

Lancaster Intelligencer

TUESDAY EVENING, JAN. 10, 1882.

The Law in the Case.

Nothing is plainer than that the law contemplates the county officers shall keep the public records and papers in their respective offices in good order and properly indexed. It is equally clear that the right and duty of examining them regularly to see if this is done, is imposed upon the judges, and that when any neglect is apparent they must have the deficiency performed, assessing, "a just and reasonable compensation"—not recommending "a very liberal compensation"—to be paid immediately by the county, and then to be collected by the commissioners from the officers whose neglect rendered the extra expense necessary. It is plain, too, from the provisions of the law which we print on our first page, in a further review of this "big bill" business, that if the judges do the work of examining the offices as often as their incumbents are superseded the county will never be subject to such extraordinary expenses as have just been imposed upon it. "By order of court," in the payment of \$8,800 for rearranging the disarranged papers in the prothonotary's and register's offices. For nearly half a century the law has been on the statute books by the simple operation of which any disorder occurring in the files and records of the county offices should have been detected every three years at least, and the responsibility for it so fixed that whatever it cost the county to supply the deficiency could be collected back from the delinquent official whose neglect of duty caused it. Admitting that the papers in these two offices were in such condition that it properly cost \$8,800 to rearrange them last year, it is plain that the judges did not regularly, in conformity with the law's direction, "ascertain if the records, books, indexes and bills of the respective offices be kept and left as the law contemplates;" and when neglect was apparent "direct the deficiency to be performed by the proper officers."

The complaint of the public is that when by the long-continued neglect of officials their offices got into this condition, and when by equally long continued neglect of the judges to examine and repair the deficiency, the extraordinary occasion for a supply of this deficiency arose, at great expense to the county, which could not be imposed upon delinquent officials, the proper thing to have done would have been to have had the work contracted for in advance; and not left it to the party who did it to fix a grossly exaggerated amount of recompense, and get the court to reconmend a "very liberal compensation" to be paid for it, instead of a "just and reasonable," "a fair and equitable" compensation as the law directs.

The court is properly authorized to change the mode of indexing the public records when it shall appear advisable, and no doubt the work in this direction done last year in the register's office was as necessary as that done some years ago in the recorder's and prothonotary's offices, the occasion for which did not arise from any neglect of former officers, but from improvements made in methods of indexing, and was therefore only chargeable upon the county. But then it will be remembered there was competition for the work, the price was fixed in advance, the contractors had to give heavy bonds for its correctness, on which they were liable for six years; and, considering their labor and responsibility, it is a fair estimate that the county paid for the late work of rearranging the papers four fold the cost of the new in doing.

Look Out!

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, on the committee on war claims, is reported to have moved in his committee that all the bills before it be reported back to Congress with a negative recommendation. In other words Mr. Holman proposes that this long period of time after the war to erect a statute of limitations as a bar before claims for damages against the government, and to practically abolish the committee which serves as the gate through which they reach the treasury. Most persons will agree with Mr. Holman. Probably there are a number of meritorious claims still unsatisfied, but the majority are not meritorious, and as all the injured have been long compensated, they can endure their deprivation for the few remaining years yet left them upon earth. It is time that war claims were cut down by the roots.

Yet there are so many even less meritorious drafts threatened against the treasury that it may be a question whether it is worth while to attempt to shut off this comparatively small leak. If Mr. Holman was on the appropriation committee he would have his hands full in his congenial work of watching the treasury. For there is the gravest reason to fear that this committee has been organized to rob the government, and that the declining hours of this Congress its members will be busy in putting their leeches where they will draw the most blood. One strong reason for this apprehension is the fact that Mr. Holman, the Cerberus of the treasury, has been taken off this committee where he was entitled by every precedent to be placed, having been its chairman as Mr. Randall's successor when the latter was made speaker. So Mr. Randall is entitled to be placed on this committee as its ex-chairman and as an ex-speaker whose wishes should have been respected in giving him committee work. We do not know that he desired to be put on this committee; but we take it for granted that he did, because it is the most important committee of Congress, and one with whose work he is familiar and which is agreeable to his habit of mind. These two Democrats are known the nation over for their devotion to economy in the national expenditures. In place of them are found Ellis, of Louisiana, who has a directly contrary fame, and LeFevre, of Ohio, who is not much better stuff. And there, too, is Pennsylvania's O'Neill, whose love for carrion is of the most approved kind. There is hardly

a man on the committee whose honesty could get a respectable guarantee unless it be Hiscock, the chairman, who is a man of good repute, but an easy-going soul, around whom such buzzards as Robeson, second on the committee, will swoop unchecked upon a defenseless treasury. Look out!

An Odd Kind of Meeting.

That is an odd sort of stockholders' meeting which is held in Philadelphia by the Reading railroad company. None of those present seemed to understand precisely what sort of a thing it was, and the presiding officer, who undertook the conduct of the beast, himself seemed to consider it a nondescript animal about which the only thing clearly defined was the fact that he was its keeper under the order of the court that underlook its creation. It certainly was not a stockholders' meeting of the kind we are familiar with, when the owners of the property gather together to hear the account of the stewardship of their officers and to elect others for the ensuing term. Such meetings are manifestly under the control of the assembled stockholders who choose their chairmen and secretaries and to whom all questions that arise are submitted for decision. In this particular meeting the stockholders seem to have been present only to do what the gentleman in the chair, appointed to be their master by the court, should permit them to do. They were permitted to name their secretaries, to listen to a report of their president, to vote their stock for officers, and to object to anything. One man wanted the report read and the rest didn't; the one man had his way; because the court ordered the master, and the master ordered the stockholders that so it should be.

Evidently that court took a good deal on itself; or else that master. We do not recollect that we ever heard before of a stockholders' meeting being so completely bossed by a court. We do not think much of the style. It has entirely too autocratic a flavor. The reading owners seem to have had the common right of all property holders to meet together and do what they pleased with and about their property and their servants within the bounds of the law. If they then transgressed the law their action was the proper object of a court's adjudication, but not until then. This reading meeting exhibited the interference of the court as a *reductio ad absurdum*, with gagged stockholders in a straight waistcoat able to vote only when they voted aye.

It will be seen that in the order of court to have the work done, for which McMellen was paid \$1,800, he was directed "to complete arranging and fixing the papers in his office yet unarranged in the same manner and on the same terms as Prothonotary Hartman was ordered and directed to arrange them." Ex-Prothonotary Hartman says no such order and direction were ever made to him nor any terms agreed upon.

If any such "terms" were ever fixed it is manifest that they were the proper guide in the adjustment of McMellen's pay; and, instead of the judges recommending "very liberal compensation" for him, they should have either rated it according to the "terms," or recommended the commissioners to do so.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts still show a larger percentage of illiteracy than Pennsylvania.

The county commissioners have resolved not to pay for any blanks used in the county offices unless authorized by law. A very correct resolve.

It seems that the leaks and steals under the Hayes administration were not confined to the treasury. There was a great deal of crooked work in the naval department as well as the postoffice bureau.

PARTIES in Toronto and Montreal have applied for a charter for the "International Colonization Company of Canada," the object being to colonize Jews from Russia in the Northwest.

ONE of the best presiding officers the New York *Sun* ever saw was a page in the House of Representatives at Washington, who used to stand behind old Gov. Livingston, of New Jersey, when he was speaker and tell him what to do.

NOTHING better illustrates the prosperity and development of a community, than the steady increase of its postal business. Postmaster Marshall's clear and comprehensive statement of the year's business of the Lancaster office not only reflects his efficiency as an official, but the increasing trade and intelligence of our city.

The very clever *World* fables, so strikingly illustrated by F. S. Church, went over to England and were there published as *Erst Hart's*, and coming back here in foreign dress are republished most innocently by such eminent literary authorities as the New York *Tribune* and Philadelphia *Press* without the observation by either that they were original with their bright contemporary some four years ago.

THOUGHTFUL and intelligent Germans, in New York, in almost every walk of life are deeply moved by the news from the Fatherland. They say the haughty rescript from the Emperor, substantially declaring that he is "the State," and that personal government is to be maintained, as against ministers and people alike, is morally certain to precipitate a conflict with Parliament, but if it comes to that, the latter, they are confident, will be backed by the people, especially in the great cities.

It is with peculiar satisfaction that the *North American* recognizes and reports the general change of opinion which has taken place and which is still going on in the case of Pitt John Porter; "for it was in the columns of the *North American* that General Porter was defended and his innocence proclaimed at a time when he was made the scapegoat of failures not his own, and when the prejudice against him ran too strong for the voice of reason to be heard."

The *Baltimore Times*, a "rather fresh

contemporary," which started out to reform politics in the wicked Democratic state of Maryland, under W. B. Hazleton as editor and proprietor, became involved in trouble as the first week's salaries of employees fell due and no funds were forthcoming. This difficulty was rapidly augmented by the appearance on Saturday last of quite a throng of anxious creditors of the concern, and for forty-eight hours the threatened collapse of the new establishment was the topic of the town. The situation culminated last night in Hazleton making an assignment to an agent of new owners and withdrawing, the condition attached to the advent of the new capital being that he should go out.

READING'S ELECTION.

THE CHANCES IN FAVOR OF A GOWEN VICTORY.

The Meeting, After a Protracted Session, Adjourned Until 10 o'clock, and Promises to Adjourn Again.

Until nearly 3 o'clock yesterday the Reading railroad stockholders' meeting wrangled over the consuming of the time in reading the report of the directors. Mr. Gowen would insist on dispensing with the chair holding that "the meeting object must prevail, and the reading is necessary, if a single stockholder says he has not seen it and insists upon its being read now." A young man named Young, who said he had once been rudely treated by Gowen in connection with the election, said that he would not read the report, and the chair uniformly ruled that it must go on. The chair would entertain no appeal from Gowen and held throughout that he was the appointee of the court and not of the meeting.

Finally Mr. Lockwood said: "Will the chair permit me to make a suggestion? The chair has made one decision that the president of the company may finish the reading of anything which he chooses to present as a report. Now, Major Bond omitted reading the report, but if he had read it, it would have been read, and followed it closely. Now, therefore, I ask that he go back and read that page; that is, following out the decision of the master. If Major Bond may file any reason for not reading any part of the report, then I shall read it, but if he does not read whatever report is to be filed, or files a reason for not reading it, then I ask that he read the report, or file his reasons for not doing so. That is plain English."

The Chairman. The chair declines the point of order to be well taken. If there is any objection to the omission of any passage in the report the passage omitted must be read.

Mr. Lockwood. Then I ask that Major Bond return to page 8 and read all the figures contained on that page. (Laughter.)

The Chairman. The chair rules that the president of the company will read fully any omitted parts of the report, so far as he intends to file it with the master as his report read. If the president means to strike out he is not required to read it. If he means to file it as his report it shall all be read.

Mr. Lockwood. On page 8, all the figures but the footings.

Mr. Bond proceeded to read page 8 of the report amid cries of "Louder! Louder!"

Finally the reading of these reading of these figures and dry statistics became distasteful to everybody and Mr. Bullitt, of the Bond counsel, stated that he desired it understood that he and those who were represented had not had any part in the objections offered against suspending the reading of the report. If it could be satisfactorily arranged he would be glad to have the election proceeded with. After considerable discussion Messrs. Gowen and Bullitt were unanimously agreed to proceed with the election. Receiver Gowen remarking that instead of a speech he would make his answer to the Bond statement by proxy, "of which," he said, "I have about 1,300."

The first vote was offered at 2:10 p. m., and without objection, 13 votes were accepted. The fourteenth was by William H. Steveson for 10,000 shares. Counsel for Mr. Bond objected to the acceptance of the vote unless Mr. Stevenson could first take the stand in person to vote it, to swear to his ownership of the stock. The vote was thereupon accepted and an objection entered by counsel for the Bond party. This settled one of the most important questions connected with the election. Voting was then continued.

When 2 1/2 hours had elapsed at 3:20 p. m., there was a pause, and the judges announced that they were waiting to receive any other votes that might be offered. Thereafter there was no line in waiting, but the voters came up in groups and were called to the stand by their proxies had voted, the great majority of them, judging from the tickets deposited, being for Gowen. Nothing of great interest or importance characterized the proceedings of the election after the judges of the election decided that they would accept the votes of those whom the official register showed *prima facie* to be owners of the stock voted upon. Counsel for the McCalmont-Bond party filed a number of objections, which will be referred to in another column. The latter's report and the disposition of these were objections by Mr. Bullitt and Judge Green to the reception of the votes of L. H. Taylor & Co., 400 shares; Fisher & Brother, 800; Barnes Brothers, 100; David Taylor & Co., Bates & Coates, 100; W. H. Bond, 400; and Blackburn & Co., 400. Mr. Gowen objected to the vote of Charles Parrish, 3,625 shares, as proxy for H. W. Palmer, on the ground that Mr. Parrish, he had been informed, had sold 3,700 shares of the stock since registration closed. Mr. Gowen remarked, when filing his objection, that he did so merely to be in position to use the same sort of objections when the proper time arrived, that the other side was getting ready with. The last hour was occupied in receiving proxies offered by Receiver Gowen, mostly for small number of shares. Of these proxies he held about 1,300, while Mr. Bond has 300. None of the proxies for very large blocks, such as the McCalmont-Bond shares, were voted upon, the alphabetical call not having gone far as names commencing with B.

The total vote cast for Major Bond's ticket took up about 3,000 shares. Receiver Gowen's aggregate vote for the day is something less than 50,000 shares. The meeting adjourned until 10 a. m. A statement was in circulation in Third Street that Vanderbilt was pledged to Gowen for only 25,000 shares. This report was attributed to the Bond party, somewhat affected the share market.

A Steamer Lost.

The sailing steamer *Lion*, from St. John's, New Brunswick, was lost on Thursday last near Baccalao Island on Thursday night. It is supposed she struck a rock and sank before a boat could be launched. Portions of the wreck have been picked up; also the body of a woman passenger. The *Lion* had several passengers on board, besides her crew.

FATAL.

SMALL POX EPIDEMIC.

A STEAMER LOST AT SEA.

John C. Garland was fatally injured by a fall of earth at Maysville, this state, yesterday afternoon and died last evening.

Captain John Halligan, aged 55, was drowned by falling overboard from a barge at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on Sunday night.

Two girls and a boy, each about sixteen years of age, were drowned by breaking through the ice at Brookfield, Massachusetts, on Sunday. The boy perished while trying to save the others.

The jail at Greenville, Tenn., was fired by a prisoner on Sunday night. The building was destroyed and the court house seriously damaged. None of the prisoners were injured.

The ice in the St. Lawrence river was raising yesterday at Quebec, and the river was rising. Such an occurrence was never before known at this time of the year.

General Terry, in his report for the department of Dakota, says that "the buffalo are rapidly diminishing, the Indians are raiding on the cattle, and the ranchmen are organizing for protection."

In response to a request from business men, the hotel keepers of St. Albans, Vt., who recently closed their houses rather than stop selling liquor, have agreed to reopen to day.

Several new cases of smallpox were reported in New York yesterday, and some of a virulent character were found in thickly-settled tenement-house districts. It is believed to have been conveyed from the authorities.

The small-pox is rapidly increasing in Pittsburgh. Fifty-six new cases—13 of them in Allegheny City—were reported to the board of health yesterday.

An alarming increase of snipe is reported in Jersey City within the last few days.

Several cases of the disease, of a malignant type, are reported at Matamoros, Pa.

Fall of a Building. At Syracuse, New York, about one o'clock yesterday afternoon, the brick walls of a building recently burned fell upon Cornelius Tracy's restaurant, burying in the ruins fifteen to twenty men and women. The firemen were called, and at last accounts ten persons had been taken alive, though some of them were dangerously injured, and three dead bodies had been found. The killed were Eugene Fitzgerald, aged 19 years; Martin Fitzgerald, aged 23, and Patrick Kane, aged 19, all farmers.

Rev. JOHN PRISKMAN, of Casco, Maine, a pioneer in the Free Baptist denomination, died on Sunday.

Justice Gray was sworn in yesterday and took his seat on the supreme bench of the United States.

The president yesterday nominated "Jack" Wharton to be United States Marshal for Eastern Louisiana, for a second term.

S. S. SPENCER, Capt. JOHN R. BRICKER and Dr. J. L. ZIEGLER, of this county, will be the Wolfe convention in Philadelphia on Thursday.

Pittsburgh is to have a new theatre next year which is to be erected at a cost of \$150,000. F. A. PARKER, lessee of Liberty hall, is the projector of the new enterprise.

Rev. JOHN GILTON SMITH, pastor of the Protestant Episcopal church of the Ascension, in New York, died yesterday, aged 56 years. He was prominent as a broad churchman, and was the author of various works on theological and social questions.

Senator EDWARDS, of Vermont, in a recent debate in the Senate said that his speeches are always printed in the *Congressional Record* as he made them, being never seen by him. It is very probable that there are not twenty men in Congress who could make the same state ment.

Ex-Superintendent WICKERSHAM has begun work on a long-expected plea for the abolition of Pennsylvania. Probably no one in the state is better qualified than Dr. Wickersham to undertake a work of this kind, and it may be safely promised that the history will be accurate and complete in every detail. —*Philadelphia Times*.

OSCAR WILDE'S LECTURE. How He Looked and What He Said to New York Last Night.

The triumph of the apostle of aesthetic art is complete. Chickering hall was never packed with a more fashionable and aristocratic throng than the British ticket holder who were all, and during the day they have changed hands at double and even treble prices. Of course, most people went from curiosity. The cream of high-toned society was present. Rev. Henry Beecher, of New York, presided. Mr. Wilde was greeted with deafening applause. He wore a very wide and low collar, a conspicuous diamond on his bosom, a swallow-tailed coat, close fitting knee breeches with buckles, long black stockings and patent leather shoes without heels. His long, thick black hair parted in the middle and overhangs his forehead. On his large hands were pearl colored kid gloves. He read closely from his manuscript, in a somewhat monotonous yet very musical voice.

The lecture was a grand plea for the beautiful in art and the refined in poetry, as expressed in the present English renaissance. He declared this renaissance to be the new birth of art in the desire for a more gracious and comely way of life. The desire for perfection, the basis for this revolution. We are largely indebted to the poet Keats for it. Byron was a rebel, Shelley was a dreamer, but Keats realized the reality of beauty. None tenets of the British public define aestheticism as the French for affection and the German for a dodo. The pre-Raphaelism of to day had its origin in the work of a few young men, painters, poets and sculptors, who met in 1850, in London to discuss art. They roused the spirit of British Phthisis, who became cruelly sarcastic at the expense of the British public, with an overwhelming spirit of commerce, has almost killed art and quenched poetry. This restless modern spirit of ours is not receptive enough of the spirit of true art. The Orient has always been true to the spirit of art. The British public ticket holder is, first, for the critic to be able to hold his tongue; second, to teach the people the spirit in which they are to appreciate artistic work; third, to teach reverence for beauty.

He was wildly cheered when he explained why the aesthetes select the lily and the sunflower as their pet floral emblems. These two lovely flowers are the most perfect models of design—in the grandly feminine beauty of one and the exquisite delicacy of the other. Mr. Wilde's allusion to the attempt to caricature aestheticism in the play "Patience" was received with good-humored applause. "You have heard 'Patience' for three hundred nights; you can listen to me for at least one," Mr. Wilde will go to Philadelphia next Monday.

CONGRESS.

YESTERDAY'S HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The House committee on coinage yesterday appointed Messrs. Fisher, Stephens, McClure and Singleton a sub-committee, to consider and advise on the expediency of purchasing ground for the construction of a new mint in Philadelphia. Mr. Fisher, chairman of the sub-committee, says that a suitable site can be purchased for about \$300,000 less than the present property can be sold for.

In the House about 675 additional bills were introduced under the call of states. Among them was one by Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, identical with the Morrill bill, to provide for a tariff commission. Some time was spent in committee of the whole referring the various subjects in the president's message to appropriate committees. A message was received from the president stating that several weeks must elapse before bids for mail contracts can be classified and examined, and the actual letting take place; "and if, therefore, Congress should be of opinion that a change in the law is necessary, it might be made immediately applicable." The matter was referred to the committee on postoffices, with power to report at any time, and the House then adjourned.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

POSTAL BUSINESS.

THE LANCASTER POSTOFFICE.

Receipts, Expenditures, Disbursements, &c.

James H. Marshall, postmaster at Lancaster, furnishes the following very complete and detailed statement of the operations in the office for the past year. As will be seen, the office is not merely self-sustaining, but contributes to Uncle Sam, over and above all expenses, a balance of over \$19,000, to be added to the millions annually parcelled out among the star route thieves. The one and a half millions of letters, postal newspapers, &c., delivered and collected by the carriers, show that the Lancaster postoffice is by no means a lone horse affair, and that the letter carriers must all trot right lively to make the distribution and collection.

From sale of stamps, postal cards, &c. \$36,222 22
From box rents \$1,313 30
From sale of waste paper \$1,720 00
From drafts on postmasters \$12 29

\$39,912 22

EXPENSES. \$2,000 00
Salary of clerks \$3,500 00
Salary of letter carriers \$1,000 00
Rent, Light and Fuel \$1,000 00
Contingent expenses \$25 33 1/2

\$8,525 33 1/2

PROFIT \$31,386 88 1/2

To Ass't. Treasurer U. S. \$11,208 16
Transferred to money order account \$210 00
Paid out of office \$90 00
Paid mail messengers \$85 00
Paid mail wages \$55 00

\$12,168 16

LETTERS CARRIERS' REPORT.

Registered letters and packages delivered 2,414
Mail letters delivered 66,759
Mail postal cards delivered 64,728
Local letters delivered 29,347
Local postal cards delivered 27,422
Newspapers, circulars, &c., delivered 419,429

Total number pieces delivered 538,222

Letters collected 156,063
Postal cards collected 164,728
Newspapers, &c., collected 18,089

Total number pieces collected 338,880

ROBBERY DEPARTMENT.

Registered letters and packages for city delivery 4,182
Registered letters and packages sent in transit 6,410
Registered letters and packages in transit 4,474

Total registered packages handled 15,066

MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT.

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1880 107 27
Domestic orders issued 20,067 65
Cash on hand 219 55
61 British orders issued 71 75
Fees on same 12 50
129 on same 12 50
Fees on same 2 43
192 German orders issued 21 29
Fees on same 31 29
12 Swiss orders issued 19 20
Fees on same 3 29
Cash transferred from postage to M. O. account 210 00

\$27,596 76

Domestic orders paid 49,001 21
British 69 01
Canadian 29 63
German 1,471 45
Swiss 133 29
Total 50,684 59
Paid by order of post 618 87
Residual of postage 929 00
Contingent expenses 12 56
Cash balance on hand 122 56

\$52,376 30

REGISTERED MAIL.

Number of unregistered letters and postal cards sent to dead letter office 1,721
Number of unregistered letters sent to dead letter office 108
Number of letters returned to writers, &c. after office 1,729
Number of pounds of newspapers and periodicals mailed, outside of Lancaster county, by publishers 115,553
Postage paid on same 2,018 66
Number of pounds of newspapers and periodicals mailed within the county, which no postage is paid 108,472

STAMPS.

212,470 one cent stamps 2,124 70
53,474 two cent stamps 1,069 48
18,700 three cent stamps 561 00
5,439 five cent stamps 271 95
3,009 six cent stamps 180 54
1,622 ten cent stamps 162 20
117 fifteen cent stamps 175 50
144 thirty cent stamps 432 00
292,509 one cent postage 2,925 09
2,925 09

Newspaper and periodical stamps 2,018 66
Postage due stamps 115 27
Envelopes and wrappers 3,266 49

\$39,270 27

A comparison with the year 1880 shows an increase in receipts of the office of \$2,676.34.

In the carrier's department \$2,485 more pieces were delivered, and 21,224 more in the registry department. The number of packages registered has increased from 4,655 in 1880, to 6,010. Registered matter for city delivery has increased 963. Registered packages passing through the office of which a record is kept, have increased 1,546.

The money order department, 73 more orders have been issued, the amount of cash received showing an increase over 1880 of \$2,431.38. The amount of orders paid shows and increase of \$7,324.43.

Smashed by the Cars.

Yesterday afternoon as the limited express west on the Reading railroad was thundering along at high speed a short distance east of Harrisburg, a man named Frederick Hahn with a horse and cart attempted to cross the track in front of it. He miscalculated the distance and the speed of the train, and was run over and smashed it to smithereens. Hahn was knocked higher than a kite, and alighting on his head had a very severe gash cut in his forehead, and was badly jammed together, but his wounds are not considered dangerous. The horse being released from the wrecked cart ran off at a rate of speed that put even the limited express to shame. The train was detained a short time.

Railroad Accident.

William Johnson, a fireman on a local freight between Downingtown and Philadelphia, who resides at Gordonville, while attempting to get on his engine at Downingtown yesterday missed his horse and was struck by the engine and had one leg badly injured. He was otherwise bruised about the body, and was taken to his home in Gordonville last evening.

TOBACCO.

OUR GREAT STAPLE.

General Delivery of the Crop Begun.

During the past week a good deal of tobacco has been delivered to the city warehouses, and there has been a good deal of bickering and dickering among buyers and sellers. The early buyers, who believed the crop was going to be a failure, and who bought the weed as it stood in the fields or hung green upon the poles, and contracted to pay high prices for the same, were generally cautious enough to bind the sellers down to very strict terms. The grower had to guarantee not merely that the tobacco should be sound, well assorted, free from white vein, and delivered in good merchantable condition, but also that the leaves should be of certain specified length, and all leaves falling short of the specified length were to fall into the next grade below. For example, a dealer buying a crop at 25, 10 and 3, the condition being that the wrappers shall measure 20 inches or over. The farmer feels sure that the great bulk of his crop will be sold for 25 cents; but when he comes to strip it he finds a large proportion that measures only 18 or 19 inches. What will he do about it? He knows that his 19 inch tobacco is almost as good as the 20-inch, and yet, if he acts strictly according to his contract, as he ought to do, he will only get two-fifths of the price he expected to get for a great portion of his crop. If he is honest, he will grin and bear it, and be more careful next time in making a bargain. But sometimes he is not honest and devises various methods to save himself at the expense of the buyer, but he don't always succeed. One of the methods used to make a hand of 18 or 19-inch leaves measure 20 inches, is to cut off the stem of the leaf, and the butt ends an inch or two below the other half, so that the points of these leaves will protrude an inch or so beyond the others. By measuring the protruding butts at one end and the protruding points at the other, the grower is able to get the weight and satisfaction of the farmer—but not the buyer. That astute gentleman has been there himself and knows all about it. When the tobacco is delivered he at once detects and exposes the trick and "docks" the grower fairly and squarely.

Another trick of dishonest farmers, who have sold their crops to be delivered in certain specified lengths, is to measure carefully and tie up all that is long enough and to hide away all that is a little short. The long wrappers, a few seconds and fillers, and the shorter ones are held in the name of some other grower probably, and sold to some other dealer at twice as much as they would have brought had the grower faithfully fulfilled his contract. This trick is more difficult to detect than the former, and its perpetration may be done without account for the very light average weight per acre of which dealers and farmers alike complain.

Another dishonest practice is to tie up the hands of wrappers with two or three filler leaves, and thus get a higher price for fillers. The trick does not often succeed, however, as the buyer knows almost intuitively the quantity of fillers that ought to belong to any given crop.

On Saturday a crop of pretty good tobacco was delivered at one of the city warehouses, in which there were no fillers at all! The dealer asked the grower where his fillers were, and he said he had none—his crop was all wrappers and seconds, but being pressed, he finally acknowledged that he had taken his fillers to the rest of the county. His dishonesty was not only exposed, but the sharp buyer made him pay dearly for his whistle, by estimating the weight of fillers at a great deal more than it really was.

Another trick is to try and hide white vein leaf in bundles of non-impurities, but this, too, is infrequently detected by the buyer, who not infrequently condemns a whole bale, and maybe the whole crop, because of a comparatively small quantity of white vein attempted to be hidden in it.

But these dishonest practices are the exception, and not the rule, among Lancaster county farmers, and we mention them here to show that honesty is the best policy among tobacco growers, as well as among other classes of people.

Just how many of the trade are practised by dishonest buyers we are not smart enough to find out. They are credited with being able to see white