The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit. The Tribune is ways glad to print short letters from its friendaming on current topics, but its rule is these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition procede as acceptance is that all contributions shall subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, MAY 24, 1990.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,

CHARLES EMORY SMITH

OF PENNSYLVANIA. REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Congressmen-at-Large — GALUSHA A. GROW ROBERT H. FOERDELER.

Auditor General-E. B. HARDENBERGH Legislative. First District-THOMAS J. REYNOLDS, Second District JOHN SCHEUEP JR Third District - FOWARD JAMES, JR.

Fourth District-P. A. PHILBIN The abolition of the time limit marks an epoch in the evolution of Method-

ism. To the will of the majority all must bow. It is for the ministry in the Methodist church to make sure that this change in church government shall not mean a change in ministerial character, efficiency or devotion.

In Dead Earnest.

TTENTION is called to the rewards offered by Mr. Sturges and bis associates for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any peron who shall endeavor to bribe or "fix" a juror and for the conviction of any jurer yielding to corrupt influ-These rewards are sufficiently orge to furnish an incentive for pubde co-operation in the endeavor to scure fair trials of the public officials dow under arrest. It may be assumed If he is, it makes no difference whether that they will not be the only measares taken by the gentlemen in charge lowa, or the great state of Pennsyl of the purification movement to safeguard the operations of lustice. Since the jury room is the key to the situation, it is evident that it must be held | Philadelphia convention will nominate under vigilant surveillance. To this him. We believe that Charles Emory no honest man can object. On the contrary, it is a purpose with which every law-abiding and law-respecting citi zen necessarily sympathizes.

We have collected and present in another column a number of opinions of the state press concerning the local wform movement and one point noted in them deserves to be emphasized. The present prosecutions are in no sense political; the fact that they occur during a political campaign is a coincidence merely. Much of the evidence upon which these arrests have been based was collected months ago and we understand that it was the intention of Mr. Sturges and his colleagues to set in motion the machinery of the law much sooner than they did. heir delay having been due to the argely abortive interposition of the ecent grand jury which skimmed the surface of municipal ills.

It is perfectly true, as the Philadelphia Times contends, that in the final analysis the people in bulk are responsible for such abuses in city government as are at present in the course of investigation in this city. That, however, does not excuse the bribegiver nor the bribe-taker. They both deliberately violate well known laws and upon fair conviction merit exemplacy punishment. The majority of citizens are slow to take the initiative in processes calculated to bring about a better order of things municipal; but they are quick to give their support to honest men who with pure motive and clean hands do. This is clearly illustrated in the attitude of public opinion toward the leaders in the present crusade. It is one not only of confidence and expectation but of cordial co-operation. Conditions had simply become so bad in this city that they were not longer tolerable. In the readjustment of them some persons may get hurt but the purification will be warranted on the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number.

High Vs. Low License.

LOCAL contemporary presents in concise form an excellent summary of the ar guments against the Brooks high license law as that statute appears in operation in this community. It notes the manifest injustice of exacting from licensed liquor dealers large fees for a monopoly over the sale of intoxicants which exists on paper but not in fact, and it contends that a fairer plan would be to moderate the fee and let licenses be taken out by

Buch a plan would doubtless reduce the number of unlicensed places, especially if in connection with it there was a vigorous prosecution of dealers seiling without a license. There can be no doubt that the magnitude of the present license fee operates against the conviction of persons charged with selling without licenses, especially in the case of widows or cripples who engage in the speak-easy business when other means of support are lacking. Juries have the habit of taking an extremely sentimental view of such offenders and convictions in such cases are few and far between.

But it must be remembered that ours is an exceptional community in many respects; and that while local conditions cause the high license law to appear a failure there are many communities in the state, a large majority of them, in fact, in which the same law which here looks like a sham there works admirably, fulfilling revenue requirements and making possible a degree of restriction upon the liquor traffic which has the general approval of the people affected. If it were possible to apply special legislaprevalent in the ceal fields, that would cerned, avail nothing; but in other

privilege being denied, we see no immediate relief save in a more enersetle and thorough enforcement of the aw as it stands, with increased pressure in favor of the better education of the people in the merits of temperance and obedience to faw.

A communication will go to councils tonight from certain property owners in the Seventeenth ward complaining of damage to property wrought by insufficient drainage in the vicinity of Vine atreet and Harrison avenue, Councils have required property owners on Harrison avenue to lay sidewalks within 60 days, but the way freshets sweep down in the locality mentioned calls rather for pontoon bridges. There has been gross neglect in providing for the disposition of surface water in this portion of the city and it is high time that steps were taken to remedy it.

The Vice Presidency.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL makers in Washington are all at sea in the selection of a candidate. No two of them agree either as to the candidate, the state or the section. It is a friendly contention and its object is to nomi-

nate the most available can date. If it was settled new, nearly one month before the convention meets in Philadelphia, the great Republican gathering in the Quaker City would ose much of the deep interest it has voked throughout the country. But it is not settled and the nomination will not be settled until it is settled by the convention. It will not be settled by a cotorie of Washington politicians. It will not be settled this year by a dicker. Republican sentiment has been aroused against a merenary nomination. The nomination of strong man is a vital party obligaion. Whether the candidate shall be an eastern or western man is a question about which people may honestly differ. But the dominant question now is personal availability.

Is the candidate an honest man, a apable man, a tried man-is he somebody or nobody? Will his name give prestige to the national ticket, or will the nomination rescue his name from obscurity? Is he fit to be president? he is from Massachusetts, Indiana vania. If he is, it makes no difference whether he is indersed or ignored by his state convention. If he is, the Smith will be nominated. He is fit to be president.

The modern juryman has the advant age of a Supreme court judge every time. The ignorant member of the pane! of twelve can tie up the other eleven at will, while the learned, jurist can only file a dissenting opinion.

Re-elect Taylor.

THAT SHALL become of William Sylvester Taylor, the regularly elected but technically unseated governor of Kentucky, is a matter which is occasioning a good deal of American people love fair play. They recognize that while Taylor as occupant of the office of governor may have been stampeded into a mistake when he adjourned the legislature immediately following the assassination of Goebel, it was, if an error at all, merely an error of judgment excusable in view of the tumultuous circumstances, and it in nowise overthrew the validity of his commission from the people, which has since been cancelled by the most

impudent fraud. The consequences of that fraud affect more than Taylor. They challenge the justice of the people of Kentucky and raise the question whether usurpation carried to completion by prostitution of the forms of law is to be acquiesced in by the manhood of the Blue Grass commonwealth. Whether Taylor shall remain in public life or disappear is of small account viewed from the personal standpoint. No doubt after what he has endured he would prefer to end his days in peace, afar from the memories of the fraud and violence that have worked upon him inestimable wrong.

But the matter is in the hands of the people of Kentucky and they must dispose of it in accordance with their own dignity and honor. They elected Taylor governor and have been cheated out of their will. To Taylor and to themselves they owe a re-election which shall be effective.

In spite of frequent warnings it is Impossible to make the young woman believe that there is anything dangerous in cleo-ice-cream.

Let the President Alone.

newspapers in the country on the subject of our duty to the Boers is the Washington Post, which appears to believe that President McKinley should declare war on Great Britain instanter. It probably would not word its belief as we have worded it, but that it holds substantially this

If the Post were the government, the Post ould proclaim with every emphasis that sol-mity and seriousness could lend to the an-ouncement, the hearfelt sympathy of the Amercan people for the South African republics in their spiendid struggle for life and national hon-or and existence. The Post would speak in this case as the American people, through their choice representatives, have always hitherto spoken in like cases. It would follow the glorious examples of the past and renew the sacred traditions to which, in simple loyalty, we are bound. The Post would offer to the South African republics the tribute of our love and admir-ation, and, bearing in mind the fact that this great nation is the result of similar heroic resistance to similar tyranny and wickedness, would give the Boers at least our moral aid and

ur reverent prayers. A "tribute of love and admiration" would afford the Boers mighty poor protection against the bullets and cannon balls which more than 200,000 Brit ish soldiers are preparing to aim at the burghers in Johannesburg and Pretoria if they do not sue for peace before Lord Roberts arrives at those cities. It tion to the exceptional conditions prevalent in the coal fields, that would open the way to material remedy. That directions it would have an effect upon

the United States which the Post should consider with care. It would allenate the good will of the one nation on earth which stood by the United States when it was in the thick of its war with Spain. It would affect injuriously our commerce with England and all her colonies, who together buy 60 per cent, of all the goods we sell to foreigners. It would turn against us the now friendly hand of every Englishman in every foreign city in the world and leave our diplomatists isolated in every foreign capital, where the representatives of the continental nations are already jealous of and secretly hostile to American influence. It would, in short, be an exhibition of practical folly unexampled in the world's history which, in later years, would cast reproach upon the shortsighted statesmanship responsible for

And this is not all. For if our government were to yield to mere sentiment to the extent of sending a "tribute of love and admiration" to the Boers, it could not with consistency deny the logical consequence of that tribute, which would be material aid in the form of men and guns. That would mean war with England; the unequal conflict of our small navy with England's immense one; the recruiting of an army twice the size of the army recruited to engage Spain; and war taxes in proportion. The Washington Post had better let President McKinley manage this affair. He knows his business.

From the varied tone of recent dispatches from London and the Transvan!, it is difficult to determine whether President Kruger is for peace at any price or war to the bitter end.

The well known British poets seem singularly silent when one considers the present opportunities offered for something genuine it, the line of rhythmical rejoicing.

The readiness with which terms of peace were accepted in Kentucky shows that war has ceased to be an attractive novelty in the Blue Grass

Press Opinions on Local Reform Move

To Be Commended.

From the Philadelphia Press. There have been more or less definite rumors or some time of official corruption in Scranton o that the arrest of eighteen members of councils of that city on bribery charges will not be so much of a surprise. Still more arrests are promised, and if the indications are borne out he people of the city will probably be called to elect nearly a whole outfit of new counlmen by the time the storm is over.

It is the same sto, y the public has become familiar with wherever revelations are made. Private interests have bought councilmen to serve wm instead of the people who elect them, and hile no salary attaches to the office corrupt men who have no visible income have been enabled to live luxuriously on a membership in council, if that has been done in Scranton it is nothing to boost of. In Philadelphia men have beer known to pay out a good deal of money to get elected to the non-salaried office of councilman and get rich in a few terms. They sell out the interests of the public, get the pay privately and put it in their pockets.

Scranton, which is growing rapidly, and is one of the most thriving of all Pennsylvania cities, which is occasioning a good deal of enterprising, with new improvements in all di-comment, and very properly so. The rections, would naturally be a fertile field for be most advantageous to the future of the city if the present movement to expose and punish bribery has been comprehensive and effective enough to afford the people protection hereafter, It appears to have been undertaken with courage and intelligence on the part of citizens who command popular confidence and understand their business. If juries can be kept from corruption which is sometimes difficult, as those who will bribe councilmen will not hesitate to bribe juries there is encouraging prospect of wholesome re-

The severest punishment known to the law is ot too severe for men who, elected to responsi ble positions, betray that trust and serve pri-vate interests for gain. When they accept bribes they do not merely sell themselves—they sell every public interest and the people who had sufficient confidence in them to elect them. There can be no protection of public interests while the bribery and corruption of officials goes

The People Responsible.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Municipal corruption is both common and con This is due primarily to the carelessess of the voters and taxpayers, who permit to be elected to councils and other muni-offices who seek the office not to serve the blic, but thenselves. With this class of men ontrolling municipal legislation and municipal contracts, the mission of the agents of firms and corporations that furnish municipal supplies and bid for municipal contracts is an easy one if nobody gives the game away. The councilmen e ready to be bribed, want to be bribed, are unting for bribes; and the lobbyist, with his hand full of bribes, is in search of the men whe for a consideration, will award contracts and orders to those who will pay most for the favor, This sort of thing has become so common in great cities that the public conscience has ome callous and few seem to be shocked at it. As a matter of fact, the public have come to regard brivery and corruption in the connection with public contracts as something that cannot prevented and that must be submitted to. In smaller towns and cities people still held the old-fashioned notion that councilmen who accept brhies are secondrels and that they deserve pun-ishment. A Shamokin jury recently found a lot of councilmen and lobbring contrictors guilty of bribery, since which eighteen councilmen of the city of Scranton have been held for trial NE OF THE most highly keyed for a similar offense. There is no telling now to what lengths this sort of thing will go. Possi-bly conviction may become as contagious as corrupt solicitation in time.

It may be accepted as certain, however, that neither in the great cities nor in the little ones will the offense of bribery be extinguished by the mere processes of punishing bribe givers and uribe takers. Those who give and those who accept tribes righly deserve punishment, and punishment should be meted out with certainty and severity where proof of the crime can be estabopinion is indicated in the following Hahed. As long, however, as the people continue excerpt from its editorial columns: nscience or responsibility to councils and other municipal offices, bribery and corruption will flourish. If one set of scoundreds are convicted and punished others will contrive new ways of offering and accepting bribes that will built exwill continue to be practiced at the old stands

he country over,
While conviction and punishment will have a slightly deterrent effect, the real and permanent remedy for municipal corruption lies alone in e election of men who are incorruptible. Such men can be found in every community; they are known to everyhody, but they are not political adventurers seeking office. They are not dema-sogues ready to promise impossible things to se-cure an election. In most instances they are t willing to accept an election, and yet could induced to do so as a public duty. It the cole want councilmen and other officials who Il not sell contracts to the highest instead of the lowest bidders, and accept cheap work and materials for the money, they must seek men who are honest in all their transactions and who

have established reputations for integrity, Make Honesty Fashionable.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The first fruits of the conviction of the Sha-

men are accused of accepting bribes to vote on a question of taxing the gross receipts of a cor-poration, and the accuser, a detective serving in the capacity of agent of the corporation, declares that he made the barguins and paid the

noney.

If these men are guilty they ought to be convicted and punished to the full extent of the law. It has come to be the understanding among some councilmen that office is a personal asset out of which they have the same right to make money as if it was a grocery store or a fish market. Some who would seem an offer of money consideration for voting for this proposition or that think it is all right to support or oppose legisla-tion because it will help or injure their prop-erty or business. Under the law that is just as much an offence as taking money direct and whenever punishing councilmen for corrupt solicitation becomes fashionable, those who are thus influenced will be called to account.

It is safe to conjecture that if the Shamokin fellows had been acquitted the Scrapton fel-lows would not have been arrested, and if the Scranton culprits are brought to justice there will be a deluge of prosecutions all over the state. Such things go in waves and while hun-dreds of people know of cases that ought to be prosecuted they are restrained from acting for the reason that it isn't customary to convict and when the fashion changes the flood will be in the

Not a Political Move.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The city of Scranton has a new sensation, and is not one of an ordinary character either. At the instance of four prominent citizens-Colonel Henry M. Boles, Captain William A. May, E. B. Sturges and J. A. Lansing—eighteen members of the city councils have been arrested on the charge of soliciting bribes, and some of them are also charged with accepting bribes in connec tion with municipal legislation. It is intimated that other councilmen will be arrested on simi-lar charges, and that the expensive of gigantic jobbery will follow. Reports from Scranton are to the effect that the prosecutors in these cases have been quietly at work for months col-lecting evidence that would warrant prosecutions. One of the prosecutors was himself a member of councils at the time the alleged jobbery was put through, and claims to have full knowledge of corrupt transactions. Shrewd detectives from New York were employed who have been quietly operating in Scranton for months without their

real character being suspected.

Messrs. Boies, May, Sturges and Lansing are all prominent business men of Scranton, being concerned in manufacturing and mining industries, and are among the most responsible and respected citizens of that city. This fact of itself gives assurance that the proceedings against the councilmen are not entered upon lightly or without having been fully considered. If the charges shall be sustained a case of almost un-precedented municipal corruption will be presented. Nearly one-half of the councilmen are already under arrest, and it is alleged that the end is not yet, that more will be prosecuted. This looks like a bold strike for the purification of municipal government in Scranton, Further proceedings and developments will be awaited with great interest. Coming so closely in the wake of the prosecution and conviction of five Shamokin councilmen on charges of bribery, the people in other cities will be likely to accutinize the acts of efficials a little more closely than they have in the past.

The alleged bribery, it is said, grew out of the

recent telephone, electric light and street paving deals. It is hoped that the prominent citizens who have undertaken the prosecution of the councilmen will not overlook the principals or agent of the corporations in whose interests municipal lawmakers were corrupted, if it shall appear that they were tempted and yielded to temptation with the man who accepts the bribe. No allgations of "political persecution" will avail in these Scranton cases. Messrs. Boies, May, Lansing and Sturges are not in active politics; they are prominent only as intelligent and successful busi-

KENTUCKY'S DUTY.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. There should be unanimous satisfaction in Ken gubernatorial contest cases satisfaction that the contention is determined definitely, finally. That the decision-merely an acknowledgement of the law's impotence to re-establish right dethroned maintain the verdict of the majority against th usurpation of the minority-must prove a disappointment to the people and a delight to the political faction rioting in fraud and reveling is recourse, for the latter there is menace in th aroused righteousness of a sovereign ballot. From the highest legal tribunal there is appeal to the most exalted court of equity, the popular will as expressed at the polls. William Sylvester Taylor has been defrauded of a commission conferred upon him by the people of Kentucky, constituting him the state's chief magistrate. In that outrage the people suffer equal indignity with their chosen executive. The courts at no point and in no sense have reviewed the matter on merit or in any degree sustained the shameful proceeding. They recognize that robbery has been committed, that usurpation has been accomplished, that as damning a rape of the ballot as is possible in fraud, force and partisan tyranny has been committed, but with such deft-ness of villainy such bold of scoundrelism, such adroitness of legal legerdemain, as to technically escape revision and defy reversal. Crime has been done, black, disgraceful, disgusting crime, but under the forms of the law,

What a travesty on justice! What a mockery of legal power! What a debauchery of political purity and integrity of citizenship! But the ver-dict of a helpless court stands. Howbeit, it stands cowering, craven, contempible in the face of these facts, disputed by no man, established in the eternal verity of recorded history: That upon Nov. 7, 1500, the people of Kentucky by ballots cast and counted, elected W. S. Taylor governor of Kentucky for four years. That fact was duly certified to in accordance with the law and the constitution, the returns being duly deposited with the secretary of state. These re-turns were duly tabulated and the result for mally declared by Judge Pryor and Captain Ellis and the certificate of election issued to W. S. Taylor. This act aroused against these faithful servants of the people the most bitter, vindictive and vituperative element in the Democratic par-

their oaths of office in order to secure a party triumph at the expense of representative government. The defeated candidates for governor and lieutenant governor then made a final appeal to the legislature chosen Nov. 7 by the same bal-lots, under the same law, before the same officers by which and through which the same voters Nov. 7 selected W. S. Taylor governor of Ken-tucky. This legislature had the right to hear this appeal and the right to confirm the choice of the people by rectifying any error committed. by correcting any count, by remedying any wrong by which the candidate rejected by the people had been given the certificate. The law and the constitution clearly set forth the means and the methods by which such a contest is to be determined. It seeks to eliminate all partisan influences. It puts the members on honor, as well as on oath, faithfully to declare, faithfully to establish, the will of the people as the law

of the land.

In the course of these proceedings, all the de cencies of the occasion were violated. The plainest directions of the law were treated with contempt. The plainest mandates of the law were tempt. The plainest mandates of the law were not fulfilled. The rules of evidence were scorned. The issues did not accord with the law and the evidence. The petition stands as an indictment of the Democratic party, which countenanced and demanded it. In any court, where one lawyer could have been heard, it would have been thrown out on demurrer. Not an allegation it sustained would justify the petition; not one allegation was sustained. Not before the French revoluntionary tribunal would an aristocrat have been condemned on such evidence, and the trial of Dreytus, by this comparison, becomes an exof Dreyfus, by this comparison, becomes an example of dignity, justice and truth. The report which followed this failure was never acted on: which followed this failure was never acced on; was never submitted to the general assembly of Kentucky. It was never put in form for consideration. It was reported for hurried action, but as it stood discredited every name signed to it, and in time will lead to their humilation. The general assembly never considered that report. It cannot elect a governor. It cannot, by this process, and a majority vote, impeach the governor. It has but one question to decide, on oath, on honor, on loyalty to the state: "Who was elected governor of Kentucky, Nov. 7, 1809?"

That question the general assembly never answered. All the legislative flummery of its rump proceedings was beneath contempt. All the pretense of action impeached the participants. It was an effort to embody a lie in law. It failed. Nincteen senators and fifty-one representativesnot one less-could declare what all know to be untrue-that General Taylor was not elected; that Senator Goebel was elected, and from that decision, duly reached and duly recorded, there could be no appeal; but it would be a lie, nevertheless. That action was never taken. In the meantime let us all bear in mind that the people chose W. S. Taylor governor Nov. 7, 1890. That verdict has been contravened, not legally, but by fraud, trickery, tyranny. Usurpation is accomplished, and the courts, acknowledging the out vent. But what the people did in November, 1899, they can and will do again in November, 1900, elect William Sylvester Taylor governor of Kentucky. And he will serve. Now, let the Republicans of Kentucky do their duty. Let those Democrats who repudiate this outrage against popular suffrage do their duty. Renomi-nate and re-elect William Sylvester Taylor governor of Kentucky, and in that act, so far as is depth of shame into which Goebelism and the mad faction behind it has sunk its good name.



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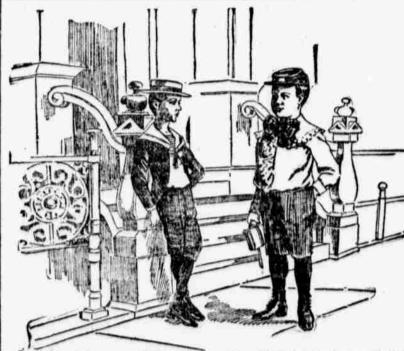
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