

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 they 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, DECEMBER 6, 1900. No one will object to Mr. Cramp as a collector if the suiton only pays the bill, plus interest and a percentage for the trouble he has caused.

Weighing the Chances.

THE FUNDAMENTAL objection to a second-class charter for Scranton, apart from any question of increased expense, which economical administration might obviate, arises from the fact that in city government based on such a charter responsibility is almost hopelessly diffused.

Under present conditions, if the executive management of the city fails to command public approval the people have within easy reach a responsible official whom they can hold to account.

The mayor of this class city has it within his power to shape the affairs of government pretty much to his liking. Councils may occasionally decline to follow his lead and by control of appropriations may at intervals hamper him; but it has yet to be shown that a strong man in the executive chair with power over every executive department is unable substantially, in spite of these incidental obstacles, to reflect his will and policy in the conduct of municipal affairs.

Under the second-class charter the mayor has virtually no power what-so-ever save that of veto. The heads of the important executive departments are elective by councils and in turn, as appears from the practice in both Pittsburg and Allegheny, they exercise a potent influence in determining the personnel of councils. The people, when angered, may succeed in displacing a number of objectionable councilmen, but unless they can command a majority in both branches in opposition to the inevitable city ring they might for practical purposes as well have none.

Under the second-class charter, if the director of a department incurs criticism they are powerless to reach and remove or discipline him, save when reinforced by a majority in councils.

When it is understood that the public department director always distributes the patronage and perquisites of his office with a view to retaining the interest favor of a majority in councils and is in a position to be of material aid or injury to the councilman seeking re-election, the probabilities of unorganized public opinion being able successfully to compete with him for a majority control of councils in a city accustomed to elect councilmen of the calibre most familiar in Scranton may be computed by the reader at his leisure.

We said a moment ago that the question of expense incident to the proposed new order might be regulated by economical administration. But without a responsible single executive head to safeguard and direct the public interests as contrasted with the private or factional interests of the councilmanic majority in power, how is economical administration to be initiated or preserved? This is the great practical question underlying the whole proposition of Scranton's acceptance of a second-class charter.

Until it can be answered satisfactorily those who uphold the expediency of seeking legislative escape from the new classification have, it seems to us, by far the better end of the argument.

The Ship Subsidy Bill.

THE FISCAL year just ended has been the most prosperous year in the history of the merchant shipping of the United States. As appears from the report of the commissioner of navigation, the total tonnage, 5,184,839 tons, was greater than for any year since 1861, when American tonnage reached its maximum to that time, 4,939,813 gross tons.

In the coasting trade, in that trade our tonnage has risen from 2,897,185 gross tons in 1861 to 4,338,148 gross tons in 1900, and two-thirds of the increase has been upon the Great Lakes. Where foreign competition enters, our registered tonnage has decreased from 2,642,628 gross tons in 1861 to 226,684 gross tons in 1900, and is less than at any time in the past sixty years, except during our short war with Spain. For the past three years American ships have carried annually only 9 per cent. of our exports and imports, the smallest percentage in our history.

Yet to quote again from Commissioner of Navigation Chamberlain, "the conditions for successful effort to secure again a proper share of the carrying trade and to re-establish our commercial flag upon the oceans have not in a generation been so favorable as at this time. Our heavy, continuous expenditures for the navy have created shipbuilding plants adapted to the largest mercantile construction. Our surpassing production of coal and steel insures cheaper materials than can be obtained elsewhere, and abundance of capital, the product of labor's prosperity during the past few years, awaits new enterprises. Coupled with these advantages at home, temporary causes have increased the cost of shipbuilding abroad. These fluctuating considerations must not blind us to our backwardness. We shall build, even in this year of great activity in our shipyards, less than one-tenth the shipping for foreign trade to be built by our principal competitor. We do not carry 5 per cent. of the world's sea-borne traffic. The effort, to be successful, must be begun promptly and unremittingly prosecuted for a series of years, and is entitled to the co-operation of congress."

The shipping bill now under consideration in the senate is framed to fit this need and has the hearty indorsement of experts. In brief it provides subsidies for American vessels in foreign trade based on gross tonnage of the ship and mileage. The subsidies are calculated to offset the difference in the cost of building and navigating American vessels compared with British vessels. American vessels already built are subsidized for ten years; vessels hereafter built for twenty years. The maximum subsidy payable in any one year is fixed at \$9,000,000. At the present time the expenditure under the bill would be about \$1,500,000 a year. A ten-knot ship with a mileage of 63,000 miles per annum would earn \$141,750. A twenty-one knot ship with a mileage of 88,200 miles per annum would earn \$201,200. The bill admits to American registry all foreign steamships owned by Americans on January 1, 1900. Such steamships are entitled to half subsidies. Before these foreign-built steamships can be registered and receive subsidy owners must build in the United States corresponding steamships, as in the cases of the New York and Paris. All vessels receiving subsidy are required to carry the ocean mails of the United States free of charge, and may be impressed as auxiliary cruisers or transports.

In short, the proposition is to risk \$9,000,000 a year in the hope of saving \$200,000,000 now paid by Americans to foreigners annually for ocean freights.

Governor Pingree appears to base his granting of pardons upon the proposition that there were other culprits.

Trifling with Army Reform.

IT SEEMS to us, after careful study of all the arguments pro and con, that the house military committee has not acted wisely in its mutilation of the carefully drawn bill of Secretary Root for army reorganization. It has stricken out the provision giving preference in promotions above a certain grade to officers of the regular army now holding volunteer commissions, the effect of which would be to cause a strife among political influences for the promotion of inexperienced volunteers. There are officers by the hundreds in the regular army whose heads have grown gray in the faithful and efficient service of their country under all kinds of trying conditions—among the Indians in Arctic Alaska, wherever there was tough work to be done, requiring experience and soldierly skill—and it is proposed by the house military committee, in the promotions incident to an enlarged army, to set these quiet and faithful regulars aside so that sons of senators or other political beneficiaries of social or political pull may take the pick of the new commissions. This may not be the conceded intent, but it is too likely to be the probable effect.

But even worse is the house committee's elimination of the provision requiring future vacancies in the staff corps to be filled by detail from the line, such appointees to serve no longer than four years on the staff without an interval of service in the line. At present the staff departments are officered by men who remain until retired on age. They receive good pay, have every social and political advantage, are subject to no orders or discipline, barring gross offense, save those of their particular bureau chief, and in this atmosphere of smug condition of independence it takes an extraordinary man to keep an unwearying head and a mind and heart in sympathy with the needs of this line. The simple truth is that the staff at present is autocratic, overbearing, inefficient in the sense of not possessing the flexibility and intimacy of sympathy with the line required to produce the best results, and as unmillitary, judged by the standards in vogue in most other armies, as it is, in spirit and method, undemocratic and un-American. It is a fixed force, set apart from all other branches of the service; an exclusive caste. And when trouble comes, and extraordinary demands fall upon it, as was the case early in the war with Spain, it has no membership in reserve, is necessarily inadequate and the whole military establishment has to suffer from confusion and blundering until a green auxiliary force, suddenly recruited from civil life generally by rule of pull, can be seasoned and taught what to do.

Yet every effort made to undo this

expensive anomaly, which cost the country thousands of lives two years ago, has uniformly been defeated by reason of the grip which staff influences have upon a few congressmen prominent as leaders of army legislation. The truth of every word said here stands unchallenged and unchallengeable, and it is wisely recognized; yet the evil perpetuates itself to the infinite harm of the service. Secretary Root has a reputation for bulldog grit which inspires the hope that he will not let up until he forces this or a subsequent congress to do the army justice.

The resolution on the part of congress to investigate hazing at West Point can accomplish but little in the case which has recently shocked the country, as the principal witness in the affair is beyond giving testimony. If it can result in protecting future subjects, however, it will justify itself.

The Guthrie Primary Bill.

A COMMITTEE of the Pittsburg chamber of commerce, headed by ex-Mayor Guthrie, has approved the draft of a new primary election law which, in conjunction with the Keator ballot law to group all names of candidates alphabetically under the offices to be voted for, will be among the main reform measures to be pressed upon the attention of the incoming legislature.

The essential features of the Guthrie bill are the making of all nominations by a direct vote and the holding of primaries by all political parties on the same day. The bill fixes all primary elections for city, ward, borough and township offices on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of January, and for all other offices on the first Tuesday of June. The elections shall be held between the hours of 1 and 7 p. m. at the regular polling places, and shall be conducted by the regular election officers. The compensation of judges is placed at \$3 each, inspectors at \$2.50 each and clerks \$2 each. No primary election shall be held in the case of city, ward, borough and township offices unless on a call signed by twenty qualified electors, or authorized by the executive committee of a political party, and published not more than thirty nor less than twenty days before the date. The courts are given power to excuse for any election officer from attendance and appoint a person to fill his place. In case of failure of any officer to attend ten minutes after the time fixed for holding the election the vacancy shall be filled by the qualified voters present. The courts shall appoint watchers on the petition of any candidate. The qualification of a voter at a primary election of any party may be prescribed by the rules of such party. In the absence of such rules a citizen entitled to vote at the approaching election, and who at the preceding state or national convention voted for the candidate of the party, shall be entitled to vote.

The election shall be by secret ballot and the official ballots are to be supplied by the county commissioners. The ballots are to be endorsed with the names of the candidates, with a square opposite the name of each, in which the voter may designate his choice by a cross. The voter is required to declare the party for which he desires to vote. Exceptions to an election or return have to be filed within five days after the election. Whenever under the rules of a political party a convention of delegates is to be held, the delegates thereto shall be elected at the primary election immediately preceding the convention.

Section three specifies seventeen acts which would be unlawful under the bill. These include the use of money or coercion to influence voters, the impersonation of an election officer and the disclosure of how any person voted, or to vote more than once. A penalty of a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or two and one-half years imprisonment for violation of the law is included. It is the duty of the presiding judge to certify to the court of quarter sessions the facts whenever any of these acts are committed, and the duty of the court and the district attorney to take proper steps for the arrest and prosecution of the guilty person. Provision is made for the hearing and disposing of exceptions to returns filed and the courts are directed how to act. The decision of the county courts is final, except when the disqualification affects a candidate for state, executive or judicial office, when an appeal may be taken to the court of common pleas of Dauphin county. Nominations to all vacancies caused by death or withdrawal shall be made by a committee of the party duly authorized under the rules of the party.

There has been so much earnest talk on all sides in favor of balloting that it will be interesting to notice how the Guthrie proposition, which on its face seems reasonable and well considered, will be received at Harrisburg.

The report that Emperor William of Germany has made study of the English language compulsory in the German high schools, displacing French, his reason being that English is fast supplanting French as the language of international intercourse, will be gratifying news to ambitious Americans aspiring to diplomatic careers but deficient in foreign languages. Today 130,000,000 people speak English as their regular language as compared with 75,000,000 who speak German, 75,000,000 who speak Russian, 52,000,000 who speak French, 50,000,000 who speak Spanish and 35,000,000 who speak Italian. Circumstances not necessary to mention bid fair soon to reduce by several millions the number who use Spanish and while French and German are both valuable languages for an American to acquire each coming year will be likely to reduce his practical need of them in the transaction of international business.

In spite of the startling theories advanced by bi-metalists some time ago regarding the scarcity of coin there still seems to be gold enough in the country to supply the wants of those who are able to earn it.

Five remarkable canals were completed in the old world during this year. They were the one from the Catagat to the Baltic; from the Tiamas to Fenny Stratford; the Buckingham, the Grand Trunk and the Peak Forest canals. The act for the Grand Surrey canal was also passed.

The People's Exchange.

A POPULAR CLEARING HOUSE for the benefit of all who have homes to rent, or who have property to sell, or who have small advertisements to place, or who have small advertisements to place, or who have small advertisements to place.

Help Wanted. EXPERIENCED SALES PEOPLE WANTED AT ONCE for the dry goods business. Apply today and Friday morning, 308 Lackawanna avenue.

Help Wanted—Male. WANTED—AN EXPERIENCED SALESMAN AND collector for market business, address box 14, Tribune office.

Wanted—To Buy. WANTED—SECOND-HAND SLOT MACHINES, in good order, state particulars as to make and price. Address L. M., general delivery, Scranton, Pa.

Money to Loan. ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY TO LOAN—QUICK, straight loans or Building and Loan, from 4 to 6 per cent. Call on N. V. Walker, 314-315 Conell building.

Board Wanted. BOARD WANTED—FOR THREE ADULTS and one small child, in respectable Jewish family, living in first-class neighborhood. State price. W. A., Tribune office.

LEGAL. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN APPLICATION will be made to the governor of the State of Pennsylvania, on Saturday, the 28th day of December, A. D. 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m., by E. Warnick, J. W. Warnick, Charles Warnick, George Warnick and Harry Warnick, under the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 20, 1874, and the supplements thereto, for the charter of an incorporated corporation, the "Warnick Coal Company," the character and object of which is to mine and prepare coal for market and the buying and selling, shipping and transporting the same and for such purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of the said Act of Assembly and its supplements. M. F. SANDO, Solicitor.

IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF CITIZENS' AND MINERS' SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, in the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, No. 779, May Term, 1897. The undersigned, an auditor, appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of said county, to make distribution of the funds in the hands of the assignee as shown by the final account of the assignee, hereby gives notice that he will attend to the duties of his appointment at his office, No. 308 Second Building, in the City of Scranton, on Friday, the 13th day of December, A. D. 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m., which time and place all persons interested are required to attend, their claims to be debited from coming in on said fund. CHAS. E. DANIELS, Auditor.

PROFESSIONAL. Certified Public Accountant. EDWARD C. SPAULDING, C. P. A., 23 STRADER'S Bank Building.

Architects. EDWARD H. DAVIS, ARCHITECT, CONNELL BUILDING, Scranton.

Cabs and Carriages. RUBBER TIRE CABS AND CARRIAGES; BEST of service. Prompt attention given orders. By phone. "Phones 2672 and 5332. Joseph Kelley, 124 Linden.

Dentists. DR. C. E. EILERSBERG, PAULI BUILDING, Scranton, Pa.

DR. O. L. LYMAN, SCRANTON PRIVATE HOSPITAL, corner Wyoming and Mulberry.

DR. C. C. LAUBACH, 115 WYOMING AVENUE.

DR. H. F. REYNOLDS, OPP. P. O.

Hotels and Restaurants. THE ELK CAFÉ, 125 AND 127 FRANKLIN AVENUE. Rates reasonable. P. ZEIGLER, Proprietor.

SCRANTON HOUSE, NEAR D. & W. PASSENGER DEPOT. Conducted on the European plan. VICTOR KOCH, Proprietor.

Physicians and Surgeons. JAMES P. PURSELL, M. D., SPECIALIST, Venereal Diseases, Linden street (opp. P. O.).

DR. W. E. ALLEN, 513 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE.

DR. S. W. LAMOREAUX, OFFICE 339 WASHINGTON AVENUE. Residence, 1318 Mulberry. Chronic diseases, venereal, gynecology and genito-urinary organs a specialty. Hours, 1 to 4 p. m.

Lawyers. J. W. BROWNING, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW, Rooms 312-313 Meigs building.

D. B. REPOLE, ATTORNEY—LEANS NEGOTIATED on real estate security. MORGAN BUILDING, corner Washington and Spruce streets.

WILLARD, WARREN & KNAPP, ATTORNEYS and counsellors-at-law. Republican building, Washington avenue.

JESSUP & JESSUP, ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW, Commonwealth building, Rooms 19, 20 and 21.

JAMES W. OAKFORD, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Rooms 614, 615 and 616 Board of Trade building.

EDWARD W. THAYER, ATTORNEY, ROOMS 903-904, 9th Floor, Meigs building.

L. A. WATRES, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, BOARD of Trade building, Scranton, Pa.

C. B. FITCHER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, BOARD of Trade building, Scranton, Pa.

PATTERSON & WILCOX, TRADERS' NATIONAL Bank building.

C. COMEGY, 9-11 REPUBLICAN BUILDING.

A. W. BERTHOFF, ATTORNEY, MEARS BLDG., 29 and 31.

Schools. SCHOOL OF THE LACKAWANNA, SCRANTON, Pa. Course preparatory to college, law, medicine or business. Open 12th Street. Send for catalogue. Rev. Thomas M. Carr, LL. D., principal and proprietor; W. E. Pringle, A. M., headmaster.

Seeds. G. R. CLARK & CO., SEEDSMEN AND NURSERYMEN, store 50 Washington avenue; green house, 1050 North Main avenue; store telephone, 782.

Wire Screens. JOSEPH RUETTEL, BEAR 511 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, Scranton, Pa., manufacturer of Wire Screens.

Miscellaneous. DRESSMAKING FOR CHILDREN TO ORDER. Ladies' Tailors, 212 Broadway.

A. B. BRIGGS' CLEAN SHIRT VALET AND CASHIERS; no odds. Improved pumps used. A. B. Briggs, proprietor, Lehigh avenue, 118 North Main avenue, opposite Lehigh street, corner Adams and Mulberry. Telephone 954.

MRS. L. T. KELLER, SALP. TREATMENT, 506; shampooing, 505; facial massage; manicure; hair dressing, 504; 504 Liberty.

THE WILKES-BARRE RECORD CAN BE READ in Scranton at the news stands of Newton Hook, 407 Spruce and 303 Linden; M. N. Weston, 222 Lackawanna avenue; L. S. Schuler, 211 Spruce street.

MUSIC FOR BALLS. PAUL'S ORCHESTRA—MUSIC FOR BALLS, parties, receptions, weddings and concert work furnished. For terms address R. J. Bauer, conductor, 117 Wyoming avenue, over Hubber's music store.

MEGAREE BROS. PRINTER'S SUPPLIES, ENVELOPES, paper bags, twine, Warehouse, 129 Washington avenue, Scranton, Pa.

For Rent. A NEW MICHIGAN JERSEY COW FOR SALE today at 10 a. m., corner Penn avenue and Pine street, last named place.

FOR SALE—A DELIVERED COVERED WAGON, built in 1900, recently overhauled and now being vacated by the Hunt & Conell Company, A. E. HUNT.

FOR SALE—DESK ROOM OBTAINED AT REASONABLE RATES. Apply 614 Conell Building.

For Sale. FOR SALE—BRICK BUILDING, NO. 41 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, corner Washington avenue, being in property recently overhauled and now being vacated by the Hunt & Conell Company, A. E. HUNT.

FOR SALE—CONTENTS OF HOUSE FURNITURE, carpets, bedding, etc. 802 Washington avenue.

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Lewis & Reilly 114-116 WYOMING AVENUE. Phone 242. Free Delivery.

Our Holiday Line

Consisting of Calendars, Christmas Cards, Bibles, Prayer Books, Hymnals, Leather Goods, Fancy Ink Stands and Novelties Galore

Will be ready on Saturday next for your inspection.

Reynolds Bros

Stationers and Engravers, Hotel Jermyn Building.

RAILROAD TIME TABLES.

Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. In Effect Dec. 2, 1900.

South-Leave Scranton for New York at 1:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 and 10:05 a. m., 12:55, 3:30 p. m. For Philadelphia at 5:00 and 10:00 a. m., 3:00 and 8:30 p. m. For Stroudsburg at 6:10 p. m. M. K. accommodation at 3:40 p. m. Arrive at Hoboken at 6:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:05, 1:45, 4:45, 7:10 p. m. Arrive at Philadelphia at 7:30, 8:25, 6:00 and 8:25 p. m. Arrive from New York at 1:10, 4:00 and 10:25 a. m., 1:00, 1:52, 5:45, 8:45 and 11:30 p. m. From Stroudsburg at 5:02 a. m.

North-Leave Scranton for Buffalo and intermediate stations at 1:15, 4:00 and 9:00 a. m., 1:15 and 11:25 p. m. For Scranton at 4:10 a. m. and 1:55 p. m. For Utica at 1:10 a. m. and 1:55 p. m. For Montrose at 9:00 a. m., 1:05 and 4:45 p. m. For Nicholson at 4:00 and 6:15 p. m. For Hinghamton 10:30 a. m. Arrive in Scranton from Buffalo at 1:55, 2:55, 5:45 and 10:00 a. m., 3:20 and 8:00 p. m. From Utica at 2:55 a. m., 12:28 and 3:00 p. m. From Nicholson at 7:20 a. m. and 6:00 p. m. From Montrose at 10:00 a. m.; 3:20 and 8:10 p. m.

Bloomburg Division—Leave Scranton for Northumberland at 6:45, 10:05 a. m.; 1:55 and 3:50 p. m. For Plymouth at 3:05, 3:40, 8:50 p. m. For Kingston at 2:10 a. m. and 10:00 a. m. Northumberland at 9:45 a. m., 1:10, 5:00 and 8:45 p. m. Arrive at Kingston at 4:52 a. m., arrive at Plymouth at 3:40, 4:22, 9:45 p. m. Arrive in Scranton from Northumberland at 9:42 a. m., 2:55, 4:50 and 8:00 p. m. From Kingston 11: