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, APRIL 10, 1900

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislature. First District-THOMAS J. REY

Second District-JOHN SCHEUER, JR

By re-electing City Engineer Phillips practically without opposition, councils have exhibited proper appreclation of skilful services faithfully rendered.

A Menace to the Public Library. T COULD not have been the in-

tention of the ten members of select council who last week voted through the Melvin resolution bringing the Scranton public library under the direct control of councils to reflect upon the gentlemen composing the present board of trustees of that institution or upon the accomplished librarian, Mr. Carr. Just what their intention was does not appear. In the absence of any intimation that the city's appropriation to the library's maintenance fund has been maladministered under the system of administration which has brought the library up to a most gratifying standard of efficiency, there is no accounting for the proposed change save upon the supposition that it was desired to increase the duties of the joint auditing committee of councils.

But whatever the intention which prompted the passage of the resolution, the resolution itself is plainly ill-advised and not called for by public opinion. It has the effect of casting a slur upon a group of worthy gentlemen of foremost scholarship and public spirit who have been performing gratuitously a large and well-considered service for the community, and of reflecting upon a librarian who is probably without a superior in the United States. If it means that the library is to be added to the number of city departments in which political influences, deals and pulls are to be the order of the day and that extravagance, waste and lack of system characteristic of most of the municipal methods of doing business are to be loaded upon the library's management, then it needs no gift of prophecy to foresec that unless the courts shall interpose the hand of relief the usefulness of the library will soon be at an end.

The ten gentlemen in select council who supported this resolution may have more confidence in the scholarship and business integrity of the joint auditing committee of councils than they have in the board of library trustees; and may feel that the educational interests of the rising generation are better placed in councilmanic than in philanthropic hands, but we fail to discover any evidence that the public at large shares their views. Giving to councils the benefit of every doubt and the charity of every suspicion; even assuming that every member thereof walks always in the paths of righteousness and is sustained by a lofty inspiration of public duty, it yet remains questionable in the minds of the people whether the average city father as he has exhibited himself before the public gaze throughout the municipal history of Scranton is exactly fitted, by scholarship, refinement and well developed culture to sit in judgment over the details of the management of an institution like the Scranton public library. We trow that he is not.

Dr. Mackey's threats to bolt the open caucus of his party because the majority has disagreed with him show that he is a genuine insurgent. But a bolt, to be effective, requires a fol-

Shortsighted Politics.

of senators at Washington who case so as to prevent the senate from registering its decision in the premises have fully calculated the consequences of their dog-in-the-manger Dewey's presidential candidacy is 1872... policy. Under the rules of the senate, the fixing of a date for a vote on any provocation for pique has been given. pending question requires unanimous senator, if he is so inclined, can retard indefinitely the consideration of any pique is not a winning platform. proposition concerning which he dors not wish a vote to be taken. In the quay matter Senator Burrows of highest privilege. They think they a critic of the British soldiers. have Colonel Quay at their mercy and fience will not permit the majority to decide.

This is a continuation of the very tactics which deadlocked the last state legislature and forced upon the commonwealth the injustice of a fractional representation in the federal senate. It is not, however, an open and honorable method of warfare. It does not conform with the fundamen tal principle of Republicanism that the miljority should rule. It differs from the autocracy of a despotic system only in the briefer term in which it can successfully hold at bay the preponderance of numbers. It incites to retaliation. It provokes a working of the rule both ways.

Now there are a good many people in Poppsylvania who believe in fair play. Some of them have not been admirers of M. S. Quay in the past; some of them have believed a good deal of the ill that has been put in circulaflon about him by men of the Burrows and Gallinger type, who have, flies:

in our state, tried at various-times to set up as much better than they really were. But these fair-minded people, these lovers of fair play, are not so prejudiced against Quay that they of Pennsylvania flouted at over his head. They recognize that he has a clear right to have his credentials voted upon Some of them would not mourn if the vote should be adverse; but all recognize the utter unfairness of leaving the question of Pennsylvania's right to full senatorial representation suspended in mid-air owing simply to the small tactics of two or three obstructionists. All must, therefore, in such a situation, incline their sympathies to Quay as between Quay and the kind of tactics employed against him.

The last thing which the Wanamaker cabal should invite if they have any appreciation of political values is a Quay sympathy movement.

The mayor's determination to abate the nuisance of the leather-lunged vendor of vellow journals who cries his wares in church doors on Sunday mornings will be enthusiastically applauded.

Postal Checks.

HERE HAS long been a feeling among business men that the present system of transmitting money through the mails is capable of great improvement in the direction of simplicity and convenience. Especially is this true in regard to sums of small denomination. At present fractions of a dollar can be sent only in stamps, which, where the aggregate volume of such exchanges is large, is an awkward method; or by postal money order, which necessitates a personal visit to first bearing on this point, and it exthe postoffice and is proportionally quite costly.

To remedy this condition, a bill has been introduced in congress by Senator McMillan, known as the postal check bill, which provides for the issuance of "United States post check notes" in denominations of five dollars, two dollars and one dollar, to replace the entire issue of money represented by those amounts, and fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in fractional notes, of fifty, twenty-five, fifteen, ten and five cent denominations. Each note to contain blank spaces for the name and address of the payee and his signature and that of the person who sends it: such signature to make it payable at the postoffice where the payee resides, and transforming it into a check on the United States government to be used the same as a personal check or the present money order. In lieu of the fee for issuing the note, a two-cent stamp for notes of \$1 or upward, or a one-cent stamp for notes of fractional parts of a dollar,

We have not seen any statement from the postoffice department regarding the feasibility of this plan. There ost representative business houses in the United States, particularly firms doing a large business by mail. If there are objections to the measure equal convenience to the public. By the one act of passing the Loud bill to remedy abuses of the second-class mail privilege it could save enough money to warrant the postoffice department in providing much cheaper transmission of money through the mails and thus contribute immensely to the rapid circulation of money in business activities.

We are having a variety of Pennsylvania vice presidential booms the newspapers. One day it Hastings, the next Grow, and then Penrose. But the fact remains that Pennsylvania's logical candidate is Charles Emory Smith and he ought to have the commonwealth's united and determined support.

other well-known travelers were able to glean from years of association with T IS DOUBTFUL if the handful the Boers and Blacks of the dark continent. This is probably but another are trying to hold up the Quay illustration of the rapidity of the pres- lowing showing: ent epoch.

We decline to believe the story that prompted by pique at McKinley. No Moreover, the admiral of the navy unconsent; and thus one obstreperous doubtedly comprehends his countrymen well enough to understand that

It is stated that Cecil Rhodes is received coldly everywhere in England. Michigan seems disposed to divide and that not even a hackman will exwith Senator Gallinger of New Hamp. tend a word of welcome. Cecil appears shire the honor of preventing a deci- to have been much more of a success sion on a question obviously of the in stirring up a war than in posing as

The Democratic threat to convict him of the murder of Goebel unless he gives up his claims to the governorship is not scaring Governor Taylor a little bit. Taylor certainly develops

upon acquaintance. Now that Reformer Coray has securely landed that unsolicited renomination, the great heart of an anxious commonwealth can ease down in its beating and the Philadelphia experts can move on.

It ought to be possible to insure the next admiral of our navy against the dangers of matrimony, for the risk is national as well as personal.

There is little doubt that Admiral Von Diederichs regards recent occurrences as in the nature of poetic re-

FREE TRADE NOW IN SHIPPING MATERIAL

want to see the entire commonwealth INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMIS-SIONER OF NAVIGATION.

> In 1872 Congress Inaugurated the Policy of Admitting Free of Duty Materials Intended for the Building of Ships for the Foreign Trade. Other Stimulus to Our Merchant Marine Must Be Sought.

Special to the Scranton Tribune

Washington, April 9.-There is a very general impression in certain parts of the country that if the materials used in shipbuilding were admitted free of duty our shipbuilders would be able to build ships as cheaply in the United States as they can be built in foreign countries. Comparatively few people know that such materials have for years been on our free list. Many think that American shipbuilders are compelled to patronize nome steel producers, and that they are compelled to buy of these manufacturers, no matter what prices they may demand. Commissioner of Navigation E. T. Chamberlain, of the Treasury department, who is constantly administering the laws relating to merchant vessels of the United States, referring to the misapprehension of our laws for free raw materials for shipbuilding, said:

"Congress inaugurated the policy o admitting free of duty materials intended for the building of ships for the foreign trade, and for the trade between the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the United States, as long ago as 1872, although at that time it was not so broad in its scope as at present. Section 10 of the act of June 6, 1872, is the empts "all lumber, timber, hemp, manila, and iron and steel rods, bars, spikes, nails and bolts, and copper and omposition metals,' which may be necessary for the construction of vessels in the trades named, from any duties. The same articles, if intended for vessels in those trades, needing repairs, are also, by that act, admitted free of duty.

ADDED PRIVILEGES.

"By section 5 of the act of February , 1875, yellow sheathing metal and yellow metal bolts, of which the compon ent part of chief value is copper, were added to the free list in respect of ships building or repairing for the trades named. The tariff act of March 3, 1883, section 2510, added wire rope to the articles previously exempted, and in that ection included all the other materials previously exempted. Section 8 of the McKinley tariff of October 1, 1890, also added 'plates, tees, angles, and beams; that is to say, practically all structural forms of iron and steel destined for ships to be built or repaired for the trades specified.

"Sections 7 and 8, of the tariff act of August 15, 1894, put-everything on the to be affixed to each note by the per- free list needed for the construction or son using the same to transmit it repair of such ships by providing that through the mails. When redeemed, 'all materials of foreign production the notes to be re-issued. 'all materials of foreign production which may be necessary for the construction of vessels built in the United States for foreign account and ownership or for the purpose of being emmay be reasons which would militate the trade between the Atlantic and against its success. But it is fair to Pacific ports of the United States, and say that the proposition has the in- all such materials necessary for the dorsement of a large number of the building of their machinery, and all reticles outfit and equipment,' were exempted thereafter from duty.

"It is clear that to the extent that the free importation of foreign materin its present form, congress could lals can be of aid to our people in the wisely give thought to devising a more building of ships for the foreign trade, feasible plan calculated to furnish an they have for some years had the benefit of such laws.

"Vessels engaged in the trades I have named are entitled under our law of June 26, 1884, to import, free of duty, any supplies required for use on board of such vessels. Articles subject to an internal revenue tax if used in the and more convenient facilities for the United States are exempt from the tax f used on board such vessels, by the provisions of section 16 of the tariff act of July 24, 1897, and in the same act section 415 exempts fuel coal imported for the use of vessels in the trades named from all duties."

FURTHER STIMULUS NEEDED. A citation of the foregoing acts, verification of which may be had by any one having access to the laws of the United States, ought to put an end to the demand for the free importation of all materials intended for the construction of vessels building or repair-

ing for the foreign trade. It will be interesting, here, to tabu-Webster Davis learned more about late these several acts, setting opposite South African affairs in one brief visit, to their dates the amount of shipping it seems, than Dr. Livingstone and under the American flag in the foreign trade at the time of the passage of each, also showing the proportion of our foreign carrying done by such ships at those dates, and which, compiled from official sources, makes the fol

American tonnage registered for

corrying in

Bridge ter	registered for	corrying in
Act	foreign trade	American vessels
1872	1,410,648	20.2
1875		26.2
1883		16
1800		12.0
1894	916.180	12.3
1807		11
materials for the co sels for th the effect cline of o much less American can shipb ence in th the Unite the cost i	from duties, instruction or is foreign tract of checking or shipping to merchant mauliders say the cost of build distates, as abroad, is allo	on of imported when intended repair of ves- le, has not had the steady de- n that trade, rehabilitate the trine. Ameri- hat the differ- ding vessels in compared with nost wholly a lid to working-

IN WOMAN'S REALM.

ployed in the shipyard alone.

men in American shipyards, which,

they assert, are nearly double the

wages paid in European shipyards,

More than 50 per cent, of the amount

paid for a finished ship, Senator Frye

has recently said, goes to the labor em-

Some people have a queer set of principles. It is really a wonder how they make them do for all occasions. One would think they would wear them out as other people wear out good resolu-tions. Women are popularly believed to have more principle in many matters than men. They wouldn't go in a saloun and treat another woman whom they didn't like. They wouldn't bet hats and thereafter buy them for women they didn't call on. They wouldn't do a lot of queer things which men do and which seem not to affect their ideas of principle. But occasionally they do

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him it would have simply been "a tidy." A mar usually considers everything from an embroidered slipper-case to a piano cover "a tidy," and he never would have desired that center-piece to the extent of stuffing it in his bag and carrying it off. Oh, it was surely a woman who stole tha

It was as certainly a man who took the hand-some India rug from those same elegant apart-ments. There are men who know enough about rugs to covet a good one for their own den and doubtless that is where the Hotel Jermyn rug went. Or, perhaps, it was a peace offering from some traveling man to his wife. At any rate, the rug disappeared and must have gone off in a gent's trunk. No woman would have had the nerve to have rolled it up and departed with it.

It was probably a man who stole several of th best pictures from the hotel rooms. They appealed to the taste of some guest and fitted cor ventently in his trunk, so he placedly appropri ated them for some favorite haunt at wife or mother-in-law has, no doubt, be-n

Some men have no scruples about the abuse of hotel rooms or furnishings. If a man needs a piece of linen to the up a cut finger he ham't the slightest objection to tearing a strip from the best sheet the hotel provides. He also scratches The Pattison vice-presidential boom recalls to mind that there was once a Pattison presidential boom. How time flies:

The Pattison vice-presidential boom. How time and pattison presidential boom. How time flies:

Best sheet the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the bed, where hardsome center-piece from the table in the parior of the Hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the best sheet the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the bed, where it leaves broad Pittsburgian smudges. Fortundamental particles, where the hotel provides he also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the bed, where the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the bed, where the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the boots and packs are the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the boots and packs are the hotel provides. He also scratches matches on handsomely finished woodwork and walls, uses the damask towels to dust off his boots and packs his hand-bag on the boots and packs are the hotel provides. He also scratches walls, uses the damask towels to dust of his boots and packs are the hotel packs are the hote

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