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REFORM WORK IN SCRANTON

ADDRESS OF DR. LANSING AT ROCHESTER, N. Y.

It was Delivered at Yesterday's Session of the Convention of the National Municipal League—Told in Detail of the Work That Has Been Done in Scranton in the Way of Improving the Morals of the City and the Administration of City Affairs.

At the convention of the National Municipal League in Rochester, N. Y., yesterday, Rev. I. J. Lansing, D. D., delivered the following address on "Reform in Scranton."

Conditions.

Scranton is the fourth city of the state of Pennsylvania in population. It is thirty-eight in size in the United States, having, according to the last census, 102,000 people in 1900. It lies in the northeastern portion of the state, and is a center which holds within a radius of twenty miles at least 200,000 inhabitants. The chief industry is the mining of anthracite coal. To this must be added numerous manufactures of varied kinds and an extensive local commerce.

Scranton is a city of immigrants. The majority of its people have come in within thirty years, which is about the period of its raising as a city. Necessarily it has many things in the way of municipal improvements which are new. Its miles of paved streets, its public buildings, lighting system, school houses, fire department and water works have been rapidly developed. More than twenty nationalities are represented in its population, and a minority are native born, some from New England, some from Pennsylvania itself. There are none in any place superior to its best people.

The very large majority of its residents are persons who have moved to this country from Europe to engage in mining. Of these a good proportion are Welsh. The Irish are strongly represented, and the Italians, in large numbers. Among all these are very many excellent citizens. Naturally there are many, both native and foreign, who are ignorant and uneducated, and who, being ignorant and uneducated, constitute a lawless element. Licensed saloons abound. Until this year, these licensed saloons had paid \$300 for such license. This year by the law of the state governing second-class cities the price of the liquor license has been raised to \$1,800.

Eighteen months ago, there were in the city about two hundred licensed saloons and some four hundred unlicensed. In the course of the year, it is believed, that the unlicensed saloons numbered not less than 1,500, and in the two adjacent counties, Lackawanna, in which Scranton is situated, and Luzerne, not less than 2,000. These were carrying on business in the most open manner. In very many of these saloons were gambling devices, slot machines and the like, while there were other houses in considerable numbers, used exclusively for gambling.

As most of these were open without concealment, they could only have flourished by the connivance of the police and other city officials. Many of them paid regularly to the hands of these officials the money which they sought for their protection. Each and all of the numerous saloons, which we have received, implicated themselves in its penalizing and unwholesome system of prostitution, of which there were many, and left all practically undisturbed. We believe that there were not less than a thousand saloons of all the city, and that every one of these were led from law theaters as one source of supply. Our agents on one evening counted 29 men under 35 years old, who went from the law theaters into nearly houses of ill fame, within the space of seven minutes. Since the police are creatures of the city government, it may be inferred that was the quality of our officials.

The government of the city last year was vested in a mayor and two councils, a select and common council, each having twenty-one members, one from each of the twenty-one wards of the city. These councils had no power of disposal of all the franchises of the city, paving, traction, lighting, licenses, etc. Both councils were regularly organized for plunder. In each of them were men of noble and spotless character, who were morally certain of the corruption prevailing, but who had no power to prevent it. These councils, in their demoralized condition, were literally syndicates of crime. They were bought and delivered at a fixed price per vote. And over all this was a system of political bossism, part and parcel of the system which has made the state of Pennsylvania infamous in the eyes of the nation, freely and without shame, used money to buy delegates and voters for any and all the purposes that corrupt political machinery is usually run.

The city of Scranton has school houses of the most modern sort. In themselves they are a credit to the city. But they are believed to represent in their construction and in their management, a system of extortion and plunder, unlike the above in other directions. The same kind of information exists about the board of education now that was in evidence a year ago concerning the city government. In the case of the city government, we have the proofs. The evidence concerning the board of education, we expect to get later. This list of civic conditions cannot be complete until we have noted that the jury system in our courts was wholly abandoned in the interests of all the above described rascality. Our juries were selected by three persons, the president judge of the county and two commissioners elected by the people. Of these two commissioners, one whom we investigated fully, was a man of the most corrupt character. This might have been inferred from the character of many of the juries. Good citizens too largely selected jury duty and the juries were packed with rascals and men of evil reputation. "Jury fixing" was common, and, as we have proved, juries were deliberately tampered with, sometimes by men closely allied to prominent legal firms. Thus the administration of the laws and even their enactment were corrupted at the very fountain head. Corruption was rife and increasing. The public was aware of it, but had given up in a kind of helplessness. They were indignant and complaining, but they were without hope. Most of the municipal machinery from top to bottom, was running in the interest of lawlessness. The newspapers were mild, and in about the same attitude as the public at large. This is the general sketch of the actual state of affairs in January, 1900. Not only the general features can be too nearly duplicated in many an American city.

The Agents of Reform.

The grand agent of the reform which has given us far better conditions is the Municipal League. It scarcely shows this honor with any other agency in the interest of law and order. It was founded in 1898, a society of men, known from the section in which they resided, as the Men's Union of Green Ridge. This society for several years had been a strong civic body, and from time to time, through its representatives and invited speakers, had reported on existing conditions in the city. At about the same time the Men's Union had been formed in the same section of the city, which, through its Economic Section, had had a lively interest in certain city affairs directly affecting their homes, including matters relating to the board of health, the water supply, the schools and the like. At a regular meeting of the Men's Union, in which the ladies were present, on Jan. 18, 1900, a view of some new conditions existing in the city, the ladies resolved to appoint a joint committee of men and women to wait on the district attorney and request his assistance to act against some of the most obvious abuses. Five days earlier, the first meeting of a few citizens, of whom the chief members were from this Men's Union, met to consider what they could do. This meeting of Jan. 13, 1900, was practically the origin of the Municipal League. And they who met then constituted the nucleus of that working force which in the next twelve months was to wholly change the aspects of our city.

By the Municipal League, and especially by its executive committee, has all the work been done, and to them all the honor is due. This league was composed of a few men, all of the very highest standing and character. Some of

them had been engaged in like work before. They were men of unimpaired reputation, some of them of strong financial ability, and in the matter of courage, not only in the city but in the state. The local machine was but a part of the state machine, and the methods and principles, as well as the life of the two were identical. It was resolved to make no show, to bring to public meetings, to say nothing about it, to keep secret all our plans and work until such day as the work itself should necessarily come to be known. One brave spirit, by the mutual desire of all, was conceded to be the leader from the first, and to him all would gladly give the meed of highest praise. Trained a lawyer but not now in practice, a business man of the highest integrity, a philanthropist whose beneficence was unrestricted, unaffected, modest, forbearing, tactful, of the highest reputation and of equal resolution, this excellent man has done more than all together. Had he not been with him, the league would not have been formed, without him it would not have succeeded. This I mention, that emphasis may be laid on the character and quality of leadership which makes success sure. In all the ambitious and practical work of this league, from the first, each and every measure has been entered upon with absolute unanimity on the part of the executive committee.

I have been present at almost every meeting of that committee, and have never heard a selfish word spoken, or a proposition looking to any advantage for any member of the league. Nor have I ever heard a divisive word uttered against those whom we were seeking to bring to justice. The first work of the committee, in organizing, was to select a suitable man to be its agent, who should secure the testimony on which our league's action should be based. How important this selection was, everyone can imagine. And when I say that the man chosen to be its agent, and in respect to moral and moral character, was superior to his work, able, noble, tireless, fearless, wise, discreet, and that he has gained and held increasing confidence from everyone who knows him, it can be seen how important the elements which entered into his character, and how invaluable such a helper is in such an undertaking. Doing the work from the highest motives, he has been indefatigable in the doing, and to him, next to the ambitious and practical leader, more than to any other, he must be ascribed a force of helpers, and this he has secured for the arduous and dangerous work men who have been doing the work, who, inspired by his own incorruptible character, have been wholly unapproachable by the eye of the adversary. They deserve reward far beyond the wages of their services. It is beside my purpose to recount the details of any of these, interesting as such methods must be.

Our Purposes and Plans.

These can be briefly stated. We purposed to gain legal proof that the law was being broken and then sell on the proper officers to enforce the same. We began with seeking evidence as to the sale of liquor on Sundays by both the licensed and the unlicensed saloons, and naturally sought at the same time evidence as to the licensed sale of liquor. Very soon these were found to be complicated with other offenses and abuses. Gambling was openly carried on in most of these saloons, and both the law and the license were being sold and the gambling was so open and apparent that it was evident that the police had full knowledge of the facts. This complicated them as coming within the law-breakers. And then we began to work on the police and the powers which made and controlled them were protesting crime. The constabulary of the county were found to be of the same sort. It is not necessary to state the details of the law were black-mailing the lawless element, we must needs seek evidence of this. As soon as we went to the grand jury with our first case, which had been prepared with great care, we obtained evidence that the grand jury was controlled by something else than the law and the evidence, and the farther we proceeded, the more evident this became. While this work was being done, the grand jury had been put in the field expert detectives to ferret out the bribery of the members of the city government.

It need not be said that the discovery of bribery and the obtaining of adequate legal proof of the same is one of the most difficult parts of reform work. Both the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker are usually very ready to act secretly with no witness of their deeds. However, so reckless and so common was this crime among our officials that soon we had collected enough proof to warrant arrest of a third of all our officials. And we were able to act secretly with no witness of their deeds. However, so reckless and so common was this crime among our officials that soon we had collected enough proof to warrant arrest of a third of all our officials. And we were able to act secretly with no witness of their deeds. However, so reckless and so common was this crime among our officials that soon we had collected enough proof to warrant arrest of a third of all our officials. And we were able to act secretly with no witness of their deeds.

Result in Fifteen Months.

What has been accomplished and what are the present conditions throughout our city as contrasted with the past? A revolution so great and so beneficent can scarcely be summarized in few words.

The licensed saloons, many of which at the beginning were so confident in their protection that they defied us openly, are so far as we are concerned, practically closed. In inspection, practically keeping the law as to selling at unlawful times. Their number is about the same as last year. They still break the law against selling to minors, and are selling liquor. Up to this time they have not been prosecuted for these offenses. Of unlicensed saloons there are none doing business openly, and those that are are detected and quickly arrested. I should like to say that the police and their trusted lieutenants, under the pay of the league, are still giving else about the whole thing, and they know what is going on. As a consequence, by the aid of many of all the regular police force and all observers, there is a marked diminution of dimming and its attendant outrages for the last six months. A large number of saloons have been convicted of their crimes and have been and are being punished according to law. So also of the bootlegs always closely allied with unlicensed saloons. The number of public prostitutes has been diminished to fully one-third to two-fifths.

As to the number of these convictions, I may say that all the cases which we have presented to the courts, except three, have been decided in our favor. When, at the beginning, the grand jury undertook to protect criminals by ignoring our evidence, we immediately took the cases to the judge, under the law, and the grand jury the accused had violated the law, and the judge without discretion, were compelled to deprive these of their licenses on adequate proof of the offenses. The grand jury had ignored the proof which the league had gathered. These offenses which gloried over having captured the grand jury soon discovered that they had lost much more than they had gained. All open gambling has been stopped, and their centers have been seized and destroyed and their centers punished. We are sure to find the owners, also, and the officials who took their money. When we raided the first two gambling places, we found that two officers besides our own, whom we dared trust to make the raid. But we have captured and destroyed several thousand dollars' worth of gambling implements, and the gamblers are held for trial.

Perhaps the most striking success of our work has been in the department of bringing justice to the courts. When we were first organized, thirteen convictions were placed with us at one time. This from time to time has been followed by other arrests, until in all, twenty of them have been arrested, practically one-half of all the convictions. One of the chief of these, a local boss, was placed on trial. He had been the representative of fourteen for whom he did the business of sale and barter. Despite perjury unblinded, we made out a strong case against him. The jury disagreed, but upon investigating the jury it was proved that they had liquor in their room, and we believe also that money was sent in to them. For having the liquor, the most guilty jurors were brought before the judge, reprimanded and fined. This same conclusion afterwards confessed his guilt. At about this time, when the business of some of our jurors was fresh in the public mind, came an election for jury commissioner. Our noblest and foremost citizen, who, as the chief executive of the Municipal League, had been spending his time and his money for months for the common good, offered himself for election to the office of commissioner, an office so small as to be beneath the desires of most of the peo-

WILL BEGIN NEXT MONDAY

CONTESTANTS SHOULD SEND IN THEIR NAMES AT ONCE.

The Tribune's Educational Contest Will Be Launched That Day for the Second Time—The Superiority of This Year's Special Rewards. The High Salary That Will Be Given to the Two Highest—A Chance for a Collegiate Education That Would Otherwise Take Years to Obtain—Begin at the Beginning.

On Monday morning next the second educational contest of the Tribune will begin, as has been previously announced. The contest this year will be on lines similar to those that governed the contest of last year, the main difference being in the superiority of the special rewards and their greater cash value. The first special rewards, for there will be two, are four-year scholarships in Lafayette and Swarthmore colleges, each of the value of \$1,000, which will be open to the choice of the one who comes first in the contest. The second will be a salary of \$1,000 a week, which means a weekly salary to the first two contestants of nearly \$65 a week, or about \$1,500 a day for a working week of six days. The practical results of a four-year course in a great American college like either Lafayette or Swarthmore cannot be figured in dollars and cents—they are too far reaching to enter into such a calculation.

The young men and women who have worked their way through college are invariably the ones who are at the top of the roll of honor at graduation time. Monday they enter the government with an aim and object. The Tribune will afford a way to attain these ends through this contest, and although our way will occupy only a little more than three months of work, the results will be accomplished as thoroughly as if many years had been spent by the would-be collegian in his own unaided efforts.

These two collegiate scholarships are not the only ones offered. Another is a three-year's course in the State Normal school at Scranton, valued at \$275. There are also others; five of them.

Those who start right in the first day of the contest will, of course, secure an advantage that may be of great help to them before the contest is over. On Monday morning a full description of the contest, with the rules by which it will be governed, the special rewards that will be given and other necessary information will be printed in the Tribune. Any person, of either sex, who wishes to enter the contest can send their names in and on Monday morning they will be put on the list. Books of credit blanks and a small book of instructions will be sent to them and they can begin their canvass at once. If there is any one who does not fully understand the features of the contest and are undecided about entering, they will be pleased to send them a detailed statement of the plan. Address a letter to Editor Educational Contest, Scranton Tribune, Scranton, Pa., stating whether you wish to enter or to receive a full description of the plan first.

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TO BE SWORN NEXT WEEK.

Police Officers Will Then Know Their Fate.

Recorder Moir stated yesterday afternoon to a Tribune man that the

When We Serve You Best

we benefit ourselves most. As the warm days advance you naturally think of Straw Hats—Negligee Shirts and Summer Underwear—when you see our showing of these necessities you will understand how well we serve you.

Here are Straw Hats in all the new shades—some French Palms that look like Panama. Summer Shirts in all of the prevailing colors—white ones, too—some with cuffs attached. The ordinary kind with detached cuffs are well represented. \$1.00 to \$2.00. Underwear in a variety of styles—colors and grades—some linen mesh wear you ought to see—union suits, too.

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Scranton Gas & Water Co

115 Wyoming Avenue. MAY 1, 1901.

Ladies' Jackets and Skirts

We Make

Fit the lady as the feathers fit the bird. The make, style, fit, finish and price are all perfect, our spring stock is now awaiting your inspection. Be glad to see you any time.

King Miller, Merchant Tailor,

435 SPRUCE STREET.

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CASEY BROTHERS, Wholesale Liquor Dealers, 216 Lackawanna Ave.

police officers of the city will be sworn next week. It would have been done this week, he said, had it not been that Director Hitchcock went to Rochester, to attend the convention of the National Municipal League. The recorder would neither say nor intimate whether any of the members of the force would have to walk the plank.

Special Rates

via the Delaware and Hudson Railroad and return on account of the great musical concert by Mme. Schumann-Heink, Miss Maud Powell and Mr. Frankson Davis at the Lyceum Theatre Tuesday, May 21st, 1901.

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A stock of these superb instruments may be seen at the warehouses of

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Green Valley Rye

Just take one swallow, you will take more we are sure.

CASEY BROTHERS, Wholesale Liquor Dealers, 216 Lackawanna Ave.

Louis Arthur Watres, President Orlando S. Johnson, Vice Pres. Arthur H. Christy, Cashier

Capital, \$100,000 Surplus, \$100,000

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