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FREELAND TRIBUNE.
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FREELAND, FEBRUARY 22, 1897.
HARRISBURG LETTER.

Harrisburg, Pa., February 19, 1897.

The schemers who are endeavoring to have the capital removed to Philadelphia have received several blows which will likely cause the attempt to be dropped. Governor Hastings' declaration against its removal was the first blow. The second came when Representative Kunkel succeeded in having the resolution criticizing the Harrisburg fire department and the withholding of an appropriation for a new capitol building until Harrisburg provides herself with a paid fire department, sent to the committee on public buildings. The third blow fell when Speaker Boyer, of Philadelphia, declared against its removal.

The legislature was in session about half an hour last Monday evening and several hours Tuesday and Wednesday, when the house adjourned until Wednesday evening of this week and the senate until next Monday evening. It is simply ridiculous how much time is wasted doing nothing. The intention of this is evidently to prolong the session as much as possible in order to draw larger salaries. From what I have seen of the work done so far and making due allowance for what will be done from this on to the end, I believe that all could be done in one month if there was some way of compelling these derelict law makers to hold sessions of a least six hours a day and every week day until the business to be transacted is done.

Both house and senate were flooded last week with bills, which makes in all about five hundred bills. Among the lot are some worthy of consideration, but by far the largest majority are simply ridiculous. Many of these will never be heard of again after they are presented. A good many more may be considered in committee and by the time they are sifted some fifty is a fair estimate of what will ever be heard of again. Those then will be the bills that the legislature will have to deal with. The legislation necessary for a new capitol building will require a long time to get through both branches. Both factions are afraid that once the other may secure favoritism in the matter of giving out contracts.

There is considerable talk already among the politicians about who will fill coming vacancies in Capitol Hill. Although Governor Hastings has some time yet to serve, candidates are looking up. So far the list consists of Congressman Stone, of Allegheny; Congressman Stone, of Warren; Congressman Connell, of Scranton; Congressman Leisenring, of Luzerne; General Wiley, of Franklin; Adjutant General Stewart and Speaker Boyer. There are all Quay supporters. It is understood here that John Wanamaker will be a candidate for governor of his wing of the Republican party.

The next fight on hand will be for state treasurer and auditor general. Both factions are already at work in many counties lining up their forces for the primary elections. Senator Gobin, of Lebanon, will be an aspirant for auditor general.

The investigation of the state treasury and auditor general's department will begin this week. Treasurer Haywood will be the first witness.

There is not much show for a reapportionment at this term. An attempt may be made to rearrange the senatorial district, at least, but when it is made there will be trouble. To make a constitutional reapportionment will mean a loss of representation in a number of parts of the state and several senators would lose their seats. The senators thus affected will naturally use all their efforts to defeat such a measure.

On Monday Governor Hastings sign-

ed the resolution authorizing him to solicit plans from architects for a new capitol building. He will call on six or eight leading architects of the country for plans. The governor is anxious to go ahead with as little delay as possible, and will send a special message to the legislature next Monday evening. If it is possible, he would like to have the new capitol completed before he goes out of office, so that it would be a monument to his administration. According to the constitution the funds must be raised either from cutting down the appropriation or increasing revenues. Bonds cannot be issued to foot the bill. This question is rather a difficult one and as this is no time to place increased taxation upon the people the only way now presented will be the scaling down of expenses. Nisley.

Changes in the Ballot Law.
From the Philadelphia Press.

There is at least one bill already before the legislature proposing changes in the ballot law. It was presented by Senator Brown, of this city, and it contemplates a radical departure from the present form of official ballot. It is designed to group all the candidates for one office under one head, and not as now give each party a separate column. This is a feature of the original Australian method, of which our present system is a mere imitation. With what once the proposed change will strike the members of the legislature remains to be seen. It is certain, however, that it will have opposition both from those who believe that the party candidates ought to be kept separate, and from those who have always objected to any arrangement which would compel the voter to mark separately the name of each candidate for whom he desires to vote.

The first objection will have some force. To many there is more or less good reason for maintaining a distinct party identity on the ballot, though it is not by any means a necessity. It is calculated to encourage a blind support of the party nominees whether they deserve it or not.

But the wisdom of requiring each name to be marked cannot well be questioned, and if that is done it does not so much matter whether the candidates are grouped according to party or under the heading of the office for which they are named. It would not, of course, be required that the names of all the candidates for presidential electors be individually marked. There would be no object in that, since the citizen in voting for them is only expressing his choice of candidates for president and vice president, and one mark should cover the whole.

Being compelled to mark separately every other name, however, brings the voter to a direct knowledge of the existence of a candidate. It is not too much to say that there are people who vote their usual party ticket without in many cases knowing even the names of some of the nominees. The individual marking is something that should be required in order to force each voter to reach an independent decision on each candidate.

Equalization of Taxes Wanted.
From the Wilkesbarre Telephone.

What we seem to require is an act passed by the state legislature creating a commission on equalization of taxes. To our way of thinking such a law ought to be secured at the present session. It might provide for the appointment of assessors by the courts for a term of at least three years. None but competent, trustworthy citizens should be named and they should be paid a sufficient salary for the time employed to enable them to perform their duties carefully and conscientiously. Corporations and individuals who own coal property that is valued at millions of dollars are at present generally able to evade paying a proportionate share of local taxes simply because they are largely able to control the election of local assessors, tax collectors and county officials.

This may be a disagreeable fact, but it is true. And it may be added that because it is true, the county of Luzerne has, during the past thirty years, been bilked out of nearly that many millions in the assessed valuation of coal lands and other property owned and controlled by wealthy railroad and mining corporations and individuals.

The great question that now confronts every wage-worker, farmer, mechanic, merchant or manufacturer, who pays taxes whether upon occupation, personal property or real estate is, how soon can the present unjust and unequal system of assessment and taxation be revised and readjusted? The answer to this question will largely depend upon the present board of county commissioners. In the meantime it is the duty of the county newspapers to assist in educating the people, so that when the time comes for making the triennial assessment in 1898, a more equitable rate of taxing coal lands and levying the same in proportion to the actual market value of such property can be secured.

Philosophy with a Basis.
Tommy—What does the paper mean, pa, by saying that Mr. Tomlinson bore the loss of his handsome property by fire very philosophically?
Tommy's Pa—Umph! It means that he was insured for more than its value. —Tit-Bits.

She Was No Fool.
Maud—I have just been reading about a girl who married a man without a cent.
Mamie—The silly creature!
Maud—Not so silly. The man was a millionaire; it was the girl who hadn't a cent. —N. Y. Tribune.

She Liked the Seasoning.
"He said that he intended to heap coals of fire on the head of that Boston girl."
"He did it."
"What was the result?"
"She said she enjoyed it." —N. Y. Truth.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.
Old newspapers for sale.

A Life-Long but Progressive Republican.
EDITOR TRIBUNE.—Under the above head, the Press, in an editorial (if such a senseless writing, evidently intended as a personal item for some one, can be termed) in its issue of Saturday last, does me the honor to publish a column to a wild harangue. It speaks of "egotism, talkativeness, gush, bull-dozing" and other blarney in disconnected sentences.

Well, I smile to think how difficult it would be to find a larger amount of such stuff centered in a smaller heap of humanity than is found in the individual who does much of the Press writing.

Something new—who ever attempted to bulldoze the Press people? It must have intended this to read "the poor Republican voters whom the Press people attempted to bulldoze." Allow me to make the correction—it reads better—more truthful.

The columns of the Press are probably the best place to look for "data as to the sameness and characteristics, eccentricities and hypocrisy of some people." It may be added that a charitable way of dealing with the Press editor (2) is to quote and apply to his case his own words "that the same person is not always reasonable in his actions, an assertion made in all earnestness."

It says of the author of my article, "he wishes to conceal his authorship and exhibits his cowardice by his futile effort to conceal his identity by using a nom de plume." How beautiful and hypocritical this does sound from an editor (2) who is afraid to publish his name—whose editorials (2) are placed in a column headed simply by the name "W. R. Brad, business manager." Does anyone know who the editor of the Press is? There are said to be two, or three, or more editors. Yet we doubt whether any one of them would wish his name added to some of the editorials (2) the public is afflicted with, notably the one referred to herein.

If I were inclined to personalities, I would call attention to the lot of unnecessary scriptural quotations appearing in the Press' Saturday's issue about the G. O. P.'s defeat, (its writings are again applicable to its editor (2) viz: "This eccentric and hypocritical character should be the last person in the world to draw around himself the robes of sanctity, etc.;" and would add that if on the Sabbath preceding the election both the editor (2) and the business manager had observed the scriptures, and kept away from the saloon, (I have it "straight" from their friends), they would not have needed to have quoted so sorrowfully after the election. But I will not do this, since the issue is not one of personalities but of the "sameness and justice of my very conservative article, 'Tomorrow's Battle.'"

As, in the whole of its incoherent article, the Press is again at sea, as to the writer having been a resident of the borough for any considerable length of time. He has been a resident and tax-payer of the borough for more years, perhaps, than have passed over the head of the "Jump of Gall" that makes the accusation.

We regret to have taken so much of your space, and would say to the erratic and unknown individual in whose egotistic and inexperienced hands the "people of the Press," to their own sorrow it will be, have left the guidance of the paper, that when he again takes exceptions to our article, he say something about it, and state what he finds wrong in it, and not blither wildly at no man knows what.

A Life-Long but Progressive Republican.

The Inauguration.
For the inauguration of President-elect McKinley, at Washington, the Lehigh Valley Railroad will make very low excursion rates, and this is your opportunity for slight sojourn of the capital of the United States, witnessing the pomp and pageantry of the inauguration festivities, at a small cost to yourself.

This company offers the best of accommodations as to train service, and passes through the mountain of Pennsylvania where the most magnificent scenery of the "Switzerland of America" may be seen from the train.

Inquire of ticket agents for time of trains and rates.

Interesting Information.
"And now, little children," said the Sunday school superintendent, "if you are good children some day you may wear a golden crown."
"Papa's got one on his tooth now," chirped the smallest and newest boy.—Indianapolis Journal.

Incidents.
"So you have a new washerwoman?" said the woman who talks about household affairs.
"Yes," replied Mrs. Tomkins.
"Does she do up shirts nicely?"
"I think so. At least, they seem to suit her husband."—Washington Star.

Philosophy with a Basis.
Tommy—What does the paper mean, pa, by saying that Mr. Tomlinson bore the loss of his handsome property by fire very philosophically?
Tommy's Pa—Umph! It means that he was insured for more than its value. —Tit-Bits.

Bliss Forever Past.
"What is the age of chivalry, Aunt Penelope?"
"Those good old times when men fell in love with women over 40."—Chicago Record.

At the Concert.
Maud—Isn't it grand? She plays entirely by ear.
Synecus (bored)—She must be very deaf.—N. Y. Tribune.

Self-Supporting.
"That man lives by his wits."
"Is he a crook?"
"No, a professional humorist."—N. Y. Journal.

He Made a Mistake.
"The crisis is past, my dear sir; your mother-in-law will recover."
"I was told I ought not to let you have charge of the case."—Town Topics.

Had to Travel.
Brown—Has Youngblood traveled much?
Jones—Extensively. He has seen all the big prize fights.—N. Y. Truth.

As a Gleo Vietna.
He was a member of the theatrical profession. The rich voice and studied accents with which he addressed the waiter showed this.

"Do you realize," he said, "that we are suffering from misplaced energy?"
"No, sir, I did not."
"Well, we are," was the rejoinder, with a sigh. "You may remove everything except the bread, the coffee and the steak. What we are suffering from now is not enough art in the drama, and not enough realism in the butter." —Washington Star.

There Are Others.
Mrs. Meek—Of course I am worried. As a dutiful wife I can't help feeling so, for I am sure that my husband is keeping something from me, and I shan't be content until I know what it is.
Mrs. Freak—My husband is keeping something from me, too, and I am worried because I know what it is.
Mrs. Meek—Indeed! What is it?
Mrs. Freak—It's money. — Boston Courier.

Announced.
Priscilla—Jack is the oddest fellow. He took me driving yesterday, and when we were seven miles from home he said, if I wouldn't promise to marry him he'd make me get out and walk back.
Penelope—Did you walk back?
Priscilla—No, indeed; but the horse did.—N. Y. Journal.

A Woman's Way.
A woman's way, in whatever she tries, is sure to be a complete surprise. Though folks believe there's just wrong and right
And no way else—one must not lose sight Of a woman's way.
The right or wrong she at once catches, And flies at a tangent, if she chooses; "Because" is the only known excuse For a woman's way.
—Cleveland Leader.

An Unprofitable Servant.
"I have called to apply for the position of bill collector," said the sharp-nosed man who stood in the doorway. "I understand you wanted one."
"That is exactly what we want," said the business man. "The last man we had seemed to be only a bill presenter." — Indianapolis Journal.

Tested.
Father—Wait a year, my son, and you may feel very different.
Son (confidentially)—I've tested my love for Miss Higgins thoroughly, and I know it cannot change. I've played golf with her and I still want her for my wife.—Household Words.

He Agreed with Her.
"I am convinced," said the philosophic householder, "that this world is a great deal older than it is said to be."
"If there had been any doubt in my mind on that point," replied the professional barber, "these eggs would have dispelled it." — Boston Courier.

Where He Got the Idea.
"There are sermons in stones," mused the minister. "That gives me an idea," he added to himself, and then he went to his study.

The next Sunday he preached on the sin of wearing diamonds.—N. Y. Journal.

Getting Even with Her.
"No, Mr. Coolhand," she said, kindly. "I am sure I could never learn to love you."
"Oh, perhaps you could," rejoined Coolhand, cheerfully. "Never too old to learn, you know." — Tit-Bits.

His Usefulness.
"Why is a pillist always aboard your yacht?" the visitor cried.
"To furnish the wind when we're becalmed."
The captain bold replied.
—Cincinnati Tribune.

IN DEAR OLD BOSTON.
Grandpa—Dear me, Emerson, I wish you wouldn't stuff your pockets so!
Emerson—Why, grandpa, I have nothing in my pockets except what is absolutely indispensable—my lead pencils and keys, a pocket edition of the Greek lexicon and a number of interesting geological specimens.—N. Y. World.

Plain About It.
The sign that Mrs. Hash displays Would make a satyr grin; It fits the case exactly, for 'Tis "Boarders Taken In."
—N. Y. Journal

THE FARM AND HOME.
If a lamp wick sticks and will not work easily try pulling out a thread at each edge. This will often mend matters without any more trouble.

Honey must be kept in a dry place and away from moisture, if it is to be of good quality. Curing honey is evaporating the moisture, and is practiced by all bee-keepers.

It is not desirable to have plants start off too early in the spring as sometimes happens when the weather becomes mild, for the reason that a cold spell may follow and damage result. The best preventive of loss is to mulch the plants, so as to keep the ground at an uniform temperature as possible.

An easy and effective mode of ventilation can be arranged with a piece of wood cut a little smaller than the width of the window frame and about six inches high. Insert this at the bottom of the frame and shut the window bottom down on the wood. A steady ventilating process will go on from the center of the windows.

A cake of magnesia and a clothes-brush are a frugal woman's best friends. After brushing a dusty gown and then with the magnesia rubbing both sides of any soiled spots, it should be hung away for a day or two and then brushed again. The spots will be found to have disappeared. Care taken with dainty gowns is the secret of dressing well on a limited allowance.

SOME LATE NEW THINGS.
For persons who have writing to do and cannot afford to buy a desk a useful article is the chair desk, which has shelves arranged below the seat and a shelf fastened to the back of the chair which can be swung around in front of the person using the chair and adjusted to a convenient height for use as a writing table.

To sharpen the knife blades of lawn mowers while they are in use a roller is set in a frame so as to touch the edge of each knife as it revolves, the surface of the roller being composed of a grinding powder, the frame being hinged to the frame of the mower to permit of its being thrown back from the knives when they are sharpened.

The use of oil on stormy seas to make them smooth is made easy by means of a new device, consisting of a buoy, an oil reservoir and two cylinders, one containing a set of springs and a piston-rod for forcing the oil from the other cylinder as it flows in from the reservoir, the whole being attached to a yard-arm of the vessel or fastened by a cable, through which the electric current passes to operate it.

One of the latest devices for running a sewing machine or other light machinery is a series of gear-wheels in a casing, a steel spring being coiled on the shaft of the largest wheel, the winding being done by means of a lever extending in front of the machine on the end of which is a seat for the operator, the action of raising and sitting down winding the spring, the mechanism being controlled by a brake on the fly wheel.

POSTAGE STAMPS.
An eight-cent stamp of British Guiana, issued in 1850, was sold in Philadelphia at auction recently and brought \$140.

An interesting relic has been found in the shape of a price list issued by a Philadelphia firm of stamp dealers in the year 1870. There is only one United States stamp mentioned, the 90-cent '69, and that is quoted at 30 cents.

The Stamp Book explains that the reason why the stamps of Finland of the type of Russia with added circles are so scarce in this country is that they are used only on correspondence from Finland to Russia. Of course a good many are used, but comparatively few of them come within reach of stamp dealers after they are canceled.

The post office department offers rewards for mail robbers, and chases them with relentless vigor, but recently the postmaster-general has decided that no rewards will be given for the "apprehension" of dead men. Now you must bring in a post office robber alive in order to get the reward.

While lady collectors are not especially scarce, they are not in the majority. A recent note in a newspaper speaks of a woman in Iowa who estimates the value of her collection at \$10,000, but would not sell it for much more than this amount. This report may or may not be true, but it is a well-known fact that there are many very fine collections accumulated in a quiet way and the public has no knowledge of their existence.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.
Rhode Island started out to erect a \$1,500,000 capitol, and is now informed that \$1,674,489 more is needed to complete the building.

Among the curiosities of the new French census is the discovery that the French capital contains only a trifling fraction of native Parisians.

The ivory market at Antwerp, organized scarcely five years ago, has become the largest one in the world—larger than the two other great markets, that of London and that of Liverpool.

The commission of the French budget has allotted 10,000 francs to be employed toward the extermination of wolves during the present year. In 1883 this service cost the government 104,450 francs.

Only six of the 45 states of the union indulge in the extravagance of annual sessions of the legislature, to wit: Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and South Carolina, all belonging to the original 13.

The authorities of Pittsfield, Mass., have recently added to the fire department's apparatus a sort of restaurant on wheels, or "night lunch" cart, a vehicle stocked with doughnuts, sandwiches and coffee, which follows the engines to fires.

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.
November 15, 1896.
ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS.
LEAVE FREELAND.
6:05, 8:45, 9:30 a. m., 1:40, 3:25, 4:35 p. m., for Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.
8:15, 9:00 a. m., 1:40, 3:25, 4:35, 6:15, 6:55 p. m., for Drifton, Jedd, Foundry, H. Zie Brook and Lumber Yard.
6:57 p. m. for Mauch Chunk Junction, Bethlehem and Easton.
6:57 p. m. for Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Ashland, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.
6:59 a. m., 2:34, 4:36, 6:57 p. m., for Stockton and Hazleton.
7:28, 10:51, 11:54 a. m., 5:20 p. m., for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkesbarre, Pittston, Scranton and West.

SUNDAY TRAINS.
8:50 a. m. and 1:38 p. m. for Jedd, Foundry, H. Zie Brook and Lumber Yard.
8:38, 10:50 a. m. for Sandy Run, White Haven and Wilkesbarre.
1:38 p. m. for Hazleton, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.
10:50 a. m. for Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.
ARRIVE AT FREELAND.
5:50, 7:28, 9:20, 10:51, 11:54 a. m., 12:38, 2:30, 5:50, 6:55, 7:08 p. m., from Lumber Yard, Foundry, Jedd and Drifton.
7:28, 9:38, 10:51, 11:54 a. m., 12:38, 2:30, 5:20 p. m., from Stockton and Hazleton.
7:28, 9:38, 10:51 a. m., 2:30, 5:20 p. m., from Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Ashland, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.
3:30, 10:51 a. m., 12:38, 4:06, p. m., from Philadelphia, New York, Bethlehem, Allentown, and Mauch Chunk.
7:05 p. m. from Weatherly only.
9:30 a. m., 2:34, 2:38, 6:57 p. m., from Scranton, Wilkesbarre and White Haven.

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