

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.

TEN PAGES. SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 12, 1900.

The bargain counter syndicate is trying hard to make itself believe that it has Quay licked, but its daily retortations are suggestive of skepticism.

Future of the Democracy.

IT IS ANNOUNCED with great positiveness in many places by many men of high renown that the Democratic party must be reorganized. This opinion has been expressed with two exceptions every four years since the first election of Abraham Lincoln. It is a quagmire feature of after-election comment among those who fondly call themselves the disciples of Thomas Jefferson. We concur heartily in the opinion that a reorganization of the Democracy would be highly desirable. It is impossible to imagine government in the United States without the mechanism of political parties and it is evident that when only one party can be in power at a time the party out of power, being always liable to get in, should be as good a party as possible.

But though there is much high-sounding talk of a reorganization of the Democracy to conform to the glorious principles of Jefferson and Jackson, with an occasional tribute to Cleveland thrown in, nobody has yet clearly defined just what it all means or how the proposed transformation is to be effected. It means riddance of free silver and restoration of free trade, the wisdom of the change is certainly debatable. If it means a pitching overboard of Populism, Socialism and the Tillman-Algeid-Pettigrew type of Anarchism, with extinguishment of demagogic appeals to the poor to go gunning for the scalps and treasures of the rich, it is respectable, but it means a frightful loss of votes. If it means doing nothing, proposing nothing, simply yelling "halt" at the Republican procession, it is interesting on the score of frankness but hardly important enough to justify the effort.

The eminent gentlemen who are loudest in their exhortations to their Democratic brethren to reorganize are likely to discover before they are done with this matter that the rank and file is pretty well satisfied with the Democracy as it is. Their party has always been wrong and they are used to it. Those who prefer to be identified with a constructive and progressive party, a party of optimism, a party of expansion, have already enrolled in the Republican column and are under no particular temptation to leave it.

Among the messages of congratulation received by President McKinley was one from John Wanamaker, John's contribution to the Republican cause was to try to defeat Republican congressmen.

Campaign Methods.

A PART FROM the work of the various state committees, the Republican national committee in the campaign just ended arranged for and paid the expenses of 15,000 public meetings, besides distributing more than half a million dollars' worth of literature. Speakers and literature were the best that could be secured and both did excellent work.

The literary department, thanks to Perry S. Heath, was especially efficient. It kept the mails and wires busy distributing, not long-winded discourses, but crisp worded facts, put into newspaper English. Secretary Heath's idea evidently was that if the voter could get information in front of him in clear, understandable phrase, he would much prefer to construct his own opinion with reference to it, without interference or aid. This is the journalistic view. People are like jury-men, who ignore what of the special pleading, but give close attention to salient evidence.

The old idea of a campaign committee as being simply a headquarters for financial encouragement to every broken down office holder, office seeker, or common hoodler willing to apply is exploited in most countries and must soon disappear entirely. With it will go much of the nauseous super-induced by extravagant and wasteful use of money in politics. In place of it will come literary bureaus aiming to put documents of interest before every voter and an appreciative view of party journalism as offering the great constant means of political public education.

The Russian government officially denies that it is hard up. There is reason to suspect that Russia is being roughly handled by the international campaign bar.

One Sign of Danger.

THE ARBITRARY action of the packing combination in adding a cent a pound to the selling price of beef, pork and mutton without any rise in the price of live-stock is one which clearly calls for legal investigation. A conspiracy to extort money by unjust boosting of the prices of necessities is clearly contrary to common law as well as in obvious conflict with the Sherman anti-trust law; and inasmuch as the success or failure of this conspiracy depends largely upon its relations with interstate commerce, means of remedy ought not to be inaccessible.

One of the ablest of the newspaper ambassadors stationed at Washington,

Walter Wellman, of the Chicago Times-Herald, in a recent article said: "Already Republican leaders of the better sort admit that they have learned one great lesson in this campaign. The danger to the Republican party is that, rightly or wrongly, it is regarded by many men as the party of the rich, the party of the trusts, the party of the favored classes, the party of the money power. If the Republican party is to save itself from defeat in the near future it must not only purge itself of whatever tendencies it may have in this direction, but it must convince the country that it is not traveling that way. It must do that by legislation. It must solve the trust problem. It must put a stop to all suspension of alliances with plutocracy. It must modify its tariffs and its war taxes. It must in every way show that under its rule there is to be no upbuilding of favored classes at the expense of the masses."

Mr. Wellman's diagnosis of the situation is clearly correct. Bryanism went down because its chief advocate overdid the role of appellant to class prejudice and discontent. But we have to go back no further than 1892 to find a man in the Democratic party who keyed his indictments of Republicanism in just the proper tone to win over the non-partisan reserves which hold the balance of power in presidential elections. Grover Cleveland talked ponderously of the "communism of self" and a majority listened. The Republican party cannot always have Bryan as its opponent. While it has no reason to fear mere demagogism when addressed to discontent, it must take care that just complaint cannot be laid at its door. It is not a foe of wealth and enterprise, but neither is it the shield of scoundrelism. Those who use their wealth to oppress must be brought to book and the Republican party must do its share to bring this about.

Under a special charter, requiring all public franchises to be sold to the highest bidder, a street railway franchise was auctioned off in Syracuse the other day at the magnificent sum of \$1. This was certainly cheaper than mortgaging a majority of the councilmen.

A Busy Session.

IT IS EVIDENT that the approaching short session of congress will have its hands full. Ordinarily the three calendar months of the second session of a congress are occupied almost entirely with talk and wrangling over the routine appropriation bills. But this time, in addition to the annual supply bills, some important general legislation is pending. One of the first measures on the house calendar is the bill to impose a prohibitive tax on oleomargarine colored to imitate dairy butter. Powerful influences are at work both for and against this bill and the fight of last session will be repeated. In the senate the Nicaragua canal bill which passed the house shortly before adjournment last summer is a special order for the first week and its discussion is bound to include a wide divergence of opinion covering the ground of contention over the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, which is yet unratified. Another important subject is the provision of an army to take the place of the 40,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers whose term of enlistment expires by limitation next July. The country having declined to be scared at the campaign cry of militarism, congress will be expected to fit the number of regular soldiers to the existing need and also guard against emergencies.

The ship subsidy bill, congressional reorganization with a reduction of representation where large numbers of citizens are disfranchised, and reduction of war taxes are also themes of certain discussion if not of specific action. The new colonial problems will press heavily upon the short session even if the drafting of legislation for Cuba and the Philippines shall have to be deferred until the ensuing congress. Farewell oratory from politicians about to expire is to be expected, and this, with the necessary routine work, will make up a busy session.

It strikes us that the worry over Bryan's future is superfluous. He will take care of his future all right. There is much greater reason for those whom it concerns to worry over the Democracy's future. That just now looks anything but hopeful.

In Coming Years.

THE ESTIMATES of future population based on past United States census figures recently published by President Pritchell, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and referred to in The Tribune at the time, are attracting widespread notice. For reference purposes we repeat them:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Population. 1900: 76,000,000; 1910: 114,416,000; 1920: 150,740,000; 1930: 185,960,000; 1940: 217,967,000; 1950: 248,900,000; 1960: 280,273,000.

Few of us need concern ourselves with the remote years, when the crowd will have to jump six feet or higher into the air to find room in which to turn around; but the prediction of nearly 300,000,000 population for 1950 appeals to the imagination and self interest of those whose expectancy of life reaches beyond that date. Perhaps a third of the Americans now alive will be living then and the prospect of participating in the great activities and developments of the intervening years is, as Professor Holden in a current comment points out, well calculated to inspire them.

If this general ratio of increase should apply locally, Scranton in 1950 would have close to 250,000 population, but such a result cannot be expected unless our citizens who have means put their spare change to work in projects of local development. The departure of industries from Scranton to other communities is a recent sign of the times by no means reassuring. Effort to counteract this tendency is needed and needed badly.

Our's has hitherto been a public-spirited city with ready and generous encouragement for new enterprise. This reputation must not be lost.

The last Virginia legislature tried an experiment in the liquor business which is of interest. It authorized the establishment, at Franklin, of a sample dispensary. Whiskey and other spirits are sold in packages only, the smallest being a half pint, and it cannot be drunk within ten feet of the dispensary. There can be no entrance except through the front door, which is kept open from sunrise to sunset. The profits are one-fourth the profits and three-eighths go to the town of Franklin for general purposes and three-eighths for school purposes. This dispensary was opened six months ago. In that time, after paying in full for the stock on hand and meeting current expenses, the board of managers have cleared \$600, of which \$150 goes into the state treasury. The success of this experiment, at least from the revenue point of view, is likely to lead to state assumption of the saloon business, placing Virginia in the category with South Carolina.

The much heralded ice trust inquiry has ended in a failure to convict. That there was a crooked relationship between the American Ice company and numerous Tammany officials is plain, but there was no evidence directly connecting Mayor Van Wyck with it. He escapes, but Tammany must take a trouncing.

From Indiana comes news of a movement to recommend Harry S. New for secretary of war. Mr. New is the Indiana national committee man with an excellent record. But the man for secretary of war is the man now holding that office. His peer does not exist.

Progress Made in the Philippines

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

Manila, P. I., Sept. 12. THE CIVIL COMMISSION, Judge Taft presiding, today inaugurated the application, under civil administration, of the principles of American fairness and honesty to Philippine affairs. In public session the commission introduced, discussed and made law four bills appropriating to the needs of these islands a total of \$2,010,435.22, Mexican currency, for the fiscal year 1901. The bills were turned over by the army to the commission Sept. 1, and now in the insular treasury. Modesty and without ostentation, with dignity, common sense and American democracy and directness which pleases all men, wherever it is found, the five members of the civil commission undertook their first public legislative act. In their methods and their attitude at this public session became generally known and are discussed and digested by the Filipino people, they can not fail to be most beneficial. The commission has shown a consideration of the wants and the rights of these same people; there was no clouding of official action in mystery and secrecy; the work of the new government is being done openly and under a sure intent to do well by their wards. Successful legislation for the Philippine people imperatively requires two conditions: first, that the law be made in full and as it is believed the second is fully as important as the first. The Philippines are sensitive as to the way in which they are handled; and legislative efficiency is earned and loses one-half of its efficacy if not promulgated and administered in the right way. Just what this right way may be in its details people here do not yet know, but it is a thing, namely that the commission has begun operations in this right way.

SCRANTON'S NAME.

David C. Harrington in the Philadelphia Press. I notice in a recent issue of the Press an account of the death of Rev. J. D. Mitchell, with the statement that he formerly resided in Scranton and had been largely instrumental in changing the name of that place from "Sleepy Hollow" to "Scranton." Your correspondent is in error, as the place was never called "Sleepy Hollow." It was named "Harrison" after Joseph Harrison, one of the early settlers there. His sister was the little girl that was captured in the Wyoming Valley by the Indians and carried west. She was named "Harrison" after her captor, a Presbyterian minister. She was found through the efforts of the late Hon. John W. Forney, while he was editor of the Press, and her identity established by her brother, Joseph, who subsequently visited her.

The Hon. George W. Scoville, his brother, Sedon T. Scoville, and cousin, Joseph H. Scoville, were present at the funeral of Rev. J. D. Mitchell, which was pastored there. They were largely interested, were promoters and pioneers of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal company in Scranton, and were instrumental in changing the name of the place to "Scranton." The place was called "Sleepy Hollow" after it had started in business a postoffice was established and its first name was "Harrison" after President Harrison. By both these names I knew its name as "Scranton."

VOTING BY MACHINE.

From the Philadelphia Press. Voting machines were used in a number of cities in the recent election, and the testimony from every one of these places is that the machines worked admirably and justified every claim made in their favor. The chief merit of this method of voting is the speed with which the results can be ascertained. In Elmira, N. Y., for instance, the count was made public fifteen minutes after the polls closed and the result was known in St. Paul, Minn., an hour before the count in any ward in the latter city could be given out. It is safe to say that had the machine method of voting been in use all over the country the final result on presidential election night, except perhaps in Kentucky and Nebraska, and every one but newspaper men might have been in bed by 11 P. M. The chief objection to this method of voting is the expense of the machines, but it is clumsy and slow in operation. There is very little doubt that voting by ballot will be discarded ultimately in this country, and voting by machines substituted.

AN OPINION ON BRYAN.

From the New York Sun. Much good nature was wasted on Mr. Bryan's supposed honesty of conviction and purity of motive. It is clear that he is not a shallow trimmer with an inexhaustible thirst for talk and office. The man is essentially honest, artificial and theatrical. If he seems honest and sincere to himself, it is only because like many tragic-comedians of private life, he is the dupes of his own acting. Besides, he has talked so long that words must have lost their definite shape and color for him. We have no wish to judge him severely, and his palpable deficiencies of reading and reflection are pleaded in abatement for him; but when he talks about the negro race who has come up out of slavery itself, every one knows what Mr. Washington has done at Tuskegee and elsewhere for the edu-

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LITERARY NOTES.

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WHENEVER a group of Massachusetts lawyers get to telling yarns it is dollars to doughnuts that one or more will concern the late Henry W. Paine, of Cambridge. One of the most brilliant lawyers of his generation, it is probable nevertheless that he will be chiefly remembered for his exquisite gift of repartee. It was Paine who, on being interrupted during an argument by a notoriously brawny Supreme court justice with the remark, "Mr. Paine, that is not law," replied instantly, "That is not law, but it is my opinion."

He Was Going.

IT WAS a one-horse wagon loaded with boxes and barrels, and the driver audaciously turned into the curb and got down and stood off a few feet and looked earnestly at the horse. Four or five pedestrians came to a halt, and one of them promptly called out to the driver, "That horse has got a chill and you ought to unitch him!" "It's a case of bots," added a second. "He's got the bilious staggers, I don't know anything about horses," put in a third. "The four or five pedestrians grew to five or ten, and ten to twenty or thirty. "He's got a bot," called out a fat man, as he forced his way into the crowd. "Holler in his ear!" shouted a boy who was up on balky horses. "All you fellows get hold and push the wagon!" cried a citizen, who appeared to be a born leader of men. The crowd grew to fifty, eighty, 100, and the street was blocked. Men examined the wheels on the wagon, the feet of the horse and the harness. The driver stood there with lines and whip in hand, and said nothing and made no move until a policeman forced his way into the crowd and said, "Now, then, what's all this about? What's the matter here?" "Nothing," was the calm reply. "He's sick."

LITERARY NOTES.

The Thanksgiving number of The Saturday Evening Post is dated Nov. 10. The opening article is "The Leaders in American Diplomacy" by Hon. John W. Foster, formerly secretary of state. Hon. Frank A. Vandervliet, assistant secretary of the treasury, contributes "The Onward March of America." Hon. Charles H. Harrison, mayor of Chicago, has an article on "The Defeatment of the Modern City." Major Arthur Griffiths, of the British army (retired), has an anecdotal sketch of General Wesley. "The Adventures of a Pioneer Plainsman" are told by Captain John J. Healy. The fiction includes "Senate Bill 378," by Brand Whitehead; "For Divers Reasons," by Charles Battell Loomis; "The Banner Bearer," by Mrs. Burton Harrison; "The Diary of a Harvard Freshman," by Charles Macomber Flandrau; "Moons of the Boundaries," by W. A. Frazar; "Entry 'Iggers' East Story," by Paul Laurence Dunbar. There is a half-page poem called "The Ballad of Ozy B. Orr," by Holman F. Day. The editorial page deals with timely subjects; the department of Men and Women of the Hour contains new stories, and the "Public Occurrences" tell of the efforts to capture South American trade.

THREE LITTLE NEWS NUGGETS.

Over four hundredweight of sealing wax per month is used by the Great Seal, of which the Lord Chancellor of England is the official custodian. A crematory has been built at Rouen and others are in course of construction at Havre and Marseilles. Last year 1,513 bodies were cremated in France. Hunting birds in Minora, one of the Philippines, are very jagunacions. Hundreds of them simultaneously attack a huntsman and seriously injure him.

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