Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERMOOM

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED). AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING. HO. 198 S. THIRD STREET. PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (doub's sheet); Or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail s Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1869.

The Purchase of Tools for the Navy Yard. YMATHEDAY We published the report of the sub-committee appointed by the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives to investigate certain charges against the engineers of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Judge Kelley was chairman of the sub-committee, and the report presents the evidence upon which he grounded his denunciation of the Engineer Corps of the Navy in general, and Chief Engineer Zeller in particular, a few weeks ago, in the House. We have now before us the report of the Board of Engineers appointed by the Navy Department and the report of Judge Kelley's committee, upon which to make some estimates as to the merits of the case under consideration. Notwithstanding all this display of testimony on both sides, however, there are some matters still in considerable doubt. Chief Engineer Zeller has claimed that the investigation of the subcommittee was partial, and that it did him in justice; he has therefore appealed to the full Naval Committee, and is now presenting additional evidence as to the judiciousness of the purchases of tools made for the Navy Yard, and for the purpose of vindicating his own integrity. We await the publication of the final report of the Naval Committee before soming to any definite conclusion as to the merits of the case.

The facts, as we have them, are that Chief Engineer Zeller purchased in New York a number of second hand marine engine tools in preference to purchasing new ones in Philadeiphia. He claims that the tools were bought at a bargain, that they are in reasonably good order, and that they are capable of doing the heaviest marine engine work as well as any machines made. Judge Kelley's committee, on the contrary, contend that the tools are old-fashioned, out of order, and such as would not be admitted into any first-class machine shop in the country; and they further contend that Mr. Zeller did not allow the Philadelphia manufacturers an opportunity to compete, and that either he or his assistants fabricated bids from those firms, so as to make it appear as if they competed in regular form, and were ruled out on account of their excessive charges.

With regard to the merits of the tools, the sub-committee gives us the testimony of Mr. J. Shields Wilson, superintendent of Neafie & Levy's Penn Works, and Mr. John Birkbeck, superintendent of Messrs. Merrick & Sons' Southwark Foundry, six machinists employed in the navy yard, all of whom testify in substance that the tools purchased in New York are old fashioned, out of order, incapable of doing first-rate work, and not such as they would buy if fitting up shops of their own.

On the other hand, the Board of Engineers

who examined the matter by order of the Navy Department present the evidence of a number of prominent machinists, who swore that the tools were not antiquated; that the depreciation from use was not such as to materially affect their efficiency: that they were first-class tools in every respect, such as they would purchase themselves, and that it was judicious to purchase them in preference to paying a higher price for new ones. The following are the gentlemen who testified to that effect: -John H. Long, Chief Engineer of the United States Navy; Joseph G. Harrison, of the firm of Fletcher & Harrison, New York; Jeseph Belknap, consulting engineer, New York; Jacob S. Worden, of the firm of Murphy, McCady & Worden, New York; Thomas J. Rowland, of the Continental Iron Works. Greenpoint, L. I.; John Birkbeck, superintendent of Merrick & Sons, Philadelphia, and seventeen other leading machinists and engineers of New York and other cities. In addition to these, letters endersing the same views were received from Messrs. Merrick & Sons; W. C. Williamson, of Williamson & Brothers; T. Wilbraham & Brothers, John Birkbeck, John L. Knowlton, of the machine works at Second street wharf, Philadelphia; Lewis Laws, of I. P. Morris, Towne & Co., Philadelphia; Washington Jones, superintendent of the same esta blishment; Charles W. Smith, No. 135 North Third street; and Robert H. Long, of Grice & Long, Fulton Works, Philadelphia.

Such is the array of testimony on both sides. "Where doctors disagree, who shall decide ?" The most important evidence is that of Mr. John Birkbeck, whose evidence before the Committee and the Board is apparently contradictory. Before the Board he testified that "the general character of the tools purchased of Roach is excellent, and they have all the modern improvements for doing marine work; they are not old-fashioned patterns, and they are generally in good order; there are some few repairs required on them to put them in the best of first-class order: the cost of putting them in order would not exceed \$200; they are the proper kind of tools to select for a navy yard, and their purchase was judicious, instead of purchasing other tools at greater prices." Mr. Birkbeck stated that when examined by the sub-committee he was required to give categorical answers, which did not elicit his full opinion.

Mr. Zeller and his assistants by the sub-comThe repeated attempts to transfer to the mittee; is that they fabricated bids as having courts the private business with which the Sproot, Apply at No. 000 N. TENTH Sproot,

been made by Messrs. Sellers & Co. and Bement & Dougherty. The only evidence given by the sub-committee is as follows:-

"Meass, Seilers & Co. having examined the exhibit hereof referred to, said.—

"Measra, Sellers & Co. having examined site exhibit hereof referred to, said:—
""We never made any bids for these tools, neither were we requested to do so. Our letter of August 20, 1506, and certain photographs obtained from us some time previous to May 21, 1507, at which time we revised our price list, must have been the basis spon which the comparison has been made. Some of the sizes given as ours we do not make."
"On this point Mr. Bement, of the firm of Bement & Dougherty, being shown the exhibit and asked whether the prices were those of his firm, said they were not bids; that when the firm makes bids they take press copies of them; that the books of the firm had been examined and found that no bids had been given for these tools, and no member of the firm or employe thereof had any recollection of any bids having been solicited or requested, and added, "If there had been a call made at that time, June, 4867, the prices would not have been as carried out in the exhibit."
"Q. Then your books show no call on you for propositions for the several lights set forth in that ache-

out in the exhibit.

"Q. Then your books show no call on you for propositions for the several items set forth in that schedule? A. No, sir; and had such call been made the prices would not have been as quoted; and the prices quoted as curs in some cases are not the prices on the list which was farnished a year before, on August

In the report of the Board of Engineers we find the price lists of the various tool-building firms set forth at length and sworn to as correct by the assistant engineers and the draughtsmen and others employed in the Chief Engineer's office at the navy yard.

The only definite conclusion we have that able is that arrive at in this whole matter of purchasing tools was conducted in a very loose and unbusiness-like manner by Chief Engineer Zeller. His assistants swear that they waited upon Messrs. Sellers & Co. and Messrs. Bement & Dougherty at certain times, and obtained price-lists from them, stating, when they did so, that there was to be competition in the purchase of the tools. The firms above-named, however, according to the report of the sub-committee, only considered these transactions as the preliminary steps to still further negotiations. A misunderstanding certainly appears to exist on this point. The report of the sub-committee further states that Messre. Sellers & Co. and Bement & Dougherty positively deny that that they were examined by the Board of En gineers as to whether they ever made competitive bids for the tools in question, and pronounce the conclusions of the Board to be false and unfounded. The Board of Engineers, on the contrary, report that papers, which they gave at length, were personally submitted to members of the above-mentioned sfirms, and acknowledged by them to be the price-lists of tools offered to Chief Engineer Zeller. There appears to be some full-fledged fabrications somewhere on this point, and we hope that the report of the Naval Committee will let us know who the fabricators are.

Complaints are frequently made about the red tape in our public offices, but such a case as this shows the necessity and importance of red tape. In all matters where the expenditures of the Government are concerned, too much care cannot be exercised to have all the contracts, specifications, receipts, exhibits etc., set forth clearly and unmistakably in black and white, and then if disputes ar'se they can be settled without much difficulty. This tool-purchasing matter does not appear to have been probed to the bottom yet, and we hope that the next report we have on the subject will give us all the facts, without fear, favor, or curtailment, and in such a clear and understandable manner that there will be no mistaking them.

The Proposition to Increase the Number of Assemblymen. WE are glad to notice that Mr. Adaire has introduced in the State Legislature a proposition that the Constitution be so amended as to authorize an increase of the number of Assemblymen to three hundred. The present system is so lamentably defective that scarcely any change can prove injurious, and there is good reason for anticipating beneficial results from the proposed reform. Legislation, as now conducted at Harrisburg, is ordinarily either a failure, a farce, or a fraud.

Useful business of a general character is habitually neglected, and the ruling principle of action is to do those things which ought not to be done, and to leave undone those things which eught to be done. Mine-tenths of each session is consumed in the consideration of special laws or private bills, and in these proceedings one hundred men in the House act on business interests of every description. without knowing or caring what is the real nature of the enactments they vote for, and without taking the trouble to oppose any measure that may be submitted unless a belief prevails that "there is money in it," or that it may affect partisan interests. Hundreds of bills are read only by their titles, and under this careless system adroit managers, who conciliate influential members of committees, have little difficulty in securing the passage of any obnoxious measure they chose to favor. If it is important that the privileges granted in these multifarious enactments should be bestowed, no worse mode than the one now employed could be devised to consider them, for it is evident that they receive no consideration whatever worthy of the name: that members vote "yea" or "nay" without an intelligent comprehension of their own action; and that they pass bill No. 8056 or de. feat bill No. 12,945 from no better reason than a desire to oblige a friend or fellow-member. or from absolutely base motives. Of all patent plans for making laws, under any system of government, this is one of the very worst. For practical purposes the people might as well go back to a despotism virtually ruled by an irresponsible favorite, and look to a king's fool or a king's barber as the fountain of law and justice. The whole system is so radically absurd, and the time of legisla. tors is so thoroughly preoccupied by the multifarious details of private bills, that honest men find themselves hopelessly bewildered

mate character, to the State.

when they endeavor to bring order out of

chaos, and to render real service, of a legiti-

Legislature is burdened have proved abortive. As soon as one class of applicants is disposed of, others take its place, and there is a chronic tendency to encourage these applications, for the obvious reason that they bring griat to the mill of corrupt members. Something may be done by positive laws, or by constitutional amendments, to check this evil; but it is probable that an increase of the number of members of the House to three hundred would prove the most effective remedy, especially if this increase was accompanied by short sessions and small salaries. The best thing the people can expect from a State Legislature is that it will act promptly and wisely on the general appropriation bills and such other general legislation or business as may from time to time be requisite for the public welfare, and then adjourn. Three hundred men could easily be selected, by small constituencies, from the immense body of good and useful citizens who would be willing to devote annually a month or six weeks to the consideration of legitimate legislative business, but who would turn away in disgust from the unintelligible budget of buncombe and bribery which is now manufactured at the State Capitol. The absurdities of the present system would be more glaring than ever if three hundred men instead of only one hundred spent their time in converting jargon they would not even listen to into laws, and it is scarcely possible that so large a body would willingly consent to this self-stultification.

Mr. Adaire's proposition embraces a proviso that in apportioning the representatives "no county shall be divided, and no more than three counties shall be joined in the formation of a district." The last clause of this proviso we cordially approve, but we doubt the wisdom of the first. It seems to us desirable that each member should be made responsible to as small a constituency as possible. Of three hundred members, for instance, Philadelphia would be entitled to about sixty. It would be a hazardous experiment to elect that number on a general ticket, all the voters of the city voting for sixty candidates. It would probably be better to require that no legislative district should embrace more territory than a single ward, and, if possible, to divide the populous wards into three districts, so that each candidate could be personally known to a large proportien of his constituents. In some of the populous counties of the State the custom prevails in nominating conventions of apportioning legislative candidates to well-defined sub-districts. In some of the New England States each town or township elects at least one member. What is needed above all other things in the Legislature is honest men, and rogues have a better chance of imposing upon people unacquainted with their private character than upon their immediate neighbors.

ACCORDING to the New York Sun, some of the wards of that city have formed or are contemplating the formation of vigilance committees similar to those of San Francisco. It this is the case, all the wise men in Gotham must indeed have gone to sea in a bowl. New York has long been in a bad way, but we can hardly believe that anything can now justify such action in private individuals. In the unorganized society of a new country, especially one laboring under the peculiar disadvantages of the heterogeneous population attracted by the precious metals, there may be excuses for the more law-abiding citizens to take the law in their own hands against the outrages of the utterly lawless; but no enemy could utter anything half so derogatory to the fame of New York as would be the truth confessed by such action on the part of her own oitizens.

CHICAGO is growing, if we are to believe what the people of that city say for themselves. The following were the totals of the assessed valuation of real and personal property in the city in 1868 and 1867:-

1867, \$140,857,040 51,392,604 ..\$174,490,660 .. 55,750,340 ..\$230,248,000 \$192,249,644 Total.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.] NOTICE .- ALL PERSONS ARE hereby cautioned against trusting any of the CREW of the schooner ISAAC OLIVER, Pannell, Master, as no debt of their contracting will be paid

by either captain or consignee.

1 30 2t No. 129 South FRONT Street. POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA.

Post Office, Philadelphia,
Mail for HAVANA, per steamer CUBA, sailing
from Baltimore, will close at this Office on MONDAY,
February 1,
HENRY H. BINGHAM,

POETRY ABOUT MAN AND BEAST.

The beasts of the field are clothed with hair, The birds of the air with feathers; Both birds and beasts have plenty to wear, Exposed to all sorts of weathers. The reason the birds and the beasts go thus, It is certainly now decided, Is because no Clothing is furnished by us, Such as for man is provided.

But human critters would deem it a sin

In feathers and furs to dress, so And so each human covers his skin With pants and with coats, and vests, oh! And men, by the thousands, are clothed with

which we run some tremendous mills on, And the men of the nation crowd to buy The Clothing of ROCKHILL & WILSON,

ROCKHILL & WILSON would mention, by way of passing remark, that there are still a few Clothes left of the same sort, going, going, going, at the same unprecedentedly low prices. Man being superior in understanding to the beast of the field, or the fowl of the air, will show his understanding by taking advantage of the present condition of affairs, and hastening to buy at the

GREAT BROWN STONE HALL OF

ROCKHILL & WILSON,

Nos. 603 and 605 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

INSTRUCTION.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

BO under the suppose of the under the anapose of the TOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, FROM JOHN SCHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, FROM JOHN SCHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, ENGLISH STATES OF THE STATES

LADELPHIA TRACT AND MISSION SO-CIETY, organized in September, 1837. Office, No. 1334 CHESNUT Street.

The two hundred and twenty-sixth Union Meeting will be held in the TENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner of TWELFTH and WALNUT Streets, on Sabbath evening, 31st, at 7½ o'clock. Rev. J. B. MolLVAI Ng. D. D. and J. H. SUHREI-NER will address the meeting 'Public lavited. *

PIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
WASHINGTON Square,—Rev. HERRICK
JOHNSON D. D. Pastor, will preach To-morrow, at
10% A. M. and TM P. M.
The sixth of the series of ser mons on the significant
Questions of Scripture to-mor ow evening. Subject;
'How shall we kecape if we Neglect so Great Saivation."' All are welcome.

FIRST OPENING FOR EVENING Service of the BIBLE OF STAN CHURCH, N. THIRD Street, above Girard avenue—Rev. WILLIAM TAYLOR. Pastor.
Bunday, Jan. 31—Services, Merning, 10% o'clock, Subject—'The Ark."
Bervices, Evening, 75% o'clock, Subject—'The True, Heavenly Kackings."
Seats tree to all.

NORTH BROAD STREET PRES-BYTERIAN CHURCH, corner BROAD and GBEEN Streets -Preaching To-morrow at 10% A. M., by the former pastor, Rev. E. E. A DAMS, D. D., at 71% P. M. by the pastor, Rev. PETER STRYKER, D. D., ou Temperance, All cordially invited.

CHURCH. TEN EM Street, below Sprace. Rev. Dr. MARCH will preach on the above subject To morrow (Sunday) evening at 7% o'clock. All persons are cordially invited to attend. TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, EIGHTH Street, above Race.—Rev. C. H. PAYNE, of Arch Street M. E. Church, will preach at 10% A. M. Rev. R. W. HUMPRRISS, pastor, at 7% P. M.

LUTHERBAUM, TWELFTH AND ONFORD—Hev. NOAH M. PRICE, Pastor, 10%. Rev. CHARLES P. WHITECAR, of East Pensylvania Synod. 7%, Pastor, Sermon for Souls. Preaching every evening next week.

Rev. W. P. BREED, D. D., will preach the eighth of morrow at 10% A. M. Subject - The Retribution."

SERMONS TO YOUNG MEN.—
BYTERIAN CHURCH, BIXTH Street, above Green, Tr. morrow (sabbath) Evening, at 7% o'c sok, by Rev. W. E. IJAMS, of Germantown.
Young men and the public generally cordially welcome.

DR STORK IS ST. ANDREWS LU-THERAN CHURCH, N. E. corner of ARCH and BROAD Streets, Sabbath Morning at 10/4; Rev. C. P. WHITACR S at 7/4 P M.

REV. DR. STRYKER WILL preach in the Morning, and Rev. Dr. ADAMS in the Afternoon Sabbath, in WESTERN PRESSY. TERIAS CHURCH, SEVENTEENTH and FIL-

SERVICE IN BUTTON WOOD STREET PARSBYTERIAN CHURCH, by Dr. T. J. SHEPHER U. Moraing, Subject: - Instant Acceptance of God as Sevice. Evening, at 1/2 o'clook. Surject: - Paur's Incepteeness to Christianity.

REV. J. P. BERG, D. D. WILL preach in the FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SEVENTH send SPRING GARDEN Streets, Sun-day Morning at 10%, and Evening at 7% o'clock. SPRING GARDEN BAPTIST Wallace.—Rev.I. P. HORNBERGE S. Pastor. Preaching Io-morrow at 10); A. M. and 71; P. M. Saubath School at 2 P. M.

DRY GOODS.

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MUSLINS, MUSLINS, MUSLINS. Frice by the piece this day; no advance, New York Molls, 260; Warren, 24c. Wamsutta, 2334c; Arkwright, 2034c. Williamsville, Alex; yard-wide Utica, 2334c. Forestdae, 1534c.; Fruit of Loom, 19c. 234 and 3 yards wide Huguenot Sheeting, 70 and

10 4 Androscoggin and Utica Sheeting, 65 and PIQUES, PLAID, AND SWISS MUSLINS. Satin Plaid Cambrics, 1844, 22, 28, 35 to 55c. Satin Plaid Nainsooks, for evening dresses, 25 Plain Nainsooks, Victoria Lawns, Undressed

11CASE SPLENDID FIGURED PIQUE, 37% CENTS. Fine and large Corded Fique, 50, 6234, 75, 8734c. Figured Piques, 25 to 75c.; last year's prices. LINENS, LINENS, LINENS.

Heavy Loom Table Linens, 2734, 50, 55, 6234c 84 Bleached Table Damask, 87\4c., \$1, \$1.20 to \$3.50. 3°50. Damask Napkius, \$1°50 to \$11 per dozen. All Linen Towels, 10, 12/2, 16, 22, 25c. to \$1°50

each. 5-4 and 6-4 Pillow Linens, 50, 6234, 75c. to \$1-71, 234 yards wide heavy Linen Sheeting, \$1-15, HOSIERY, HOSIERY, HOSIERY. Ladies' extra long English Hose, 621/4c., price elsewhere, 75c.
Ladles' genuine Balbriggan Hose, silk em-broidered, 87½c.; price elsewhere, \$1:25
Gents' regular made Half Hose, double heels,

25 cents. Ladies' Merino Vests, 75c., \$1:10 to \$5. Gents' Merino Shirts, 62½, 75, 87½c. to \$5. WHITE IRISH POPLIN. AT HAMRICK & COLE'S.

LIGHT BLUE IRISH POPLIN. AT HAMRICK & COLE'S. CORN COLORED MOIRE ANTIQUE,

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WILLIAM H. RHAWN. VICE-PRESIDENT.

WILLIAMS I. BLANCHARD. 1 20 4ptf SECRETARY.

ANNUAL STATEMENT

PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA.

Office, No. 921 CHESNUT Street.

Published in conformity with the charter. Receipts for the Year Ending Dec. 31, 1868. Premiums received, policy fees, etc...... Interest on investments \$614.079.58 156,625.59 \$772,708-17

Losses and Expenditures During the Year.

20,211:00 268,424:16

Mortgages, ground rents real es ate, etc.... \$635,619 % United States, State of Pennsylvania, and 721,028 85

156 712 68 140 953 75 449 445 96 188 593 76 26 991 94 91,813 07 \$3,432,019-98 16,700-00 Deduct losses not due ..

\$2,405,279 98 \$2,521,753 95 Market value January, 1869 ..

SUBPLUS DIVIDED ANNUALLY,
LOSSES PAID PROMPTLY.
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Theophilus Paulding.
Edmund A. Bouder,
Eamuel C. Tewnsend,
Thomas W. Davis,
Joseph M. P. Price,
Eamuel A. Bispham,
Rodolphus Kent.
Eamuel J. Christian,
James O. Pease,
Warner M. Rasin,
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Ellwood Johnson,
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EDWARD A. PAGE. No. 1415 Walnut street,

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JAMES TRAQUAIR, President,

BAMUEL E. ST. KES, Vice-President,

JOHN W. HORNOR, A. V. P., and Actnary,

HORATIO S. ETEPHENS, Secretary, [1 30 stubst

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