

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 3, 1894.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 184, 102,000. Registered voters, 26,284. Value of school property, \$750,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It's 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, 122,222. Population in 1870, 55,000. Population in 1850, 45,850. Population in 1830, 25,212. Population in 1810 (estimated), 165,000. And the end is not yet.

The board of health should hereafter sprinkle carbolic acid on each issue of the Scranton Times.

Today's Conference of Presidents.

It is truly to be hoped that today's conference in New York of the sales agents with the presidents of the principal anthracite-carrying railroads will result in a definite adjustment of points of present difference and be the means of a permanent settlement of anthracite trade conditions. The problem before this meeting is simple enough, theoretically, to occasion surprise at the time required in its practical solution. It comprises only two great factors: the coal supply, a fixed, decreasing quantity; and the popular demand, which is subject to fluctuation in accordance with the temperature, bituminous competition, and minor but palpable influences. Almost any school boy could fit these two factors together. It seems as obvious as a plain fact can be that the railroads cannot profit permanently by a policy toward shippers of hard coal which means loss to the latter. With anthracite a diminishing natural resource, to throw it into an unprofitable market merely to swell freight receipts is like robbing the pillars of a mine. It is dangerous at the time; and doubly harmful to the future. That railroad presidents, in a moment of slack miscellaneous traffic, should wish to meet the operating expenses of their railroads by sapping the financial vitality of their mines would seem, upon its face, to be almost an incredible statement to make concerning experienced business men; but it is, alas, the oft-demonstrated fact. Should the time come when the mines would no longer be able to lubricate their car wheels, what would these presidents think of their policy? And what would railway share holders think of the presidents' stewardships?

In a word, what the presidents ought to do today is to agree to co-operate in needed restriction, and then to keep their agreements. The momentary losses in freight revenues incidental to this policy would, in the long run, be repeatedly compensated in the fair price thus obtained for the railroad companies' coal and in the bettered prosperity of the mining regions which must inevitably mirror itself in the railway traffic reports. It is the case of a dollar earned now at the expense of five dollars tomorrow, against the loss of a dollar in freight revenues now, to be eventually offset five and ten times over, by gains in both freight and coal sales. Who could not choose between the horns of such a dilemma?

The Scranton Traction company should make itself the Christmas present of a new and improved schedule.

Secretary Gresham may not be the most popular man in America, at this writing, but he would nevertheless have the support of every decent citizen if he were to stiffen his back bone and take fewer clouts on the ear from foreign powers. America has outgrown its infantile period in diplomacy, notwithstanding that some of our recent state secretaries have apparently not realized the fact.

The duty of this session of congress is to get through with its routine work as fast as possible and drop into obscurity with a dull thud.

Reapportionment Again.

A point to be considered in the next reapportionment of congressional districts at Harrisburg is that Lackawanna county contains, in Scranton, one of the most rapidly growing communities in the commonwealth. While the district ratio must be based upon the last preceding decennial census, which shows the Eleventh district to be apparently 31,813 under size, the collateral fact need not be overlooked that Scranton itself has, in the four years separating it from 1890, grown in population almost if not fully enough to bring Lackawanna's population up to the requisite 173,901.

In 1890 the federal census gave this city only 75,215 population. That may have been correct, at the time, although we suspect it underrated the truth. But today, two different enumerations—one upon the basis of the school attendance and another based upon last spring's city directory canvass—estimate the population of Scranton at 103,000. This gain of 28,000 would, of itself, bring the Eleventh district almost up to the requisite ratio; but there remains to be mentioned the very

gratifying growth in population of Carbondale, Dunmore, Archbald, Olyphant and a dozen smaller boroughs in this district, the aggregate of which, we feel quite sure, more than lifts Lackawanna county up to an equality with the best-apportioned districts in the state, without counting the natural increase in the townships.

On Saturday, for the purpose of arousing interest in this important phase of the legislature's programme, we suggested the possibility of the annexation to this district of a portion of Luzerne. It is scarcely probable, though, that the legislature would view favorably a carving of counties, unless where absolutely unavoidable. It is more than likely, we suspect, to save its successors a deal of trouble by letting the Eleventh district remain as it is, upon the plea that it already has enough population to make a goodly district, and that each year adds thousands to its size. The question of reducing Luzerne and Schuylkill counties to smaller proportions is one for the members from those counties themselves to solve. As it is, Lackawanna is probably in a position to look on and say nothing.

In affairs pertaining to the foreign reputation of the United States, partisan differences ought to be content to keep within the home shore line.

The beautiful ceremonial which the Elks annually observe in their impressive lodges of sorrow for their departed brothers was locally illumined last evening by the reading, by its gifted author, John E. Barrett, of a poem of exquisite sympathy and tenderness, elsewhere reproduced in this morning's Tribune. In this feeling poem Mr. Barrett has admirably voiced the principles which dominate all Elks: the principles of Charity, Justice and Brotherly Love with Fidelity surmounting all. Nothing could be better fitted for an occasion of its solemn, yet not unpleasant character, than was this apt token of fraternal esteem penned in memoriam for loved ones who have been called to their final rest.

Speaker Crisp talks very boldly about the ability of "the majority," which passed the income tax, to enforce it. Has he so soon forgotten what happened to that majority only four weeks ago?

Permissible Jingoism.

According to the trust available information, our state department has been guilty of a bad error of judgment at one point in its dealings with China and Japan. We are freer to say this because, while we do not sanction partisan criticism of any administration's foreign policy, the fault in this instance appears to be common to both parties and a blench of long standing upon American diplomacy; the blench often of inexcusable timidity. The facts in the case, so far as known, are these: When Japan declared war on China, there were 1,500 Japanese residents in Shanghai. Our government, through Minister Denby, offered these, as well as other Japanese, its protection and friendly services in getting them out of China, to a place of safety. The Chinese officials understood this; but claimed that two of these 1,500 were spies. Consul-General Jernigan communicated, through the Pekin legation, with Secretary Gresham and, after some delay, received orders to surrender the pair. They were seized by the Chinese, subjected to indescribable torture and afterward beheaded. The whole point to this episode lies in the fact that while it is reasonable to suppose that the two victims were spies, as was alleged, the United States consul-general was not permitted by the secretary of state at Washington to hold a fair trial of the accused men, but had to take merely the accusation of the semi-barbarous Chinese as proof. In precisely the same manner, China could, had it been so disposed, have demanded every one of the 1,500 civilized Japanese who had sought the protection of our flag; and could have shot them, mutilated them, burned them or inflicted any other outrageous treatment upon them, upon its single, unsubstantiated assertion that they were spies. In such a case the blood of these people would have been on our hands, and we should, as a nation, justly have deserved the opprobrious name of cravens and assistant assassins. As it is, we have only the blood of two men to answer for; and can, as a nation, presumably snap our fingers at criticism, just as Secretary Gresham does, when confronted with these facts.

In this connection it is interesting to follow some remarks of Julian Ralph, the famous correspondent, who has just returned from Shanghai: I am sorry to have seemed to be personal in what I reported from China, but I insist that the time has come that our government learn something outside the boundaries of this country. If we are going to meddle in foreign affairs, we have got to make our just pride and power apparent to the foreign people. It is said that not many years ago a senator of the United States rose in his place and said: "Mr. President, a man has asked us to send a war ship to Korea. I never knew there was such a place as Korea until this morning. We are told that some Americans were massacred there. What on earth do Americans want to be in Korea for when we have the boundless west to populate and till?" This sort of thing is what the Europeans tell about in Asia, and how they gradually withdrew their story about their country which is yet more humiliating. It is a story of how, with a few grim walls of floating oak constantly in evidence before China, we built up a mighty trade in that country. It is a story of how a few cute Yankees, backed by American pluck and guns, established the biggest business and distanced all Europe in the China trade. It is a story of how, bit by bit, successive administrations seemed to forget our successes and our conquests on that hostile soil, and how they gradually withdrew American ships and ceased to send them, and followed our great trades left us and allowed British guns until today hundreds of merchants, clerks and missionaries are lying there in uncertain peace and precarious condition under the protection of any flag and every flag except our own.

There are persons who meet every comment of this kind with the contemptuous word: "Jingoism!" For our part, we are not at all ashamed to confess that if to put some good, stiff, New England backbone into our cartilaginous state department be to favor "jingoism," we shall have to become "jingoists." We believe the time has come in the development of this republic when if we wish to assume any attitude whatever in foreign affairs, we must assume one of dignity and pluck. Only down-at-the-heel precedents, born for

the most part of political fear, need to be discarded in favor of an aggressive, although not bullying, policy which shall teach the lesson, in every port, where the Stars and Stripes are hoisted, that those efforts mean something, and that impertinent intermeddlers had better keep off the grass!

It Is Now or Never.

Dr. Rothrock, secretary of the Pennsylvania Forestry association, estimates that the inhabitants of this state suffer an annual, average, direct loss of \$30,000,000 because of their lack of suitable forest supervision. When it is remembered that Pennsylvania has, in round numbers, only 1,000,000 voters, this is equivalent to saying that every male citizen robs himself of \$30 yearly by failing to insist upon the preservation of our wooded areas. This is an uncommon way of putting it; but we are not prepared to dispute its truth.

The next legislature will have before it, for consideration, many measures of undoubted importance. But what one of these, apart from the Forestry association's bill to lay out and protect three state parks, will promise a direct saving, to each voter, of \$30? It is well to keep this thought in the minds of the men who will prepare the next legislative calendar. They do not see the importance of forest protection mainly because they have not given thought to the subject. Let friends of the reform see, this time, that they give thought to it.

It is now or never with the forestry movement in Pennsylvania. Some other year will be too late.

The decision of the Traction company to improve its car service on the Laurel Hill Park line, which was carried into effect Saturday by the adoption of a new schedule, is a thankfully-received symptom of progress and good judgment. It is now in order to remind the company that there are other lines whereon additional cars, running promptly on schedule time, would not prove a bad investment.

Only by assuming that poverty induces indifference to justice can the prediction be sustained that the income tax is here to stay. We do not believe that the bulk of poor people are socialists at heart.

Senator Sherman says that if he were Secretary Carlisle he would run his department to suit himself or else resign. With Cleveland in the white house, knowing it all, the senator would probably resign.

POLITICAL POINTS.

Representative North, of McKean, is a straw candidate for speaker.

A revival of ex-Senator Sablin is threatened in Minnesota.

Senator Palmer says Cleveland would surely veto a free-coinage bill.

The Bellefonte Gazette nominates Governor-elect Hastings for senator and President-elect McKinley for speaker.

A national meeting of leading Populists will be held in St. Louis this week, to plan for the future. If Major McDowell should succeed Chief Clerk Kerr at Washington, Harry Hall's chances of securing a choice assignment are believed to be excellent. Congressman Stone, of Warren, has been elected a non-resident member of the Lawyers' club of Philadelphia, his nomination receiving the warm personal endorsement of Governor-elect Hastings. "Since the adoption of the constitution in 1874 Philadelphia," says the Times, "has held the speakership three terms—those of John B. Egan, Democrat, in 1883, and Henry K. Boyer, Republican, in 1887 and 1888. Allegheny county has also had three terms—S. F. Patterson, Democrat, in 1875; Henry M. Long, Republican, in 1879, and James L. Graham, Republican, in 1885. The country counties have had four terms under three speakers—E. Reed Myers, of Bradford, in 1877; B. L. Hewitt, of Blair, in 1881 and C. C. Thompson, of Warren, in 1881 and 1892. These three were all Republicans. Philadelphia will get the prize again at the coming season, and, following the rule that has prevailed the past twenty years, Allegheny will claim it next."

WHY THEY DIDN'T VOTE.

From the Courier-Journal. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Marquis tells a very amusing incident of the late campaign, which occurred at his Ohio home: "I never fully realized the influence of example until election day," said Mr. Marquis. "I have been a working member of the Logan county Democratic committee for thirty-four years, and, following my usual custom, was out on election day to get our people to the polls. Just outside of town I came across four or five Democrats hushing in a corn field. "Aren't you boys coming to the polls?" I asked. "Have you heard whether or not Mr. Cleveland has voted today?" was the prompt rejoinder. "I replied that it was generally understood that the president was not going to vote that day. "Well, neither are we. We are just as good as he is, and have just as good reasons for staying away from the polls. Besides," said the spokesman of the party, as I was leaving the field, "Mr. Cleveland gets \$300 a year for being a Democrat while we receive \$1.20 a day for hushing corn. He can better afford to lose the time to go to the polls than we can."

A DIRE PUNISHMENT.

"Stand up!" commanded his honor, the Judge. The criminal in the dock arose and glared at him, defiantly. "Prisoner at the bar," said the Judge, sternly, "you stand fairly convicted of a most revolting crime. Your whole attitude, both before and during your trial, has been one of inhuman callousness and stoicism. Had there been one mitigating circumstance; had your demeanor called forth one spark of pity, the court would gladly have availed itself of the chance to abate the severity of its decree. Have you, even now, one word to say in your own behalf?" A disdainful smile was the only reply. "Rash man! You have brought it on yourself. The clerk will enter it on record that this unfeeling scoundrel shall be sentenced to read, once a day, for two weeks, Sam Hudson's alley Times."

A BIT OF HISTORY.

Colonel Alex McClure. It is known to but few of this day how the peculiar provision of the act of 1874 directing the trial of judicial contests was determined upon. Like many other general laws it was influenced, without the knowledge of the legislature, to meet a particular case that was expected to arise in the judicial district then composed of Franklin and Fulton. The candidates were Judge Bone, Republican, and ex-Judge Kimmel, Democrat, who had been the first judge of the district under the elective system. It was confidently expected that Judge Bone would carry a majority in Franklin county, and it was apprehended that Kimmel would receive a larger majority in Fulton. Had the election resulted as was anticipated, there

would have been a contest on the ground that Franklin county, having the requisite population under the constitution to give her a judge, could not be controlled in the choice of a judge by a small county that had been attached to it, and the question was carefully considered as to how a friendly tribunal might be chosen under a general law to determine that constitutional question. By adopting the plan of taking the three Judges nearest to the county seat it was believed that a tribunal not unfriendly would be obtained; but the glorious uncertainty of American politics was demonstrated in this case by the two candidates being a tie in Franklin and Fulton giving a plurality to Judge Rowe. Apart from the particular case it was intended to meet, the method is in every way a commendable one and it is likely to result in the honest determination of such disputes as any other tribunal that could be formed.

DON'T THINK SO.

From the Philadelphia Times. The tendency of the times in both parties unmistakably points to the increased taxation of wealth. It is inspired by the spirit of the agrarian that aims to confiscate wealth under cover of law, and it is doubtful whether any of the great parties in 1896 will incorporate in its platform a repeal of the income tax. It is popular in the south for the reason that the southern people don't pay it; it is popular in the west for the same reason, and it is popular with the masses even in the eastern states, where wealth is most concentrated, because an overwhelming majority of the people are exempt from it. It is simply a question of a large majority putting some \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 of taxation upon a helpless minority that has been fortunate in enterprise and business, and it is more than probable that by 1896 the income tax will be the fixed policy of the government as it now is in England.

Parlor Furniture . . .

WITHIN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN RADICAL CHANGES IN THE STYLES OF

Parlor Furniture,

ALL WHICH HAVE BEEN TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE BUYER, AS THE NEW AND TASTY PATTERNS ARE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THE OLDER ONES, THUS ENABLING THE PURCHASERS TO FURNISH THEIR PARLORS IN UP-TO-DATE STYLES AT A

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We invite inspection of our great display of Household and Table Linens--and solicit comparisons of prices.

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