I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republicans 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 congressional electors—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 20th, last, the representation 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 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 in the convention of 1896.

By order of the Republican state committee. Frank Broder, Chairman. W. R. Andrews, C. E. Yearhies, Secretaries.

Under a threat of impeachment Mayor Moir has with frantic haste ordered out the slot machines. But according to the Scranton Republican of Feb. 23, "these infernal slot machines are not the worst nor the wickedest of the outlaws openly protected in this city under our municipal regime."

If that be true, then the purification must not halt simply because a fluttered official has been scared back into subjection to his masters.

The Law of Pennsylvania as to Branch Railroads.

AT THE RECENT hearing of the application of the Delaware Valley and Kingston Railway company before the New York railway commissioners, our distinguished fellow citizen, Judge Hand, was called as a witness, for the purpose of explaining to the commissioners the legal status of the branch line which the Erie and Wyoming Valley Railway company has projected and laid out. This testimony was important because the application of the Delaware Valley and Kingston Railway company is founded upon the assumption that it will be able to secure good connections in Pennsylvania, and on the fact that it has an arrangement with the Erie and Wyoming company for the transfer of coal business at Lackawanna.

In reply to questions, Judge Hand stated that he had been a judge of his state for ten years before his appointment to the supreme court in 1889, when he filled, for the remainder of the year, the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Trunkley. He testified that under the laws of Pennsylvania, the Delaware and Hudson company was authorized to exercise all the powers conferred upon it by its New York charter, except such as were expressly prohibited by Pennsylvania statute; that, therefore, the Delaware and Hudson company, being authorized by the legislature of New York to construct a railroad upon its canal-bed, was a substitute for the canal, would have the right to construct such a railroad upon its canal in Pennsylvania. He also expressed the opinion that the company, being authorized by the laws of New York to discontinue or to sell its canal, acquired thereby power to do the same thing in Pennsylvania.

Referring to the Pennsylvania general railroad law of 1868, Judge Hand said that it was the settled law of Pennsylvania that a railroad company, organized under that statute, had an absolute right to construct any branch line which its directors might think fit, and that the exercise of this discretion could not be controlled by the courts, unless it was exercised in bad faith, or in pursuance of some direct prohibition of statute. He stated that he had no doubt of the power of the company to construct a loop line or parallel line under the name of the branch line, referring on this point to several Pennsylvania decisions.

He testified further that no private person or corporation could raise any objection to the want of power of a foreign railroad corporation to acquire land in Pennsylvania, and that where a corporation, not authorized to hold real estate, had nevertheless acquired it and transferred it to a corporation which was authorized to do so, the title in the transferee became perfect and complete. This principle, he said, was established not only by the statute of 1868, but, quite independently of the statute, by long settled decisions of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, followed by the Supreme court of the United States.

Although, in consequence of the technical objections of counsel opposing the application, Judge Hand was not allowed to testify in so many words that the proceedings of the Erie and Wyoming company were regular and valid, he did so in effect. Every step taken by that company, in fact, was put to him as a theoretical case. The whole ground was covered in this way, and the substantial effect of Judge Hand's testimony was as emphatically in support of the regularity and validity of the Erie and Wyoming company's action in laying out its branch line,

as if he had in so many words testified with respect to that particular company.

On cross-examination, Judge Hand was asked whether a railroad company which had leased its main line to another company, as the Erie and Wyoming has leased part of its line to the Erie, could, nevertheless, build a branch line parallel to the leased line, and detrimental to the interests of the lessee. He answered that such facts did not constitute any reason for restricting the powers of the company to construct a branch line, and that if the lessee desired to prevent the construction of a rival line to the leased line, he must secure himself against such competition by an express covenant.

Judge Hand was restricted to a very strict, but polite, cross-examination, which, however, only brought out with more emphasis the opinions which he had expressed upon the direct. The commissioners and a large audience listened to him with close attention, while he made a very clear and interesting statement of the law of Pennsylvania upon these points.

If the Boers had only had intelligence equal to their bravery this cruel war need never have been.

The Puerto Rican Problem.

THE DIVISION which has come to the Republican membership of congress over the question of legislation for Puerto Rico presents a situation of difficulty but is by no means ominous of party schism. It is a situation which calls for conference and concession rather than for dogmatic assertion of stubborn opinion. Before Tuesday's vote is reached a basis of compromise will undoubtedly be found which will restore party unity and good feeling.

Speaking at Chicago on Thursday last, President Schurman, of Cornell, voiced frankly the attitude of those opposed to the proposed revenue tariff policy for Puerto Rico. "It is to be settled within the next few years," he said, "whether we shall treat the people in the Philippine islands and the people of Puerto Rico justly and generously, or whether we shall exploit them for our own convenience and for the enrichment of certain classes. The cry of our next political campaign will be 'anti-imperialism' and 'anti-trust' and I believe, sir, with reference to Puerto Rico, that President McKinley is right and that congress is wrong. Perhaps you will permit me to say that I see no such danger before the campaign as this, that its critics will say, if this congressional measure now pending goes through, that two of the greatest trusts of the country went to congress and forbade it to pass the humanitarian and equitable recommendation of the president of the United States. We hold Puerto Rico, and we hold the Philippine islands in trust for the benefit of their inhabitants. We are now on trial before the forum of the world. The world has witnessed great experiments. It has seen England lose her thirteen colonies, now the United States of America, because she would govern them for her interests and not for theirs, and we shall lose, and deserve to lose, our empire, unless we learn to govern them in their interest and not in ours. But, Mr. President, I have confidence in the good sense and in the sense of justice of the American people, and that they will back the president of the United States in his just and equitable recommendation regarding the islands of Puerto Rico."

Similar though more emphatic pronouncement is made by a paper very close to the president, the Chicago Times-Herald. "Popular sentiment reflected in the press of the Northwest, which is the seat of Republican strength in congress, demands," says Mr. Kohlsaat's journal in double leads, "the abolition of all customs tariffs between the United States and Puerto Rico. It takes no stock in any pretense of free trade between the island and our markets would be a precedent that might return to plague us when it becomes necessary to deal with Cuba and the Philippines. Congress can deal with these knotty problems when they arise. President McKinley cannot afford to mistake the clamor of the sugar and tobacco lobby for the voice of the American people. If the committee bill comes to him in its present shape nothing short of an absolute and uncompromising veto will save him from the ugly charge of sacrificing 'plain duty' to the sordid demands of two protected industries, already in bad odor with the American people. For political effect the president could not wish congress to give him a greater service than to give him an opportunity to veto the 25 per cent. tariff, ringing American veto. The mere hint of such an intention would defeat this unworthy legislation for the estrangement and spoliation of Puerto Rico."

Here are assertions, one by a man holding peculiarly confidential relations with the president, and the other by a paper whose owner is one of Mr. McKinley's most intimate friends, and concurrently charging the tobacco and sugar trusts with responsibility for overturning the president's free trade recommendation and of putting in place of it a revenue tariff. They imply that the Republican leadership in congress is under the control of these trusts; that Mr. Payne, for instance, who introduced originally a free trade bill and then afterward withdrew it and took in hand the 25 per cent. tariff bill; General Grosvenor, Mr. Lacey and the other foremost Republicans who have stood behind the pending measure are either guilty of unworthy motives or else lack the manhood to stand forth for the right. We are not prepared to believe this; we don't think that President Schurman, Editor Kohlsaat or the other Republicans who oppose the 25 per cent. tariff can really believe this; we wonder if they realize what a weapon they are putting into the hands of the opposition.

As it seems to us, the difference between those who advocate a flat free trade arrangement with Puerto Rico and those who propose a low tariff rate, all the proceeds of which are to be turned into the Puerto Rican treasury, is one which can be explained without imputing corrupt motives to anybody. It is a difference in method but not a difference in intention. Nobody desires

the "estrangement" or "spoliation" of Puerto Rico. It is not estrangement to give it a good civil government with promise of a better as soon as its inhabitants are ready for it. It is not spoliation to give it a preferential rate of 75 per cent. of the Dingley tariff and then return to it all moneys thus collected. The sugar trust is not helped by this arrangement because even with free trade it was not menaced. Nor is the tobacco trust, the Puerto Rican leaf and the American leaf not being competitive. The beneficiaries are the people of Puerto Rico, who get sufficient revenue to run their government, and the people of the United States, who by virtue of this enactment establish the precedent that through congress they are to have some say in the conditions of legislation drafted for the new possessions.

Before the week is ended, Matthew Stanley Quay, the choice of the Republican majority in Pennsylvania for United States senator, should be confirmed in the possession of his interrupted rights.

The Monroe Doctrine for Asia.

THE CHINESE minister is adroit as well as philosophic. In his speech before the University of Pennsylvania last week he took occasion to express his admiration of the Monroe doctrine, which, he said, was founded on sound principles of justice and self protection, and then he blandly added:

"The question now arises whether it is not time for this country to extend the Monroe doctrine to Asia. The Philippine islands are situated on the outskirts of Asia, and may be said to be at the very door of that continent. It was necessary for President Monroe to declare any attempt to encroach upon any portion of the American continent extending over 8,000 miles, from Alaska to Patagonia, as dangerous to your peace and safety, what shall you say to this when you find that the mainland of Asia is not more than 600 miles distant from the Philippines? If it was thought proper not to allow Puerto Rico or any of the islands on this side of the Atlantic to pass into the possession of any foreign power, would it be advisable to look with indifference on any encroachments on the mainland of Asia, especially the eastern portion, which is nearer to Manila than Puerto Rico to Florida? I do not apprehend any encroachment will take place, but the Monroe doctrine, being the fixed policy of your government, the natural logic is that it should be applied to every part of the world where this country has possessions. This policy is by no means a selfish one, but as I have already remarked, is founded on justice and self protection, and if persistently carried out it will tend greatly to the preservation of peace wherever it is enforced."

The applicability of these remarks to China's need of protection against foreign encroachment is apparent. It would certainly be opportune for China, if her minister's advice should be quickly followed by our government; but so far as the United States is concerned the time is not yet ripe. It may come, however. There is a possibility of its coming in the Americanization of the Philippines and in a spreading of American influence upon the mainland of Asia which will make further spoliation of China impossible.

President McKinley is too good a philosopher to worry over the antics or the epithets of the anti-imperialists. He doubtless realizes how necessary it is to a man's fame to be called names.

Misconceptions.

IT IS NOT EASY to understand why Rome should have named an outsider as the first bishop of Havana under Cuban independence, but it is easy to appreciate the opposition to this appointment which exists in violent form among the more radical Nationalists in Cuba. These people are so bent on realizing their long dream of independent nationality that they ache to measure strength with the Vatican, and this not so much because of any deep seated feeling of insubordination as simply from the desire to let the world know that they are at last their own masters.

It illustrates the perplexities of American duty in the new possessions that the first step which the dissenting Cubans took in their campaign against the new bishop was to send a deputation to Governor General Wood to ask him to use his influence with President McKinley to get the pope to recall the foreigner and to name a Cuban bishop instead. There probably was not a man in that deputation who had not told times without number that the civil authority of the United States has nothing to do with church politics; but it would seem that there is still a great deal of skepticism on the subject. If this is the case in Cuba, where thousands of the natives have had the benefit of an American education, what will be the belief among the Filipinos, whose misinformation is practically unanimous?

The new Philippine commission will have no easy task.

The new currency bill, which is all ready to become law, clinches the gold standard and permits the establishment of national banks in small towns, but makes no provision for additional flexibility in the circulating medium. Currency reform will not be finished until this shall be done.

Bourke Cockran may be correct in his opinion that the silver question is temporarily eliminated from American politics, but he is wrong in assuming that the presidential candidate who was an unsafe guide in 1896 has improved in the interval.

AT WHIST.

When Della plays I love to watch Her graceful fingers deal the cards; I love to note the ease with which The same's great perils she regards.

So holds my rapt attention—yes—She bids me on in winning ways—She cheats like me—and so of course, I love to watch when Della plays.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

His Point of View.

AN ANCIENT AFRICAN, wearing the fringed coat, spectacles, battered plumed hat and beaming and placid countenance of the wandering negro minstrel, sat in the gallery of the Stock exchange the other day, placidly surveying the howling multitude which relates the New York Mail and Express.

A broker was one of the first to spy him. He was one of that large and representative class of individuals who cannot see a black face pass without making facetious remarks. He promptly waved his hand.

"Howdy, uncle," he greeted him cheerfully. "Uncle beamed blandly through his spectacles and made no sign of recognition. 'Uncle, uncle, I say,' shouted the facetious man of the floor.

"Oh, this is rich!" he exclaimed, seizing another man, "then another 'uncle' winner!" Soon a dozen lusty-voiced brokers lined up and with heads thrown back, they sang for the glorification of the guest in the gallery, "Old Black Joe."

A hundred brokers turned to listen. It was pretty good singing, and they applauded and watched the guest. The latter looked placidly through his spectacles without any particular sign of enhanced interest.

"What's the old scoundrel going to do?" queried the chorists perplexedly of their leader.

At this point uncle arose and stepped to the rail. Out of his trousers pocket he produced an old-fashioned copper cent, tossing it easily to the chief of the brokers. He resumed his seat and beamed upon them.

There was a pair of derision from the floor of the exchange, the quartette broke up in palpable embarrassment and the facetious broker swore fervently.

"But I'll give anything to get that old fellow's point of view," he confessed, as he repeated the story that evening.

Problems Solved by Chance.

ALTHOUGH MANY of Steiniz's victories were due to his marvelous revelations of intellectual power, yet one of the strongest of his experiences was one that showed no intellectual application, says Steiniz in the Philadelphia Press.

Steiniz had been concentrating his energies for weeks over the proper method of breaking down a certain kind of attack in chess, and he had worried himself almost into illness over his failure to discover how the problem could be solved.

One day he was playing with his daughter, who really takes a sort of dumpy antagonist, and who has no special gift as a chess player, and he used this attack that he might further try to solve the most difficult way in the world, without any remediation or thought, his daughter made a move which instantly solved the problem. It was a natural move, and that it occurred to the girl that it was a natural move to make.

So, too, Joseph, who had been absorbed for weeks in an attempt to gain a peculiar effect when he played a certain musical composition, and who was in despair at his failure, one day heard exactly the effect he desired, while he was playing, by a certain movement of the fingers, was produced, pushed his relative from the stool and with joy reproduced what he had so thoughtlessly and by pure accident executed.

Refused to Be Labeled.

VERY OLD PERSONS and very young persons are apt to be great sticklers for etiquette. Queen Victoria is an example of the one, and Lord Beauchamp, the present British governor of New South Wales, of the other, relates the New York Post.

Since the latter has occupied the government house at Sydney he has been at great pains to make official receptions as imposing and dignified as he could, and in this, he has been aided by a certain number of aristocratic blue ranks. An aide-de-camp endeavored to reason with her and explain the commotion that would ensue if he and his staff were to mingle together. But the fair one was equal to the occasion.

"Nonsense," said she, as she pressed forward. "do you take me for? A seditious powder?"

The aid collapsed. And yet it is sometimes said that women have no sense of humor.

One Thing That Won't Stop. MARIA MITCHELL, who has been called the "Mother of the Stars," when professor of astronomy and director of the observatory at Vassar, was an interesting teacher. She was not without her brusque manner and severity, was adored by her pupils, relates the New York Commercial Advertiser. Every morning, just before the commencement, she gave a "dome party" to the girls. Small tables were placed around the large telescope in the observatory, and rows from Miss Mitchell's own chair, he noticed the atmosphere. Nonsense poems were a feature of these breakfasts and the astronomer was proud of her skill in reciting them. She was not without a keen sense of fun, in spite of her constant and absorbing studies, as was shown by her dryly-convulsing observation to an over-striken student whom she was leaving one day in charge of the instruments of the observatory. Looking back at the worried face of the girl, Miss Mitchell said:

"And, remember, if the chronometer stops the universe won't stop."

Not Kept in Stock. THE YOUNG married woman had been telephoning to the grocery for an order of supplies, says the Detroit Free Press. A girl had taken her order and had just said good-by. Suddenly the young married woman remembered that she had a turkey for tomorrow's dinner and must have something with which to make the dressing.

"Hello," she called hurriedly. "I want you to send up two loaves of 'hilo bread,'" said the young married woman.

"Madam," answered the same pleasant voice, "we don't keep stale bread at the telephone exchange."

An Aversion to Black Paint. THE LATE Miss Dorothy Dene, the actress, had a pretty gift of humor, and was fond of telling a tale about the astonishment of the workman to whom she entrusted the painting of her flat in West Kensington, relates the Newcastle (England) Chronicle. She had a charming dining room with red-cotta walls and black doors, but had a great struggle to get the workman to put on the black paint.

"I'll do it if you like, miss," he said, "but it'll look like a 'earse!'"

Knew How It Was Himself. QUEEN VICTORIA frequently visits her tenantry on the Balmoral estates, and a little book could be written about the romantic meetings of queen and peasant, says the Scottish American. On one occasion the queen called on a certain old crofter at his stye, and was as usual received with extreme consideration. The

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

FINLEY'S FOULARD SILKS AND CHALLIES

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, Fawns, etc., etc., both in the "Natural Foulard" and "Liberty Satin" finish.

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.

510-512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE

The Prang Platinettes.

Teachers and superintendents desiring for class use in picture study, something that is substantial and inexpensive will find these beautiful new reproductions of great value. We have too different subjects to select from. The prices are very reasonable and the assortment is complete.

The Pen Carbon Letter Book

With this book the simple act of writing produces a copy. Any letter head can be used and a copy produced from pencil or any kind of pen and ink. When the book is filled, extra fillers can be purchased from us at very little cost. Two sizes and bindings in stock.

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An Oeconomere, Wis., printer was greatly troubled with a disorderly stomach and constipation. He became nervous and peevish, easily excited, and all things seemed a bluish tint to him. "One day I procured a box of Ripans Tablets," he says, "and used only a few when the change in my appearance was well-nigh marvelous. The distressed feeling after eating has settled away into oblivion, and my bowels move daily with the regularity of clockwork."

A new style pocket containing two glasses contains in a paper carton (with all glass) now for sale at some drug stores—FIVE CENTS. This low priced work is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen in the box—\$1.00. The box is made of the finest quality of material. The box is made of the finest quality of material. The box is made of the finest quality of material.