

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 20, 1894.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1894, 102,000. Registered voters, 20,500. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It is the metropolis of northeastern Pennsylvania. Can produce electric power cheaper than Niagara. No better point in the United States at which to establish new industries. See how we grow: Population in 1890, 92,223. Population in 1891, 95,000. Population in 1892, 97,500. Population in 1893, 100,000. Population in 1894 (estimated), 102,000. And the end is not yet.

Senator Lodge is the first to note that the Republican party since Nov. 5 is the only truly national party. It has thirty-five congressmen in the south, whereas the Democrats have only eleven in the entire north. The Republican party must be equal to its high trust and great responsibility. It must not experiment with the panic-breeding buzz saw.

The Coal War Is On!

Under ordinary circumstances it would be true that this would be the very worst month in all the year to inaugurate a battle-royal between the railroad companies which use the coal trade simply as a feeder to their dividends, and the coal producing companies which have only their tonnage as a means of reimbursement for heavy investments of time, labor and capital. But when the aggressions, insincerity and deliberate injustice of the former make a fight in self defense the only visible alternative, the fitness of the occasion necessarily becomes a secondary point.

It is, indeed, as the Engineering and Mining Journal aptly remarks, time that the "manifest injustice" of these coal carrying railway companies be "fully understood by the public. The companies buy the coal from the individual operators on the basis of 60 per cent. of the average tidewater price. In other words, the 40 per cent. remaining is the railroad freight rate, no matter where the colliery is situated and therefore irrespective of the length of the haul. This fact is important, since it probably is at the bottom of the apparent difference as to tidewater prices which the companies display. When at the last meeting the price was advanced 25 cents on stove coal everybody who knows the companies and the trade, knew that the advance could not possibly obtain at tidewater markets. It does not obtain in New York city, and some companies who have their own barge service and therefore are not affected by the scarcity of vessels, have been offering stove coal in Boston at \$2.85 alongside, while less favored competitors are unable to fill their orders. But the line trade received notice that coal had advanced, and at places where there is little competition the buyer was forced to pay 50 cents more than New Yorkers did. It is impossible to say exactly how much coal goes to line points, but it is not an extravagant estimate to give 60 per cent. of the total shipment. Basing our figures on the statistics of "The Mineral Industry" for 1893, this means, in round numbers, about 27,500,000 tons. If the difference between tidewater and "line" prices is 50 cents a ton, this makes \$13,750,000 gross profit which goes to the railroads annually. The individual operators suffer also because a great deal of their coal which they sell on the basis of 60 per cent., the tidewater price, is sold by the companies for 50 cents a ton higher."

Thus, if 60 per cent. of the 12,000,000 tons of coal obtained annually by the railway companies from the individual operators be absorbed by the line trade at 50 cents a ton in excess of the stipulated basis of payment, we have virtually the spectacle of these companies deliberately picking \$2,100,000 from the pockets of the individual operators—a sum of money which it is well worth the operators' while to get back, if possible, or, if not, then at least to try to guard in the future. Almost any man, if thus ill treated, would, after all other means of settlement had been exhausted, make up his mind to try the virtues of a good, stiff, whole-souled fight. This, from all accounts, seems to have been the recourse forced upon the coal trade by the railroads; and while the trade will probably not get out of the scrimmage without evidences of injury, we feel safe in predicting that the bulk of the wounds and bruises will eventually devolve upon the other party.

Tom Platt says he doesn't want any self-constituted committees or ambitious busybodies to help him run New York. Possibly not, Thomas; but there are others.

David Christie Murray, the English novelist now visiting America, tells a New York interviewer: "I can't understand why American writers should go abroad for the backgrounds of their stories. A man like Henry James, with his peculiar mental conformation, may perhaps be excused for choosing an older setting. But for the others there is already so much romance and history and local color over here. This country

isn't so new, after all, you know. Only the other day I read that they were celebrating somewhere in New-England the 20th anniversary of a university. That's old enough for most people." For most people, certainly. But not for the Anglo-manics. The older a thing is, the better they relish it—the older, and—must we say it—the rotten.

Until a scheme shall be devised for insuring equitable and uniform freight rates, the railroad problem will be very much with us.

The disposition of the average state legislator of Republican proclivities to get aboard the band wagon is strikingly exhibited in the present growth of the Walton speakership boom. Fortunately Henry P. Walton is a candidate who deserves success.

Mr. Cleveland's prentice hand is a good hand to be kept from meddling with the finance buzz saw.

One Lesson of Typhoid Fever.

The unusual prevalence of typhoid fever in several smaller communities in this state, notably in the ordinarily healthful borough of Montrose, where one or two cases of this dread infection have already ended fatally, directs attention to a common evil. In Montrose, for instance, nature has provided almost every accessory of a low death rate; but man has shown his negligence by failing to supplement the town's superior natural drainage with a modern and effective system of sewerage.

The fever cases now causing so much anxiety in Montrose, according to the best information obtainable, are due, perhaps indirectly, to the unhealthy recent encampment of state guardsmen at Gettysburg; but they are due directly to the lack of suitable drainage. In every case thus far investigated, the cause of the fever, if we have been correctly informed, has been traced to impure well water, the pollution of which is very obviously the fault of the present primitive system of disposing of human waste. The fact that no case of typhoid has occurred among those who drink the water supplied from this town's clear feed-lake is proof that this body of water is as yet free from contamination.

No doubt it would cost the 1,500 inhabitants of this pretty mountain village something to lay proper sewers and make the proper plumbing connections therewith. But this expense would, in the long run, be more than repaid by the greater convenience and the superior cleanliness of such a modern system of waste disposal. When the present difficulties shall be overcome, one of the first things that the borough council of Montrose should undertake is the adoption of sanitary sewerage; and in its endeavors toward this desirable end it should have the hearty co-operation of all public spirited citizens.

Unless there is palpable proof to the contrary, it ought to be a fair assumption that ballot irregularities in the main party evenly divided between the two leading parties. Hence, in the majority of close elections, the face of the returns might fairly be accepted as final, and this, by the way, would be much cheaper for the people than to burden them with excessive costs, to little, if any, purpose.

A Clever Bait.

That was a very suggestive editorial in yesterday's Philadelphia Inquirer concerning the appointment of General Hastings' cabinet. Our esteemed contemporary is evidently anxious to save the governor-elect unnecessary trouble in this direction. Thus it dexterously remarks that "he can select for secretary of the commonwealth and attorney general men who are personally congenial and select them for that reason solely, or he can take men of prominence who would bring great strength to him. It may be that the general has no political aspirations beyond the governorship. That being the case, he might settle down to a quiet administration with pleasant company about him and give no thought to the future. On the other hand, it may be that he would like to appear before the next national Republican convention as a candidate for higher honors. To do this he would have to have around him political friends who are in touch with Republican leadership—men whose influence is acknowledged."

The Inquirer doesn't say whom it had in mind when it spoke of men who are "personally congenial," but we have little difficulty in reading between its lines a diplomatic rib thrust at Colonel James H. Lambert, its former editor, and George B. Orlady, who is understood to be General Hastings' personal choice for attorney general. The Inquirer is less diffident, however, about designating by name those whom it means "political friends." By this it means General Frank Reeder for the state portfolio and Lyman D. Gilbert for the attorney generalship, the two men generally believed to be earnestly favored by Senator Quay.

There does not appear to be much need of comment upon this clever presentation of the case. At the same time, we venture to remark, less for General Hastings' benefit—he is too sensible not to know it already—than for the benefit of the Philadelphia Inquirer, that the people of Pennsylvania two weeks ago elected a governor, and not a president. The idea that Speaker Reed will parcel out the committee chairmanships of the Fifty-fourth congress so as to get the most votes in the next Republican national convention is correct; but he will "get the most votes" by giving the country the best possible organization of the next congress.

Third Party Progress.

The Tribune gladly gives space on another page to a courteous letter from G. L. Malce explaining his view of the future of the Prohibition party. There are some things in this communication which do not carry conviction. One of them, for example, is the comparison of a minority political party, which seeks political ends by political means, with those who believe in Christianity, whom our correspondent calls also a minority party. The comparison is as inapt as is the recent remark of a third party clergyman of a neighboring city who declared that all Christians who failed to vote the Prohibition ticket were either knaves or fools. Does our friend be-

lieve in trying to force Christianity upon the world by political agitation?

The temperance question in its third partisan phase has been before the voters of this state for upward of twenty years. In that time the question of prohibition as a political issue has been ably and persistently argued. Yet as we have shown, the third party vote in Pennsylvania has grown with what under the circumstances may fairly be called extreme, if not discouraging, slowness. We are naturally curious to know what practical object those who vote this particular ticket expect, at this pace, soon, if ever, to obtain. If it be merely to show by their small number of votes from year to year that they are believers in temperance, why not consider this fact already demonstrated, and proceed to something else?

In war, and also in politics, the object of battle is to lick the enemy. We submit that if the liquor influence in politics is to be licked by the Prohibition party, that party will have to grow a great deal faster in the next score of years than it has grown in the last score. And, furthermore, it will have to drop the present assumption that the million or more voters in Pennsylvania who do not vote as if votes are necessarily apocryphal from religion and enemies of their country. In other words, the Prohibition third party will need to learn even more thoroughly than it has yet learned, that while it numbers in its membership hundreds of true, able and upright men, it does not contain all there is of virtue, piety and temperance among the citizenship of these United States.

Judge Sittler, in debating whether he will contest the recent Republican avalanche, should think twice before he acts once.

Despite all that others are doing, we are inclined to pick the governor-elect as the best and truest cabinet maker in the state.

CHATS BY THE WAY.

It is surprising how readily one's remarks can be misinterpreted. Here, for instance, is the Canadian Herald saying: "The Scranton Tribune seems to be very much interested in the Prohibition vote of late. It has been making comparisons with former voters and advising the party to go out of business because of the smallness of their vote. In the same issue of the paper it has an account of a drunken man in Hyde Park trampling his wife to death. So long as such cases of brutality happen so long will men be found who will be pious enough and patriotic enough to vote that such things shall be made impossible. A vote is supposed to represent a man's sentiments and if he believes in the abolition of the drink traffic more than he believes in tariff or tariff reform he should vote for the party that champions his idea. If he does not do so he is false to himself and to his country."

Now, if the Herald had read this paper with even ordinary care it would have known that "The Tribune did no such thing as to advise the Prohibition party to "go out of business." It merely wondered what they were gaining by staying in business. The man who believes that the problem of temperance, which has existed ever since man came into being, can be eradicated by the mere act of voting for a third party candidate for office is certainly welcome to vote his belief at the polls as patiently as he pleases. We wish all good citizens well.

We learn from the esteemed Wilkes-Barre Record that "the principal shipping point of the upper coal fields was never Scranton nor never will be. And, moreover, the superficial seams of Lackawanna are well nigh exhausted and none others in sight it behooves our neighbors to get a move on and corral a few more bituminous and under-vent factories or the "Electric City" or "Chickadee of the East," whichever cognomen is right, will soon enter upon a lively period of decay. The fly thought he was an awful load on the ox's back, but the ox never even supposed he was there. We are glad to know that Wilkes-Barre is happy. Scranton doesn't mind Wilkes-Barre's competition in the least. Fact is, she doesn't feel it.

There is no earthly reason why a man who pays his money for American rhymes should be fed on "Paradise Lost." A book dealer who should try to work off Dante's "Inferno" in Bed of "The House That Jack Built" would not long retain his trade. Yet precisely a similar thing has happened in Wilkes-Barre, where the leader of a play house orchestra has got himself and orchestra together who would "trumpet his severe classics too kindly to "Sweet Marie" and "Johnny, Get Your Gun." What curios these musicians be!

Even prosaic Allentown has invented a social novelty in the shape of a "chewing gum party." Chewing gum, in society, is much to be preferred to chewing peanuts.

Professor Carter, the organist of the 32nd Park church, has arranged to give a recital in Carbondale, Dec. 5, whereupon the Herald pays him this neat compliment: "Those who recently went to Scranton for the purpose of hearing him will want to hear him again and those who have not heard the wonderful music which he brings out of the instrument will embrace this opportunity of doing so."

The tide is turning. Says the Lebanon, Pa. Daily News: "Senator Cameron denies that he is interested in the formation of a silver party. He said recently, 'I am a Republican who thoroughly believes in silver,' whereupon the Scranton Tribune says: 'The probability is that Senator Cameron will some day have many more companions in this belief than he has today.' We coincide in this belief and we doubt not that the day is not far distant when such will be the case and when prominent Republicans will hold similar views."

POLITICAL POINTS.

It is understood that Senator Quay wanted Lyman D. Gilbert named as attorney general, and that he will now become Mr. McCormick's deputy.

Allegheny county Republican assemblymen-elect have endorsed Sheriff Joseph Gray for adjutant general.

Philadelphia's new common council will have 127 members, too many, it is claimed, for expediency or satisfactory work.

The rumor at Washington is that President Cleveland will pigeon hole Admiral Walker's report favorable to Hawaiian annexation.

The News-Dealer claims there has been too much politics and too little hard work in the Luzerne county district attorney's office.

Judge Sittler, who was recently defeated for Judge in the Wyoming district may contest the matter in court. Republican fraud is charged.

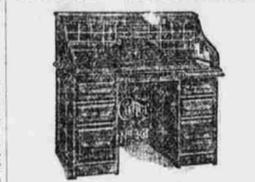
for attorney general, General James A. Beaver, of Center; for auditor general, Tom Stewart, of Montgomery; for chief clerk of the house, it picks A. D. Fetterolf, of Montgomery, and for resident clerk, Judge Jere Rex, of Huntingdon.

"In the eternal fitness of things, it strikes us," says the Carbondale Anthracite, "that nothing seems more fitting than that a slate picker at eight, a mule driver at ten, and a bark grinder at twelve, should be selected to carry out the provisions of a law enacted largely in the interests of boys and girls who have to go to the mills and factories before reaching their maturity. Governor Hastings cannot do better than make Mr. John C. Delaney factory inspector."

This is how the Philadelphia Press editorially whacks Charley Voorhees: "White Philadelphia has not yet informed any candidate for a chief clerkship. It will undoubtedly support A. D. Fetterolf, of Montgomery, who has already been endorsed by some of the interior counties. The clerkship is a position of but little less importance than the speakership. It has sometimes been abused in the past and made use of for disgraceful lobbying purposes. But under Mr. Fetterolf's administration nothing of that kind will occur."

The Philadelphia Inquirer compliments a prominent Scrantonian as follows: "Frank H. Clemons, of Scranton, the newly-elected Republican sheriff of Lackawanna county, was at the Bingham House Sunday night on his way to Port Deposit to join a gaming party. He is more after recreation, however, than the birds, for he has just come out victor in one of the bitterest fights ever known in the history of Lackawanna politics. His majority was only 46 votes, while the candidate on the same ticket for county treasurer was defeated by 25 votes. Mr. Clemons is a member of one of the leading wholesale firms in Scranton and is personally very popular, and but for a defect in the party under the leadership of ex-Mayor Fellows, brought about through ill feeling over the congressional nomination, he would have polled a very much stronger vote."

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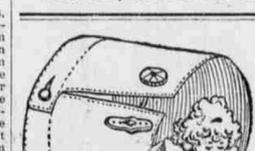
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