

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 space is limited, and it is requested that the writer's name be omitted; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.
SCRANTON, APRIL 25, 1900.FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,
CHARLES EMORY SMITH,
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislature.
First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS.
Second District—JOHN SCHUELER, JR.
Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR.
Fourth District—P. A. PHILBIN.

It is noticed that good many men who are rather backward about joining the procession in times of war, are now exceedingly anxious that the constitution should follow the flag.

Senator Quay Rejected.

CONSIDERING that precedent has in late years been uniformly against the seating of a senatorial claimant on executive appointment, the closeness of the vote in the senate yesterday illustrates the wonderful hold of Colonel Quay upon the sympathy and esteem of his late colleagues. It is true that unexpected defections yet to be accounted for have resulted by the narrowest of margins in his rejection; but it is also true that the fight which he has made, considering the adverse odds fairly, is marvelous. And the battle is now simply transferred from Washington back to the people of Pennsylvania. The last legislature was decked out by minority in their intrigues; the next will be expected to elect the choice of the majority of the party caucuses. On this basis the battle for party regularity will be fought with renewed energy and determination to a finish.

The American indemnity affair against the sultan, it seems, will be a test case. If the demands of the United States are granted, several other unsettled bills will need to be put in order for the party to retain the friendship of the powers of Europe.

Victory for Coal Operators.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the decision of the board of railroad commissioners of New York, filed yesterday, granting the certificate asked for by the Delaware Valley and Kingston railroad company, will be received with universal pleasure in this valley, where the coal interests are so closely allied to the prosperity of the community. While none have really doubted the ultimate success of the enterprise conducted by the determined representatives of the coal operators' association, who were endeavoring to secure rates of transportation for the anthracite product that would enable individual operators to compete with bituminous coal in the eastern markets, the formidable array of resources produced by the opposition was a character calculated to create misgivings in the minds of many of the friends of the project.

The victory before the New York railroad commission yesterday is the most important of any in the prolonged legal battle, giving, as it does, the applicants an advantage which practically amounts to a settlement of the case in favor of the miners who have been laboring to procure an outlet for the anthracite coal, whereby the product may be conveyed to tide water at rates that will allow competition with the cargoes of soft coal.

The season is approaching for the various ones outside of the enclosure to yell "Turn the rascals out."

Mexico's Prosperity.

IN A RECENT report Consul Griffith has called attention to the remarkable progress of Mexico, which has been almost overlooked in view of the many other matters of interest that attract the attention of the public from the prosperity of our neighbors across the border. Mexico's emancipation from foreign rule over a century ago was marked by deeds of barbarity that caused the civilized world to question the ability of political leaders to ever bring order out of chaos. Profiting by observation, however, and following the examples of the government that first litigated the torch of liberty, those in control of affairs in the land of the Aztecs have succeeded in restoring order and have brought about a peaceful state of affairs scarcely approached since the Spaniard first invaded the empire of Montezuma centuries ago.

Confidence in the stability of the present business prosperity, says Consul Griffith, has been conclusively shown during the past winter by the increasing interest evidenced by prominent northern capitalists. Many have visited the republic, not only in order to investigate purchases previously acquired, but also to make additional investments in favorable agricultural and mining properties. Such handsome dividends have been realized from many of these investments that the owners are very enthusiastic. It is a well-known fact that the commercial interests of this country are unaffected by labor disturbances or panics.

Mexico's proposition to decrease the present rate of taxation, which will enable her to redeem outstanding bonds

bearing a high rate of interest and to undertake many needed public improvements, is the culminating proof of the excellent condition of her treasury. While in some branches of industry and trade, during the past year, the gains have been moderate, in many the expansion of business has been marvelous.

The public has long since ceased to be on the lookout for Admiral Dewey's promised statement of his platform and principles, which was "coming within a day or two." The declaration has evidently been postponed indefinitely, and will never be forthcoming unless the admiral is nominated for the presidency. The continued silence of the naval hero seems a fair indication that he has consulted experienced advisors and that nothing further will be heard of the Dewey boom unless unforeseen contingencies arise.

Progress in Temperance.

IN CONNECTION with what was said the other day concerning the nation's drink bill, some additional figures, taken from a British parliamentary report on the consumption of alcoholic beverages by the leading nations of the world, will be of interest. The summary is taken from the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle:

As wine drinkers the French are far in the lead, their annual consumption being 925,000,000 gallons, or 24.25 gallons per capita. The British total is 16,000,000 gallons, or .4 per capita, while the American total is 21,500,000 gallons, or .3 for every man, woman and child in the United States. The Germans, with a per capita consumption of 1.5 gallons, are a little ahead of England and the United States, but far behind France.

The British are the greatest beer drinkers, with a total consumption of 1,250,000,000 gallons, or an average of 31.5 gallons per capita. The Germans, taken as a whole nation, come next, with a total of 1,382,000,000 gallons, or 26 per capita; although some of the separate German states go far ahead of these figures. The per capita amount of beer drunk in Wurtemburg is 43 gallons, and in Bavaria 56 gallons. Coming to the United States there is a drop to 12.6 per capita, or a total of 926,000,000 gallons. The French do not drink much beer, the average being only 5.3 per capita.

In spirituous liquors, like whisky, brandy, rum, gin, etc., the Danes take the lead, drinking an average of 32 gallons for every man, woman and child. The per capita consumption in other countries is as follows: France, 1.94; Germany, 1.89; England, 1.02; United States, .56.

These returns are made up from the average of the three years, 1896-97-98. They show that the United States is at the foot of the list in per capita consumption of each and every kind of intoxicant; and, further, that, except in Germany there is a general tendency, especially in the United States, to abandon strong liquors in favor of light wines and beers. Even at that, we drink less of the latter per capita than any other leading nation in the world.

Special interest in the statistics of coal production for the year 1899 has been created by the prospective demand for American coal in European markets. These are not complete, but partial returns and estimates indicate an increase of more than 30,000,000 tons over 1898, when there was an increase of 20,000,000 tons over 1896. This increase took place in the face of an advance of price, a thing that has not happened before for many years. The exact statistics will be awaited with interest for comparison with those of Great Britain. In 1896 the two countries were nearly neck and neck. Britain produced a little more than 30 per cent, and the United States a little less than 30 per cent, of the world's coal. With the growing continental demand there must have been increased British production, too, it is an interesting question if we have passed England and stand at the head of production in coal as well as in iron.

At a Jeffersonian dinner held at Syracuse the other night, Senator David B. Hill emerged from retirement long enough to make a speech that caused both the Silverites and gold Democrats to claim him as a convert. It is quite evident that the sage of Woolf's roost has not been playing a thinking part all these months for nothing.

General Rivera's appeal for all political parties of Cuba to unite and demand independence in 1901 has fallen flat. The uncertainty as to which element would be able to control the conventions persuades the average Cuban politician that for a time, at least, it is better to let well enough alone.

It is announced that Mrs. Cora Urquhart Potter expects to marry Lord Kitchener at the end of the Transvaal campaign. General Kitchener evidently wishes to have the excitement kept up whether there is a war on hand or not.

In discussing the prospects for demand for American coal abroad it may be well to also remember that coal sells for \$150 a ton at Cape Town.

Webster Davis appears to have disappeared beneath the quicksands of oblivion more rapidly than did Mr. Macrum.

The Chinese boxers are again becoming active. The Chinese boxers should be handled without gloves.

An exchange intimates that there is more bogus journalism than bogus bulletins in Philadelphia.

MR. SMITH'S ABILITY.

From the Ithaca Journal.

About the one vice presidential boom that continues to flourish is that of Charles Emory Smith, of Pennsylvania. There is talk of instructing the delegates to the national convention for him. Mr. Smith has had considerable political experience, and would fit into the second place niche as if he had grown there. Moreover, he has one of the qualifications that characterize Colonel Roosevelt—the ability that would enable him to fill the place of president in case of accident to the latter.

Mexico's proposition to decrease the present rate of taxation, which will enable her to redeem outstanding bonds

Penrose in Behalf
of Mr. Quay

[Continued from Yesterday's Tribune.]

I have carefully gone over seriatim the words of clause 1 of section 3 of article 1, and it will be difficult to detect a purpose so far off any expense for objecting to the validity of the provision. As far as the Constitution is concerned, the contrary is evident, in view of the paramount purpose of the Constitution and the express words of the provision itself, that every effort should be made to promote the welfare of a full senate, and in two cases to which I have referred, the words have actually been strained and properly so, to serve that purpose.

I shall now proceed to consider briefly that part of clause 2 of section 3 which reads as follows:

"Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as possible into three classes, the senior class to consist of the first class then seated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year."

We herein reach the first word involved in the dispute. The words "vacated" and "vacancy" are used in this conjunction. Obviously, there cannot be any doubt about the meaning of the word "vacated" in this connection. It is distinctly stated by the words of the Constitution that the seats of senators are vacated at the expiration of the term for which they are elected. In the beginning, however, it is necessary to note that there have been established, after they are vacated at the expiration of the terms, which will occur upon days fixed and certain.

There can be no difference of opinion as to the meaning of the constitution in the word "vacated." The senatorial term is "vacated" at the expiration of the term. The word "vacated," the logical consequence of that is that there is a vacancy. A vacancy should originally be filled by the legislature for a full term of six years, as we have seen; but that does not occur or can not occur for any reason, the office remaining "vacated" or "vacant" until the next election.

That the instrument must be construed as giving power to the legislature to make permanent appointments is evident, and the reasons are arbitrary ones, made by those who seem determined to make every effort to find some loophole through which states can be deprived of their representation in this body on some occasions.

Those who take a technical view of the constitution hold that the words "resignation, or otherwise" are words of limitation, and that the word "otherwise" is intended to indicate a vacancy which happens in some such manner as by resignation. Those who take a broader and more liberal view of the constitution contend that the word "otherwise" is intended to give effect to the intention of the people who adopted it.

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