

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.

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SCRANTON, OCTOBER 3, 1902.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

State. Governor—S. W. PENNYPACKER. Lieutenant Governor—W. M. BROWN. Secretary of Internal Affairs—ISAAC B. BROWN.

County. Congress—WILLIAM CONNELL. Judges—A. A. VOSE, JOHN COURIER MORRIS, JOHN PENMAN.

Legislative. Senator—JOHN B. JORDAN. Representatives—First District—JOSEPH OLIVER. Second District—JOHN SCHEER, JR. Third District—EDWARD JAMES. Fourth District—P. A. PHILLIPS.

There is one thing about President Roosevelt, when he starts to play on the political organ he is not afraid to pull out the "plain duty" stop and play whatever he thinks should be played. It usually pleases the public, too.

Counting the Cost.

HOW THE strike is affecting the operators may be gleaned from the statements of the Lehigh Valley and Reading Coal companies covering July and August, just issued.

The earnings and income from all sources of the Lehigh Valley Coal company for August were \$128,592, a decrease over August, 1901, of \$1,650,431; expenses and taxes were \$275,192, a decrease of \$1,599,664, leaving a deficit for the month of \$146,599, as against a deficit for August last year of \$85,582.

The earnings and income from all sources for the two months of the present fiscal year were \$248,890, a decrease of \$2,857,442 over the corresponding period of last year; expenses and taxes were \$563,051, a decrease of \$2,848,405; leaving a deficit of \$314,160 as against a deficit for the same period last year of \$207,122.

Receipts of the Reading Coal and Iron company for August were \$212,312, a decrease of \$2,182,671 compared with August of last year. Expenses were \$224,457, a decrease of \$1,662,281, showing a deficit for the month of \$282,144 as against net earnings in August, 1901, of \$237,544.

The rate of loss shown in the case of the Lehigh Valley Coal company would amount, on the above basis, for the period of the strike to about \$200,000; and in the case of the Reading Coal and Iron company to nearly \$2,000,000. This is exclusive, of course, in each instance, to the loss in railway traffic and to the loss of markets, the latter of which not being yet estimable. The showing is a serious one, but the loss of the men on strike and of the communities affected has been immeasurably vaster.

The "anti-machine" party of Schadt, Fahey & Co., can certainly use itself as a horrible example.

Bryan Out-Bryaned in New York

THE DECLARATION of the New York Democracy in favor of the nationalization of the coal mines bids for the support of socialists of all grades and also for that of persons ordinarily conservative and rational, but now dispersed in their mental processes by the high price of coal. This disturbance is temporary; and when it shall have passed away, as in a few weeks at the latest it must, the Saratoga Democratic platform will fall flat.

Little reflection will show that to carry out David B. Hill's nationalizing programme would involve a wholesale reorganization in the American government. An avowed writer in the New York Tribune clearly points out, at present the United States can acquire no foot of ground within the confines of a state without consent of the state authorities. As 90 per cent. of the anthracite coal fields are in Pennsylvania, the New York Democratic platform's policy could not be carried out without the consent of Pennsylvania. Nobody for an instant supposes that this would be given. But if we assume the improbable, that such consent has been asked and obtained, we are only at the beginning of our troubles. For, as the New York writer further shows, if the federal government must mine the coal to save the people from failure of the supply, it must distribute it also. If the people must have cheap coal, they must be protected from railroad rates, which might neutralize all the advantage of government sale at or below cost in the coal regions. This would lead logically and necessarily to the nationalization of railroads. But a large part of the country's fuel supply consists of bituminous coal. The government could not consistently take over the anthracite mines without also assuming ownership and control of the competitive soft coal mines, especially in view of the fact that the union of

mine workers extends throughout both classes of mines.

Assuming the power of the federal government to be so extended, either by constitutional amendment or state consent, as to enable it to own and manage the fuel and railroad industries of the country, we should then come plump against the question of dealing with the labor problem involved. Should the government try to run the mining business at a profit? To do so would mean disputes over wages, and either strikes or a rapid disappearance of the chance to operate profitably. To run it at a loss, on the other hand, would be in effect to pension the labor engaged in it, at the expense of the tax-paying public—a situation which would either erect a privileged class or result in a clamor from other groups of laboring men to be also taken under the federal wing that could not be denied logically nor acceded to without the utter sacrifice of individual initiative and private enterprise. Bryan in his wildest dreams never went so far as this.

Of course, as a matter of fact, the Hill platform is not serious. It is a crafty demagogue's reckless gamble on a temporary condition of disturbance in public opinion, a "good enough Morgan until after election." The very fact that political conditions should permit so radical a proposition to be hurled suddenly into the arena of public discussion without the previous knowledge or consent of the men constituting the New York Democratic convention—thrown absolutely by one man, not a muster of industry or a profound student of statesmanship or economics, but just a politician momentarily in control of a piece of party machinery that assured compliance with his wishes—illustrates how dangerous to stable values would be political coal mining and political railroad. The American people are sometimes foolish for a season, but at bottom they are not fools, as David B. Hill, if he lives long enough, will find out to his personal disappointment.

The Philadelphia Press, now the Quay organ in Pennsylvania, gives to Senator Quay the credit for suggesting to President Roosevelt the idea of inviting Mitchell and the "coal barons" to a conference with him. It says that when President Roosevelt started West on Sept. 19 Senator Quay, without observation, rode with him from Trenton to Germantown Junction and during this hour's ride presented the advisability of President Roosevelt's unofficially requesting a joint conference of miners' officials and operators to discuss their differences and endeavor to arrive at a settlement of the trouble.

Democrats and Cuban Reciprocity

THE DEMOCRATS of Connecticut cannot have read the Democratic Campaign Book issued a few weeks ago by the Democratic Congressional committee. In their state convention at New Haven, Sept. 25, the Connecticut Democrats declared: "The Democratic party believes that reciprocity with Cuba is demanded by the highest considerations of morality," and "we favor an immediate and substantial reduction of the tariff on Cuban imports by reciprocity, treaty or otherwise, in order that the tariff relations between the United States and Cuba may be made mutually profitable and that our obligations to assist the young republic to a permanent place among the sisterhood of nations may be fully recognized and promptly met."

This platform of the Connecticut Democrats is not in perfect harmony with the Democratic Campaign Book which declares: "In practice reciprocity is worse than protection," and "Reciprocity is based upon the same false theories as is protection, and like protection is a sham and a humbug." The Campaign Book also says: "As Cuba is comparatively prosperous, and wages are about double what they were a few years ago, there is no excuse for making donations to Cuba even if the ordinary people could get them." Again that book says: "Reciprocity as proposed with Cuba is of the Hawaiian kind, and would benefit the owners of Cuban lands and the sugar and tobacco trusts, which are the principal purchasers of Cuba's most important products."

The question will naturally be asked which represents the Democratic sentiment of the country, the Democratic platform in Connecticut or the Democratic Campaign Book, published by authority of the Democratic Congressional committee?

Joseph H. Manley may be correct in saying that for political reasons it would not be bad for the Republican party to lose control of the next house, inasmuch as it would give the Democracy another chance to exhibit its incapacity. Nevertheless, we consider that the country's interest in the election is too important to justify foolish experiments.

Editor Warren Worth Bailey, of the Johnstown Democrat, figures it out that if the anthracite coal companies hardly anybody else would need to pay any taxes. We've no doubt that not having to pay any taxes would suit Brother Bailey admirably.

No reason has been suggested why Mr. Baer should resign because of the president's invitation to today's confab. On the contrary, the chances are he will go prepared to show that he is not the resigning kind.

Devery is the personification of the backbone and working snout of the Democratic party, yet Hill turns him down. Evidently David prefers respectability to votes.

The various attempts of stock gambling origin to make out that Secretary Shaw doesn't know his business are not succeeding these days.

Perhaps as good a way as any to settle that Union party row would be to bury the party.

The Democratic party, having laid to rest the entire family of issues so prominent in the beginning of the campaign, is now pleading for its own life.

The pathos of it brings to mind an incident in which a colored man was one time pleading in his own defense: "Judge," said he, "don't put me away; I've been livin' around here a good many years an' I've never been lynched yet."

By no means do the Republicans look upon a protective tariff as a fetish to be blindly worshipped. They rather regard it as a simple business proposition subject to the varying laws of trade. It is a well known fact that a duty necessary this year will be totally unnecessary later on, but it takes time to pass laws to correct this. Therefore desirable changes sometimes have to wait, and this will be the case with the present schedules. They will be attended to by their Republican friends in due time.

After all is said, the fact should not be overlooked that Americans now travel over American made rails, drawn by American locomotives, eat American food from American dishes, drink from American glasses, wear American clothes and were the oceans to become impassable no serious discomfort to Americans would result, and all this has been brought about by the Republican system of protection.

Republican secretaries of the treasury have to plan to get their surplus into the channels of trade, while Democratic secretaries had to scheme to get funds for current expenses.

A good balance, good wages, good times and good trade as against a deficit, low wages, hard times and a diminishing commerce are the questions before the people.

With the conclusion of the Pacific cable not being laid, Manila will be in closer communication with Washington than was New York sixty years ago.

The fact that Judge Pennypacker, Candidate Pattison, Managers Quay and Guffey and all the small fry are for ballot reform this year should give general encouragement.

The Democratic idea of ballot reform is to put the Republican majority in the minority, and that is why it doesn't go half so far in Pennsylvania as in the Southern states.

The trusts that Democratic politicians do not belong to, are according to Democratic diagnosis, the wicked ones.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

From the Philadelphia Press. Pennsylvania, year after year, sends a larger Republican delegation to the house of representatives than any other state in the union. A Pennsylvania Republican has been the senior member of the house for almost a generation. The cardinal principles for which the Republican party stands in this state, their staunchest and most steadfast advocates, the Republican national ticket for many years has obtained its largest state majority in Pennsylvania. In recognition of these facts, it would be an act of grace, as well as an act of justice, for the Republicans of the next house to select their speaker from the Pennsylvania delegation.

There is no lack of men of experience and ability in the Pennsylvania Republican delegation. There are several who have every qualification for the speakership. General Bingham, of this city, the father of the house, is naturally thought of in this connection, but it is understood he does not desire to be a candidate. Congressman Olmsted's claims are being urged by some of his friends. He would make an excellent speaker, but his comparatively brief service in the house would operate against him as a candidate.

The logical Pennsylvania candidate is his representative in the house committee on rules, Hon. John Dalzell, of Pittsburg. Many of the newspapers of the state have already proposed his name. Under Mr. Reed's speakership, Mr. Dalzell and Mr.

Henderson were the speaker's lieutenants on the floor of the house, and with the speaker, directed its order of business. When Mr. Henderson succeeded to the speakership, Mr. Dalzell, with Mr. Grover, of Ohio, vied in this same power in the house. This position, with frequent service as speaker pro tempore, has given Mr. Dalzell a parliamentary skill and experience which prepare him for the facile discharge of the duties of speaker from the beginning.

New York, having the president, is not in a position to demand also the third office of the government, though two of its congressmen are spoken of as candidates. New England has enjoyed rather more than her share of the speakership in the past thirty years. The West has that honorable office at present and will, no doubt, want to retain it. In the multiplicity of candidates, it is, however, any man's fight. The Pennsylvania delegation should present its candidate, Mr. Dalzell is in a better position than any other member from this state to command outside support. The delegation, therefore, should present him unanimously. It is true, he has not always been in harmony at all points with the state organization, but this is a year when there is a general disposition to heal past breaches and unite the party.

Mr. Dalzell is and always was a staunch Republican. The principles and measures of the Republican party have no abler advocate and exponent on the floor of the house than the member from Pittsburg. Pennsylvania is fortunate in being able to command his services, and the Pennsylvania Republican delegation should make a united effort to place him in the speaker's chair.

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ONLY NEW SUBSCRIBERS ARE COUNTED.

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FIVE DOLLARS IN GOLD to the contestant bringing in the largest number of points between October 1 and Saturday, October 11. FIVE DOLLARS IN GOLD to the contestant bringing in the largest number of points during the week ending Saturday, October 15.

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