

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

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New York Office: 150 Nassau St. S. R. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics.

SCRANTON, MARCH 12, 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.

One person for the office of auditor general. Two persons for the office of congressional-at-large. Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternate-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.

Frank Reeder, Chairman. W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhees, Secretaries.

The city of Scranton cannot afford to be represented at Harrisburg by inexperienced men.

Jack Knife Statesmanship.

TO UNDERSTAND the amendment which has been made by the senate committee on foreign relations to the pending Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty it is necessary to quote the rules which that treaty provides for the regulation of the contemplated water-way. These are:

- 1. The canal shall be free and open, in time of war as in time of peace, to the vessels of commerce and of war of all nations, on terms of entire equality, so that there shall be no discrimination against any nation or its citizens or subjects in respect of the conditions or charges of traffic.
2. The canal shall never be blockaded, nor shall any right of war be exercised nor any act of hostility be committed within it.
3. Vessels of war of a belligerent shall not revictual nor take any stores in the canal except so far as may be strictly necessary, and the transit of such vessels through the canal shall be effected with the least possible delay, in accordance with the regulations in force, and with only such intimation as may result from the necessities of the service. Prizes shall be in all respects subject to the same rules as vessels of war of the belligerents.
4. No belligerent shall embark or disembark troops, munitions of war or warlike materials in the canal except in case of accidental hindrance of the transit, and in such case the transit shall be resumed with all possible despatch.
5. The provisions of this article shall apply to waters adjacent to the canal, within three marine miles of either end. Vessels of war of a belligerent shall not remain in such waters longer than twenty-four hours at any one time, except in case of distress, and in such case shall depart as soon as possible, but a vessel of war of one belligerent shall not depart within twenty-four hours from the departure of a vessel of war of the other belligerent.

The amendment reported is intended to be added to the fifth section given above, and is as follows:

It is agreed, however, that none of the immediately foregoing conditions and stipulations in Sections Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of this article shall apply to the canal which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defence of the United States and the maintenance of public order.

There are two additional sections in the treaty. The first provides that the plant, establishment, buildings, and all the works necessary to the construction, maintenance and operation of the canal shall be deemed to be part thereof, and shall at all times enjoy complete immunity from attack or injury by belligerents, and from acts calculated to impair their usefulness as part of the canal. The seventh section reads:

7. No fortifications shall be erected commanding the canal or the waters adjacent. The United States, however, shall be at liberty to maintain such military police along the canal as may be necessary to protect it against lawlessness and disorder.
8. If no fortifications are to be erected commanding the canal or the waters adjacent, it follows that measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defence of the United States and the maintenance of public order, can be of the following kinds only:
a. A blockade of the canal or act of hostility within it; the revictualing of our warships, the taking of stores, and the embarking or disembarking of troops, munitions of war or warlike materials in the canal or within three marine miles of either end. Is any of these measures necessary to the defence of the United States or to the maintenance of public order? Is any of these reserved rights consistent with the first section's guarantee of complete neutrality and equality of treatment? "In time of war as in time of peace?"

Will any Senator Morgan say in his minority report dissenting from this logical amendment: "The undersigned does not admit the proposition that when we agree that the Nicaraguan canal shall not be fortified as a point of invitation for hostilities or a prize for warlike ambition, we must also provide for the right to defend our own country or the coast of California by British provisions in a treaty with Great Britain. Such a reservation is entirely superfluous and unnecessary, while it carries with it an acknowledgment in favor of Great Britain of a right of control over our national sovereignty which she does not claim and that could not be inferred from the mere silence of the treaty as to such probable rights. The only legal effect of the amendment, if it can have any effect upon our national rights or powers, is to annul the neutralization of the canal."
The senate committee on foreign relations, while professing in its majority report to favor the neutralization of the canal, in the amendment which it has inserted effectually does away with neutralization. Its position is identical with that of the western legislator who said he was in favor of a certain law but "ain't its enforcement." If the senate is going to endorse this amazing contradiction it might better cut the Gordian knot at one stroke by frankly declaring its intention to build a canal as it "darn please," with an invitation to the rest of the world to go to.

The decision of the Louisville court of common pleas that it has no jurisdiction in the Kentucky election contest, which belongs wholly within the jurisdiction of the legislature, probably means that unless the United States courts will grant a writ of error Taylor's cause is lost. In that case, if legal means are powerless to prevent or to redress wrong, the majority in Kentucky must assert its rule by force.

France in a New Ferment.

PROPHECIES multiply that the mania of hatred for England and the English which is sweeping over France will soon lead to open war. It is said that knowledge of this fact is the secret of the extraordinary war preparations which are being made in England, and of the immense force which has been sent to South Africa, as much for discipline and experience as for actual employment against the Boers. The queen's recent actions and her prospective tour of Ireland, in connection with the unusual efforts of the British government to cultivate loyal feeling in the colonies, are cited as moves in the game of preparation, which also includes the neutralization of Germany at a cost not yet made public.

No appearance of cause for a war between France and England is visible to the ordinary observer. But the history of French diplomacy shows that cause is not necessary where nerotic manias occupy the place of statesmanship. A cause exists, such as it is, in the necessity of a foreign war as a means of restoring to the French army the prestige and supremacy which it has lost by reason of the recent public washing of its dirty linen in the Dreyfus case. It is proper to credit the responsible authorities in the civil government of France with doing all in their limited power to stem the progress of the popular clamor for British gore. They are making the best use which they can of the arguments and influences tending to preserve peace; and they are especially emphatic in warning their countrymen that a war would destroy all the expected financial benefits of the Paris exposition.

But the reports which come from seemingly trustworthy sources are to the effect that the jingo mania is increasing in France. Until recently it has been very largely kept out of the newspapers under the promptings of those who have hoped it would blow over and leave the Paris exposition unharmed; but latterly the symptoms have become too vivid for concealment. Reason may yet win the day in France; if not, the long-expected crash will come and France will take another long stride in the direction of the grave.

The proposition to advertise session laws as is done in New York and certain other states, which was defeated by the last legislature, is again to be presented at Harrisburg. The purpose is to let the people know in detail just what their state law-makers have done. It is a worthy object.

Instances of Indiscretion.

IN THE FEBRUARY number of the North American Review appeared a striking article by Major J. E. Runcie, General Wood's legal adviser, describing "American Mismanagement of Cuba."

It may be stated, in brief, that wherever Cubans, under nominal American control, have been trusted to exercise the functions of government, the result has been worse than failure. The courts are corrupt and incompetent; the police forces are hopelessly inefficient; the public schools are unorganized; the municipal police, bankrupt dependents on a political machine; the offices of government, high and low, are filled, very largely, with unworthy and incompetent officials; in a word, the courts and the methods of procedure are unrefracted, and finally, almost every abuse against which Cubans rebelled and to remedy which the United States intervened is in operation today under American authority. There exists throughout the island a condition of time anarchy, which awaits only the withdrawal of the American forces to burst out into anarchy of another type.

Following General Wood's promotion to the chief command, Major Runcie, who had been a most efficient assistant in the work done in Santiago province, was named as a member of the commission to revise the laws of Cuba and had just got nicely started in that most important task when the North American Review for February reached Havana. Instantly the Cuban press seized upon his article, translated it into Spanish and published it broadcast. There was a hot flame of protest and Major Runcie was forced to resign his post of office. His usefulness in Cuba, which had been and might longer have been, very great, was at an end—sacrificed through lack of tact. Some months ago a Washington paper—the Post—accustomed to cynical views of public questions, let fly a smart bit of writing concerning the Philippine problem. Under the caption, "Let Us Be Honest," it said: "Why cannot we be honest in our utterances touching the territories we have recently acquired? Really, it would save

time and trouble, to say nothing of life and treasure, to come out frankly with the announcement that we have annexed these possessions into cold blood and to use them for the benefit of our profit and advantage. All this talk about benevolent assimilation; all this hypocritical pretense of anxiety for the moral, social, and intellectual exaltation of the natives; all this transparent parade of responsibility and deep-seated purpose; all this deceives nobody, avails nothing, helps us not an inch in the direction of profit, dignity, and honor. We all know, down in our hearts, that these islands, groups, etc., are important to us only in the ratio of their practical possibilities. We value them by the standard of their commercial usefulness and by no other. All this gabble about civilizing and uplifting the benighted barbarians of Cuba and Luzon is mere sound and fury, signifying nothing. Foolishly or wisely, we want these newly-acquired territories not for any missionary or altruistic purposes, but for the trade, the commerce, the power, and the money there are in them. Why not tell about the business and profit and protest all sorts of things? Why not be honest? It will pay. As a matter of fact, we are not honest in the ethical or religious sense, but we are honest in the sense of the difference between a brass-knife and a starched shirt front is a more matter of climate and personal opinion. Dishonesty, untruth, crime, and general wickedness are here in our midst—present with us as part of our daily life and growing with our growth. We need not go to the West Indies or the Philippines in search of material for moral rescue. Our own shores abound with opportunities for missionary zeal. Why not tell the truth and say—what is the fact—that we want Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Luzon together with any other islands in either ocean that may hereafter be discovered to our appetite—because we believe they will add to our national strength, and because we hope they will, some day, become purchasers at our bargain counters? We might as well hew off the plums mask and induce ourselves in a little honest candor. It will cost nothing, and it may profit much. At any rate, we shall have the comfort and satisfaction of being honest with ourselves and the satisfaction of looking into the mirror without blushes.

This was copied by Senator Pettigrew into the Congressional Record and scattered abroad by the "element" until it finally got into Agulind's hands. Quick to see its value as a stimulant of insurrection, he caused it to be translated into Spanish and circulated throughout the archipelago as an official statement of American intentions. The cable the other day gave us the result. The dying rebellion has been fanned into new activity; the Washington Post writer's fondness for cynical writing is costing the blood of good American soldiers.

It may be that both Major Runcie and the editor of the Washington Post meant what they wrote and were honest in their utterances; but our public officials as well as our newspapers need to realize that events have put around them new and unfamiliar responsibilities, which call for discretion as well as zeal. It is a quality Americans should cultivate.

Presidents Kruger and Steyn forgot that when they began an unnecessary war because the former was too stubborn to deal fairly with the English-speaking majority inhabiting the land he ruled, the right to dictate terms of peace passed out of their hands forever. When peace comes, as it soon must, it will be founded on an impregnable guaranty of equal privileges and equal rights for all men in South Africa, whatever their race or creed. Less than this would mean England's stultification and shame.

In memory of the days when he himself had some trouble to get enough to eat, Sir Thomas Lipton, tea merchant, cup-challenger and jolly good fellow, well-appointed dining halls where well-cooked food in ample quantity can be purchased by the poor at a penny to a dime for each meal. Sir Thomas certainly improves on acquaintance.

Is the widespread public interest which is manifested in the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's blasphemous scheme of pretending to know how Jesus would run a newspaper a sign of degeneracy or simply another illustration of the truth of P. T. Barnum's dictum that the American people love to be humbugged?

English consols, bearing 2 1/2 per cent, interest, are selling in New York at 6 points less than the new 2 per cent, United States bonds. Both are payable in gold and both are "good as gold"; but the American indorsement, thanks to the administration of William McKinley, is considered the better.

The press of Puerto Rico, like the insurgents of Luzon, is taking seriously the Democratic party's campaign thunder in this country and constructing for itself a big experience in disenchantment when it shall become better acquainted with that organization.

By forcing Senator Mason and other spontaneous combustion statesmen of the upper chamber to twist the British lion's tail in executive session, were nobody can hear, the senate has performed a genuine service to humanity.

The strangest part of this outcry at the "contemplated injustice to Puerto Rico" is that none of the outcriers have been able to specify where the injustice comes in.

THE CALL.

Tommy Atkins, you're a wanted, And you've wanted might be 'gaint, And you've got 'n' t' git some fightin' Like 'o' which you've never had, For it'd better kiss your mother, But you'd better kiss your mother, For it'd be easy pickings, When you're fightin' with the Boers. You can fix the howling Derivish With a neatness and dispatch, And the bloomin', bloody Sepoys Were away below your match, But you'd better kiss your mother, And that Burma girl of yours, For it'd be easy pickings, When you're fightin' with the Boers. They are waitin' anxious for you, And they're achin' t' begin, And a lot among your numbers, Tom, But you'd better kiss your mother, And that Burma girl of yours, For it'd be easy pickings, When you're fightin' with the Boers. They will give you folks a medal, And you'll get your name on, And they'll print your name with others, And they'll call you brave and true, But you'd better kiss your mother, And that Burma girl of yours, For it'd be easy pickings, When you're fightin' with the Boers. —Detroit Free Press.

BRIEF MENTION OF MEN OF THE HOUR.

RETIRING CHAIRMAN OF COMMON COUNCIL.

Mr. Keller Could Continue in the Position Indefinitely but is Anxious to Get Down on the Floor Again—The Retiring and New Chairman of the Select Council.

Chairman Luther Keller of common council expects to relinquish the gavel the first Monday of next month to W. V. Griffiths, the Republican member from the Fourth, who has been chosen by his party caucus to stand for the chairmanship. Mr. Keller retires from the chair because of his belief that he would be of more service to his constituents on the floor. He could continue in the office, it is safe to say, as long as he would desire to act in that capacity, and the Republicans will continue in control, for even if his own party would not be willing to name him he could secure an election by effecting a combine of the Republicans who could be counted to vote for him against all odds, with the Democrats, who, if they caucus to have a Republican, would prefer Mr. Keller, who has proven at every opportunity presented that politics are at the best secondary to him in councilmanic affairs.

At last Friday's meeting, during a discussion of Mr. Keller's conduct as chairman during the two years he has served, Mr. Orter, leader of the Democracy, paid him the compliment of, "He's the fairest chairman we ever had." There who were in the group carrying on the discussion would not disagree that Mr. Keller was always right in his councilmanic actions. They made bold enough to say they suspected he was sometimes intentionally wrong, but every one agreed that when he did err he erred on the right side.

Richard H. Williams, who retires from the chairmanship of the select council, is now about to enter upon his fourth term, which, if completed, will give him a record of sixteen continuous years in council. He sized up well in filling the chair that has been graced by such able city legislators as Mr. Clittenden and Colonel Sanderson.

C. F. Wagner, the gentleman from the Tenth, whom the Republicans have slated to succeed Mr. Williams, is a third term and one of the big men of the council. He is a man of good will, able city legislator, and a tactician, and can be relied upon to do what he thinks is right, even at the expense of offending those who would put politics first in considering which way to jump.

Mr. Wagner is one of the ablest parliamentarians in the upper council, and will be well equipped for any emergency that may arise during the torrid debates which the grave city fathers now and then indulge in. At such times it requires a cool and resourceful man to get council down to normal temperature. Mr. Wagner can be depended upon to prevent council from getting the bit between its teeth while he is in the chair.

Everybody that knows anything in this city knows about the business and industry of the city, and the wide awake secretary of the Scranton Board of Trade, but few outside of the members of the Thirteenth regiment know much about his military side, for he has a military side and an exceedingly busy one at that.

Old Admiral Sir Harry Keppel, the father of the English fleet, and who is considerably over 90 years of age, has just sailed from England for Borneo, where in his young days, some seventy years ago, he stormed so many practical strongholds and established the sovereignty of British North Borneo company.

Joseph Chamberlain's American wife helped him over another stile not long ago. The colonial secretary was addressing a meeting in Birmingham, had the thread of his discourse, stumbled badly and finally came to a dead stop. Mrs. Chamberlain, who sat close by, coolly leaned over and whispered a few words to the embarrassed statesman. She evidently put him back on the track, for his face cleared up at once and he proceeded to the end of his speech without further mishap.

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