# AN EXPERT VERDICT

## Intended by the Builders' Exchange to Undo Things

## AS TO A CYCLONE'S WRECK.

### They Assail the Coroner and His Jury for Alleged Errors,

### AND LAY IT ALL TO PROVIDENCE.

A Red Hot but Entirely Unanimous Meeting and its Result.

WHAT MR. SHARON SAYS OF IGNORANCE

The Builders' Exchange has denounced Coroner McDowell for his finding in the recent Willey building disaster. At a special meeting yesterday of the members of the Exchange the Coroner was roundly abused for the verdict of the jury. A resolution was adopted and placed on the books of the Exchange, and a copy with the seal of the organization ordered sent to the Coroner for his perusal.

A few days after the rendition of the verdict of the Coroner's jury the President of the Exchange called the Directors together and sent out a notice of a special meeting to consider the verdict. After much discussion a committee of six of the leading members of the Exchange was appointed to make a detailed examination of the material used in the Willey building and report at a special meeting of the entire Exchange. The committee was composed of the very best builders in the city. Each member was the foremost representative of his particular branch of the business. They went quietly to work, secured samples of all the material used and analyzed them. The mortar was given to a competent chemist and an impartial examination of everything was made. The members of the committee completed the examination Saturday last and yesterday made their report. The report was as follows:

THE EXPERT VERDICT.

Your committee have carefully examined the stenographic report of the evidence produced before the Coroner's jury on the disaster at the Willey building, and we find that there was no evidence offered before the jury which in any way shows that the contractors or owners, or any persons connected with the erection of the building, were responsible for the disaster.

When the report was read one of the members jumped to his feet and made a motion to adopt it. The report was then put in the shape of a resolution, and a motion made to adopt it as the unanimous sentiment of the members of the Exchange. This was carried with an amendment to send a copy of the resolution to the Coroner.

The object of the investigation by the Exchange was not for the purpose of protecting a member of the craft. Mr. Huckestein, although a member of the Exchange, is not the most popular man in it, and there can be no question of sentiment in the matter. The majority of the members were confident that the disaster was not the fault of poor material or workmanship, and to contradict the verdict of the Coroner's jury they were willing to be put to great expense.

At the meeting yesterday the members of the committee stated that everything that went into the building was first class, and the Coroner's verdict was at variance with the facts. They produced the specifications for the material, and found that parts of the work had been done in a better manner than had been specified. This was particularly the case with the walls, which were thicker than they needed to have been.

HE CALLED IT RED HOT.

After the meeting W. S. Sharon, editor of the *Builders' Gazette*, said:

"We had a red hot meeting, and nearly every person there expressed his indignation at the Coroner's verdict. We have kept our mouths closed about the matter until we made an investigation and found we had room to talk. There can be no question about the result of the investigation. The members of the committee are first class men, of many years experience and they certainly have the ability to judge. One of them is about the finest builder that can be found in the United States.

"They made a fair examination of everything. The walls were found to be better and thicker than were called for in the specifications, and everything else was up to the handle. The specifications called for first-class workmanship and materials, and the committee found that the contractor had lived up to them in every respect. The resolution was adopted without one dissenting voice, and I think the Coroner will find he has made a mistake."

SEVERE CRITICISM.

In the current issue of his paper, Mr. Sharon says:

Who can contemplate a more disgraceful insult to the dignity of the law than the proceeding of the Allegheny County Coroner in the Willey-Weldin building catastrophe? It is a shame that such proceedings should be permitted in the land of free schools. Just look a moment, a Coroner not above the ordinary intelligence of the every day laborer, a jury consisting of men who know no more about the erection of a building than the Arabs, sitting in judgment on the plans of a skilled and learned architect, and the carrying out of his specifications by skilled builders! Certainly this is the climax of the sheerest nonsense. They might as well condemn the Almighty by finding the wind guilty of blowing too hard.

Under what statute could the architect, builder or owner be tried, if they should in their verdict find either guilty of gross neglect? There is a wide range in diversity of opinion in respect to winter building. In Norway buildings are erected, and have been for centuries, where the thermometer was 40 degrees below zero, and buildings are in perfect state of preservation that have stood for 1,000 years.

The following named members of the Exchange left last night for Philadelphia to attend the convention of the National Association of Builders, to be held at Philadelphia beginning to-day: W. S. Sharon, T. J. Hamilton, Mr. Murphy (of Murphy & Hamilton), Robert Mawhinney, S. A. Steel, M. W. Kaufman, A. Rasner and Reese Lindsay. They go as visitors, and not as delegates from the local Exchange. A full report of the programme of the convention was published in THE DISPATCH some weeks ago.

The banquet of the Pittsburg Exchange, which was to have been held within the next few weeks, has been declared off.

## PLEASANT, IF TRUE.

**Rumor That the Second Avenue Car Line Will Be Improved.**

It is rumored that the Second avenue car line has been purchased by a syndicate, of which Mr. James Callery is President, and that it will be placed in a first-class condition. The line is to be extended to Glenwood. Neither Mr. Callery nor the Messrs. Fawcett, the gentlemen who now control the road, will affirm or deny the rumor.

**Hastings on the Fence.**

Adjutant General D. H. Hastings was in the city on private business yesterday. He declared he knew nothing about Harrison's Cabinet, and he would not express himself either way on the prohibition issue. He declined also to discuss State politics.

## FOR WAYS THAT ARE DARK.

**How a Local $1,000,000 Dressed Beef Enterprise Has Been Pushing the Butchers' Bill for a Purpose.**

The peculiar phases that are constantly arising in the fight against dressed beef, and the constant agitation of the question in and out of Legislative circles, have long conspired to present a mystery to local dealers and the public at large. That there was some power behind the throne, endeavoring to undermine the local strongholds of Swift and Armour, has been a prevalent impression in the minds of many.

Yesterday a DISPATCH reporter succeeded in delving beneath the surface of corporation secrecy far enough to learn that the power behind the throne was a reality, and that dressed beef interests had a greater power than the local butchers to oppose the importation and sale in Pittsburg.

It will be remembered that THE DISPATCH last summer gave exclusively the outline of a project of a mammoth local dressed beef company, composed of prominent citizens, with a capital of $1,000,000, who were secretly working out a plan to establish large slaughter houses, and not only control the local trade but otherwise encroach on the Chicago firms' stronghold.

As THE DISPATCH reporter learned yesterday, the company formed last summer has not been lying dormant, but has been watching things, and quietly working on the sly, not trusting to get their charter until they were assured that they had a clear field.

Informal meetings have been held from time to time, and every person connected is sworn to secrecy, as a leaking of identity even in the least degree would give Swift and Armour the tip, and defeat the local plans.

## WEAK SOUTHERN IRON.

**Mr. Andrew Carnegie Returns From a Trip Through the South, and Says That Section Can't Compete.**

Andrew Carnegie arrived in the city last evening from the South, where he had been spending a few weeks looking into the iron industries of Georgia and Alabama. The millionaire was in a great hurry, and very little could be learned of his trip.

"I was in Atlanta and Birmingham," he said, "and I must say that I was pleased with both cities. I was interested in the iron industries, but, of course, they can't be compared to Pittsburg."

"Do you think the South will become a dangerous competitor to Pittsburg?"

"Certainly not, in the iron business. This is the great center of the iron trade."

"How about pig metal?"

"Well, we don't pretend to manufacture much pig metal in Pittsburg. We usually import that from other places. There are a great many furnaces in Alabama, and they turn out good pig iron. Now, I don't want to be quoted any further on this subject. I don't want another Chicago discussion. That cost me a heap of money and trouble, and I don't intend to say that this and that place can more than compete with Pittsburg in the manufacture of iron."

When asked if he intended to invest in Southern iron, he did not reply, but jumped into a carriage and was driven off. Mr. Carnegie was unaccompanied, and was met at the Union depot by two of the young lights in the firm.

## NEW CARS AND ENGINES.

**The Allegheny Valley Road Experimenting With Steam Heating.**

Superintendent David McCargo, of the Allegheny Valley road, started for Old Point Comfort last night with Mrs. McCargo, who is not well.

Mr. McCargo stated that he is anxious to get rid of the car stove, and for some time has been experimenting with steam from the engine on two express trains. He finds that the tubes that carry the steam must be perfectly horizontal, or the plan won't work. If there is the slightest bend in the pipe, the flow of steam is interrupted, and the pipe freezes up. This is the only fault he has to find with the experiments, but he hopes this defect can soon be remedied.

A few days ago the road issued a contract for 200 more freight cars and three new engines of class A. Two of them will be used in the yards and the other will be sent out on the road. Mr. McCargo said that the road was now well supplied with rolling stock and motive power.

## FOUR COLORED TOUGHS

**Succeed in Raising a Row on the 9:20 Walls Accommodation.**

Four drunken colored toughs entered the 9:20 Walls accommodation last night and proceeded to make themselves heard. When warned by Conductor C. P. Linhart they produced a revolver, knife and razor. With a brakeman's assistance the plucky conductor captured two, the other pair meanwhile bombarding the train. A glancing stone struck Linhart's eye, but did not injure it badly.

The prisoners, whose names are Henry Wheiler and William Russen, were lodged in the East Liberty station house, and, at this morning's hearing, will probably be severely dealt with, as they belong to a gang of toughs who have been the source of serious trouble to the conductors for a long time.

## THE LOCAL PROHIBITIONISTS.

**A Meeting of the County Committee Was Held Yesterday.**

At the meeting of the County Central Prohibition Committee held yesterday afternoon George Findley, Esq., reviewed the work done at the Harrisburg Convention. He said every person there would have gone to jail if it would advance the cause of prohibition.

A letter from A. A. Stevens, Chairman of the State Executive Committee was read. In it the writer said:

It will be readily seen that the Constitutional Amendment Association with its non-partisan principles could not consistently meet in convention a third party whose principles are partisan, but since it is assured now that party politics will be banished, I think our common cause will be a success.

## COKE WORKS MAY CLOSE.

**If the Valley Furnacemen Strike, the Ovens Will be Banked.**

A Pittsburg iron manufacturer says the action of the Mahoning Valley furnacemen in demanding a reduction of 10 per cent in wages March 1 is due to the depressed condition of the pig iron market.

If the men do not accept the reduction and the furnaces are banked this will necessitate the closing down of a number of coke works in the Connellsville region. If the furnaces close down the coke operators will not care much whether their men strike March 1 or not.

**Gas Exploded, but Did No Harm.**

From a leak in the escape pipe of the natural gas line on the corner of Carson and South Fourteenth streets yesterday, a lot of gas accumulated in the cellar of the building under the German Savings Bank. A plumber went into the cellar to repair the leak, and struck a light, which caused an explosion; but little damage was done.

**A Cute Dodge.**

Ella Murray and Anna Walton complained to Mayor Pearson, of Allegheny yesterday, that they had been swindled by an employment agency. The latter had a dodge of clipping from THE DISPATCH, advertisements for help wanted. After charging the applicants 50 cents they would simply send them to answer the "ads."

# AN INSURANCE KICK.

## The Companies Now Strenuously Object to the Proposed New

## VALUED POLICY INSURANCE BILL.

### They Say it Will Drive Out Capital and Raise the Premiums.

NEW FIGURES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Insurance companies and insurance people are just now greatly exercised over the valued policy law that has been presented to the Legislature, passed second reading, and comes before the sub-Insurance Committee Wednesday evening. This law is not only of interest to insurance people, but of vital interest to commercial men and to the public at large.

In order to get at the exact meaning, purpose and effect of the proposed law, a call was made upon Mr. W. A. McCutcheon, of one of the large insurance companies located on Fourth avenue. The gentleman seemed to have the matter very well in hand, from an insurance side, and, in the course of the conversation, said:

There are laws in several States resembling this, but they are not so broad nor so iniquitous from a general insurance standpoint. This move proposes to make it obligatory to examine property and place a value before it is insured, and the value so placed is the face of the loss if the property is destroyed, and no recourse or evidence can be offered to show the property is worth less.

The second portion of the bill says any person procuring a policy is deemed the agent of the company, and this will revert against us in several ways, because 33 per cent of the policies procured are handled through brokers, and where heretofore these brokers have been considered the agents of the people desiring the policy, this law makes them the agents of the companies.

REASONS AGAINST IT.

Now our arguments against this bill are many, and I think very strong, and a few facts in regard to insurance will not be without interest to a public that is really as greatly interested as we are.

In the first place, the percentage of losses in the United States has been increasing every year for the last ten years. Not only this, but the increase in fires of unknown, or suspicious origin increase in proportion. Now under the existing laws it is absolutely necessary to prove actual arson before we can even hope to have a jury hearing, so it can easily be seen how this proposed law puts a premium on crime.

Suppose, for instance, a factory has been built, and the original purpose for its erection having been withdrawn, it is worth perhaps not one-fifth of its former value. Still, if this property were burned the owner would get the full value, and if that isn't a premium on arson I don't know what is.

No law has as yet ever been passed that prevents a proper valuation of goods or personal property on the same day the fire occurred. That is, suppose goods which have a fluctuating value were destroyed, we can value them at the price at which they may be replaced on that day, not at what they might have cost. This rule, you see, acts both ways, as the value may as easily be higher as lower at the time. With buildings, however, it will revert against us every time, for the value of a building always depreciates, and under this valued policy law we must pay its former value, not its actual present value.

Some years ago the valued policy law went into effect in New Hampshire. The insurance companies took action at once, and all foreign companies not incorporated under the laws of that State withdrew entirely with the consequence that in one year the ratio of losses decreased 75 per cent.

In Wisconsin over three years ago, a similar law was passed, though somewhat more just than the Pennsylvania law. The companies did not withdraw and the indemnity was still to be had, with what effect?

The effect was exactly opposite to that of New Hampshire. The fire ratio increased steadily until it reached 100 per cent, while the valuation of property decreased. The increase in the per cent of suspicious or unknown cases were so great that the Insurance Commissioner made a very strong appeal, seconded by the Governor, to the Legislature, to have the iniquitous law repealed. There is no easy word for it; it is increasing the moral temptation so largely that it is actually placing a premium on crime.

ALL AGAINST THE COMPANIES.

Any one who has watched the laws cannot but see how legislation has been steadily against the insurance companies. This is strange when it is borne in mind that the insurance loss is the greatest of any other business in the world. Every other loss but that of insurance is that of one man to another, thus tending to the other man's gain. The insurance loss, however, is a dead loss to the country. We pay for goods that are absolutely swept out of trade, and out of existence.

Just let me give you some figures to show the tremendous business threatened by this law. In 1879 the loss by fire in the United States was $77,703,700, or .195 per cent of the entire property valuation. In 1886 the loss was $104,924,750, a percentage of .21 per cent, and in 1888 it was $123,000,000, with a still higher per cent of the total valuation, and were it not for insurance companies there would be an absolute withdrawal of just that much capital.

In case legislation and the courts of justice continue to be directed as steadily against the companies as has been in the past, it is only a question of time when insurance capital will be entirely withdrawn, and the effect of this withdrawal can scarcely be calculated if these enormous losses fall directly upon the commercial people and interests of the country, instead of being divided as they are in infinitesimal sums among a legion of stockholders. Pennsylvania is one of the great insurance States, and even under present circumstances, it is a prosperous company indeed that can pay the interest on its invested capital. Then what would our situation be if circumstances are made to revert against us even more than they do now?

In rural districts, where this present bill is largely supported, it is impossible for us to get a man to accept our agency alone. He goes into other business, and as a result his valuations are generally away off. These country districts are supporting the bill because there is no insurance capital, and because there are no insurance interests there.

AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS.

The law will, if passed, throw us completely at the mercy of either intentional and fraudulent overvaluation, or ignorant overvaluation. In either case we are the sufferers, and this law proposes that we shall have no appeal and that no evidence can be allowed afterward that the property was not worth the stated value, even though it might have been ten times overvalued. Outside of speculative stock there is no stock so generally held by citizens as insurance stock, and our own business men, widows and women who depend entirely upon them for a livelihood, will be utterly left.

In case the act does pass the companies, if they do not entirely withdraw, will at least withdraw a large portion of their outside capital. This will make it difficult to insure, and it would be very hard to get proper values, as the companies will certainly place lower values, besides the withdrawal of competition will most certainly tend to increase the rates, and that is where our business people will be touched.

Insurance companies never desire to carry over 80 per cent of a risk, and while they do not deny that some injustice has been done, it has been caused by the over-anxiety of outside adjusters who are too willing to make, if possible, some salvage for their companies.

The insurance capital invested in Pennsylvania is $13,000,000, with assets of more than double that. Three and one-half millions are invested in Pittsburg and Allegheny and the greater part of the balance in Philadelphia. I would say in conclusion that these enormous interests cannot be touched without the general public being equally affected.

## A NEW GALVANIZER.

**Lead is Well Recommended as a Protector of All Kinds of Iron.**

A. L. Bonnafon, of Philadelphia, has a new process to coat iron of all kinds with lead instead of galvanizing material. It is not affected by acids, and he claims it will not corrode.

He is about completing a contract with the National Tube Works to use his lead for coating pipes.

All the poisonous material in the lead is removed by arsenic, so that water running through the pipes will not be contaminated. Mr. Bonnafon is organizing associations in all branches of the iron industries.

**That Grip Gave Way.**

The grip on car 201 of the Citizens' traction line broke last night at the Forks of the Road, and travel was delayed for some time.

## THE REBEL SPY.

**Belle Boyd the Confederate Petticoated Courier in the City Last Night—She is the Genuine Rebel Spy.**

The original Belle Boyd, the famous rebel spy, was in the city last evening, and left for Greensburg, where she is now making her headquarters. While in the city a DISPATCH reporter had a short chat with her and she undoubtedly proved that she is the genuine Belle. To the reporter she said:

I am not seeking publicity, but I would like to set myself right before the public. Since the publication of the stories that Belle Starr, who was murdered in Indian Territory, was the Belle Boyd of Stonewall Jackson fame, I have been considerably annoyed and worried by a great many people who think I am an imposter. In Greensburg, where I have been living, the people believe me as they have the proofs of my identity. I have three children to raise and I cannot afford to allow their lives to be clouded by having my name associated with Belle Starr or any other persons who are imposters.

I was born in Martinsburg, Berkely county (now West Virginia), May 9, 1843. My father was Benjamin Reed Boyd, of Martinsburg. I was educated at Mt. Washington Female College at Baltimore county, Maryland. I had just left school when the war broke out, and I determined to enter the Confederate service. During my career as a spy I was a prisoner for 11 months in the old Capitol and Carroll prisons in Washington. I was twice sentenced to be shot, but each time managed to get reprieved.

In May, 1864, I ran the blockade, and was captured and banished by President Lincoln. I sailed for England August 25, 1864. My first marriage took place shortly afterward to Lieutenant Samuel Wylde Harding, of the United States navy.

I first went on the stage at the Theater Royal, Manchester, England, in May, 1866. After the general amnesty was proclaimed by President Johnson I returned to America, and made my first appearance at Ben De Bar's Theater in St. Louis. A short time afterward I joined a stock company in Cincinnati, under the name of Nina Benjamin.

My second marriage was to Colonel John Swainston Hammond, on March 17, 1869, in New Orleans. My health was failing at the time and I left the stage. I took a trip to California, and my mind becoming impaired I went to the asylum for the insane in Stockton, Cal. I afterward came back to Maryland to be treated by Dr. Stokes, of Baltimore.

The first time any persons tried to impersonate me was when I was ill and was reported dead. One or two women tried it, but were not successful. In 1883, while living in Texas, a woman calling herself Belle Boyd, but known in private life as Mrs. Murphy, was traveling through the country telling people she was the 'Rebel Spy.' I succeeded in running her down, and the woman left the State.

A short time afterward I was granted a divorce from my husband, and on January 9, 1885, married Nat R. High, the actor, of Toledo. I began to travel with him, delivering recitations, etc. The first recital of my life was in Toledo at an entertainment under the auspices of the G. A. R. I have since been delivering lectures throughout the country, and am waiting to hear from several posts in this city.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

**The Opening Session of the Allegheny Presbytery Sunday School Teachers' Institute Held Last Evening.**

The first institute of the Sabbath school teachers of the Allegheny Presbytery was commenced last night in the First U. P. Church, on Union avenue. The auditorium of the church was well filled. The Rev. D. F. McGill was the leader of the meeting. A choir composed of the choirs of all the churches, and lead by Prof. W. A. Lafferty, rendered some beautiful singing. A book of selections from the Psalms, set to music, was printed especially for the Institute.

The exercises of the evening consisted of addresses from Rev. J. M. Fulton, D. D., and the Rev. B. F. Vincent, D. D.

Dr. Fulton spoke on "The Aims and Organization of the Sabbath School." In his address he gave his ideas of a goood Sabbath school, and the best methods for reaching perfection.

Dr. Vincent, who followed Dr. Fulton, had for his subject "Mistakes Corrected." The first mistake, he said, was the relation of church and Sabbath school as understood by many. One way to explain it was the anecdote of the woman who was calling her child. Some boys playing by and they were told that their mother was calling them. One replied: "Her ain't calling we. Us don't belong to she." Continuing, the speaker said that the church and Sabbath school were one. Everyone who joined church joined the Sabbath school as well.

One mistake was in teaching the catechism as a parrot would be taught to talk, without thought. Another mistake was the selection of teachers. Taking young people and taking ones for convenience because they were handy or a friend had a class across the way. The speaker advised advanced classes in the school and a more thorough knowledge of the church. In conclusion, he severely criticised listless teachers.

## A FURTHER HEARING WAIVED.

**The Case Against the F. & M. Bank Cashier Will Go to Court at Last.**

The adjourned hearing of Mr. H. F. Voigt, ex-cashier of the defunct Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, which was to have taken place yesterday afternoon, did not come off, because J. S. Ferguson, Esq., the attorney for the defense, was busy with another case.

To a gentleman who went to see him and asked him when the hearing might be held, he said: "I do not know; I am so busy that I cannot tell when it may be held. Well, I guess I will waive a hearing of the defense altogether, and let the case go to court."

Mr. Voigt is still in jail, and he does not know whether he will be able to secure the required $40,000 bail or not.

## TO THE BRAZILIAN CAPITAL.

**A Large Order of Underground Cable Shipped to Rio Janeiro.**

The Standard Underground Cable Company has shipped 180,000 feet of underground cable to Rio Janeiro, Brazil. This is the largest order of cable ever shipped to a South American port.

The wire will be used by the Westinghouse Electric Light Company, at present wiring the capital preparatory to lighting it by electricity.

## THE REAL CAUSE.

**I. N. Ross Says Pittsburg Foundries Cannot Turn Out Yokes Fast Enough.**

In reference to the statement that the yokes for the Penn avenue cable line were made in Eastern cities because the labor was cheaper, Master Workman I. N. Ross, of D. A. No. 3 says this is untrue. The real cause was the Pittsburg foundries could not turn them out fast enough.

**The Old Third's Long List.**

The Republicans of the Third ward, Allegheny, met in the North avenue school house last night, and suggested the following ward ticket:

Select Council, E. Wertheimer, Wm. Wettach and Hugh Renwick; Common Council, Charles Gerwig, B. F. Rynd, R. L. Thompson, Chas. Splane, J. G. Ebbert, Charles Simon, John H. Eback, T. C. Harbison, Henry Stuckman, Theo. Striepecke, Wm. Swindel and John Datt; Poor Director, James Brown and Charles Alston; School Director, Henry Albright, Charles Sheriff and George Lysle; Constable, James Z. Brown. The meeting was harmonious throughout, and was presided over by R. B. Scandrett.

**Slagle Decided It.**

The Eleventh ward Republican Club met last night to decide which one of three school directors was elected for the one-year term. Judge Slagle was one of the candidates, and he settled the question by accepting the short term.

**The Prohibition Convention.**

The committee to arrange for the Prohibition County Convention, Friday next at 10 A. M., finished their work yesterday. The indications are that every ward, borough and township will be represented.

# PRONOUNCED A FARCE

## The Riverside Trial Criticised by Representative Stewart.

## HE CALLS IT NARROW AND UNFAIR

### The Legislature Expected to Do a Little Probing of Its Own.

ANOTHER CASE OF CRUELTY EXPOSED

Representatives Graham, Robinson, Stewart, Jones, Richards and Chalfant returned to Harrisburg last night. The general impression the legislators say they have of the Western Penitentiary is that there is something wrong in the institution, and that, before any money is appropriated for its benefit, a full and open investigation, with power to get and take all the facts, should be made by the Legislature.

Mr. Stewart expressed himself rather forcibly on the subject as follows:

I look on the Western Penitentiary as it is conducted at present with a great deal of suspicion, and I for one will vote in favor of a legislative investigation. The late investigation strikes me as nothing more than a farce. It began at the wrong end. Somebody is the man who is responsible for the institution, and it should be seen first that he is all right.

The idea, in such an investigation, confining the prosecutor to certain specified charges, and then

RULING OUT EVERYTHING

that showed that the subordinates were derelict in their duties and that the institution was not properly conducted! It was not a fair mode of trial. All that the prisoners could bring forward against the management of the institution should have been heard.

Senators Robbins, who asked for an investigation in the Senate, told me of a horrible case of cruelty that came to his ears, long before this investigation was started. A client of his, a miner who had been convicted of manslaughter, was confined in the penitentiary. He had gone with a crowd that got into a riot and a man was killed. Somebody had to suffer for it, and he was selected. The Senator said he was impressed with the man's sense of honor, and he still has perfect confidence in him. The miner told him, when he was released, that while he was confined at Riverside he was asked to do something which he refused. To coerce him they applied an electric battery to him until the blood ran out of his ears.

This institution now asks for $87,000 from the State. I, for one, will have to be satisfied that such cruelty is not often practiced before I will vote for the appropriation.

PRISONERS ALWAYS KICKING.

Hon. James L. Graham said he thought a Legislative investigation would be ordered, but he was loth to see it. He was Overseer of the Poor once in Allegheny for nine years, and, while in that position, had visited all the penal institutions of the State. His experience was that the prisoners always had some complaint to make and were never satisfied.

Mr. Robison stated that his alien bill would come up for first reading to-day. He is confident the measure will pass. It provides that the property of aliens, acquired during a three years' residence in the country, shall be confiscated, unless they declare their intention of becoming citizens at the end of that time. Mr. Robison said such a law existed in Illinois.

Controller Morrow and Delinquent Tax Collector Ford also went to Harrisburg last night; the former to explain a few points in a new street bill to be introduced, and the latter to use his influence against the bill to tax the benevolent features of secret societies. Mr. Ford claimed the bill was backed by the old insurance companies, and that it took away from the poor man the only opportunity he has of insuring his life.

## AMENDMENT MASS MEETINGS

**In East End and Oakland to Select Delegates to the Convention.**

A mass meeting of East End citizens was held in Liberty Hall last evening to elect delegates to the county Constitutional amendment convention which meets in this city next Friday. A similar meeting was also held at Oakland M. E. Church.

At the East End meeting Rev. C. V. Wilson was the first speaker. Among other things he said:

Does prohibition prohibit or not? That is not the question. The question with us is whether we want it to prohibit or not. I do not know but some officer may become recreant to his trust, but that is not the question. Do I want prohibition or not? On this I vote yea or nay. The saloon element are on the alert and we must do likewise and put our force in the doubtful sections.

Rev. Mr. Wilson was followed by Rev. Mr. MacKay, Rev. Mr. Chaliant, Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Miller of Saltsburg, Pa., Rev. Mr. Kumler and others, in warm speeches for the amendment, after which the following names were announced as delegates:

Nineteenth ward, D. Linhart, Lewis Krebbs, Samuel Morrison, John Lelyrezom, C. Elwood; Twentieth ward, John R. Rush, Rev. Mr. Butler, William Sprague, Rev. R. B. Ewing, Andrew Richmond; Twenty-first ward, Mr. Brissen, J. D. Weeks, Dr. McNeill, Peter Dick, A. J. E. Means; Twenty-second ward, William R. Frew, Joseph Lyon, Rev. Mr. Patterson, J. D. Turner.

At the Oakland meeting the following were among the speakers: Mr. F. D. Chantler, Rev. Dr. W. J. Holland, Rev. Mr. Ross, J. W. Moreland and Major Moreland, the latter taking the question from a legal standpoint.

The following were the delegate elected to represent the Fourteenth ward:

Rev. Dr. Holland, Rev. Dr. Beazell, Rev. Mr. Ross, Alexander Murdoch, Earnest M. Morrow.

## A DANISH CONSUL.

**An Old Claim Against the Danes Expected to be Soon Settled.**

Louis Bagger, Royal Vice Consul of Denmark, Norway and Sweden at Washington, arrived in the city last night to attend to some legal business of a private nature.

Mr. Bagger stated that the best of feeling prevails between the United States and the countries he represents.

Away back in 1850 a Danish war ship fired on an American vessel. The claim has never been settled, and when brought to the notice of the Government the matter was referred to the British Minister at Athens as arbitrator. Mr. Bagger said that just before he left Washington he heard the Minister was ready to report his decision, and some correspondence between the countries is expected to pass.

## MOVE UP FRONT, PLEASE.

**A Lawrenceville Citizen Refused, and Was Kicked Off the Car.**

Edward Dravo, a resident of Lawrenceville, refused to accede to the conductor's modest request to "Move up front, please," on a Citizens' traction car, the other night, and as a consequence the conductor, he claims, kicked him off the car.

For this little pleasantry on the part of the conductor, whose name is Wm. Galway, Mr. Dravo entered suit before Alderman Doughty for assault and battery. The Alderman held Galway for trial at court.

MY 1st is D, my 17th is P, and Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is the entirety. Price 25 cents.

**Two Days Longer.**

Our sale of $9 suits will continue two days longer, to-day and Wednesday. It is our first suit sale of the season, and comprises about 340 elegant tailor-made suits, manufactured from imported cheviots, fancy worsteds, English cassimeres, etc., at $9. We had a great call for them on Monday, and so extended the sale for to-day and tomorrow. The suits are all superbly made, lined with heavy silk-finished serge, and $9 is the quick-selling price they go for.

P. C. C. C., cor. Grant and Diamond sts., opp. the new Court House.

**At Hamilton's**

You can buy pianos and organs at less price, considering the quality of the goods, than anywhere else.

## FURNITURE DEALERS FEASTED.

**A Big Banquet Closes Up a Business Meeting of the Pittsburg and Allegheny Furniture Exchange.**

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Pittsburg and Allegheny Furniture Exchange was held last night in the new establishment of A. J. Logan, on Third avenue, and, as usual, the business part of the meeting was concluded by a grand banquet.

The meeting was opened by the retiring president of the society, Mr. John Hageman, who, in a short address, spoke of the furniture business in Pittsburg during the last year, which may be summed up by saying that the year has been one of the most prosperous for the business. Then the election took place, the result being: President, W. B. McLean; Vice President, W. F. Eichenlaub; Secretary, A. J. Logan; Treasurer, Herman Flechsig.

The business having been hurried through, the assembly adjourned to a floor below, where a very elaborate spread was laid, awaiting the guests. There were two long tables arranged here, each with a seating capacity of 75 people, and by the time everybody had found a place there was not an empty chair to be found anywhere. While the guests endeavored to swallow a very hot oyster stew, the Grand Army orchestra performed a popular march. After the last course of the extensive bill of fare had been disposed of Mr. J. M. Fuller, who acted as master of ceremonies, called upon Mr. John Kenworthy to respond to the toast, "The Pittsburg and Allegheny Furniture Exchange." The speaker acquitted himself much to the satisfaction of his audience by recounting the success the Exchange had had, and the benefit it had been to the trade generally. The next toast was, "Our City," responded to by Colonel John Murphy.

The speech of Mr. W. H. Keech, however, in answer to the toast "To the Trade," was of more than general interest. That gentleman gave his audience a glance at a picture of the furniture business in the past, present and future. He spoke of the beautiful antique styles of furniture; dwelt for awhile on the picturesqueness of the renaissance style of the fashions of the age of Queen Anne, then the French, Spanish, etc., until he arrived at our modern period, of which he said that the artisan was now able to furnish his little parlor in a style which would have aroused the envy of millionaires 50 years ago.

## KNIVES AND PISTOLS.

**An Affray Which Will Probably Result in Two Deaths.**

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

SHARON, February 11.—A terrible cutting affray which will probably end in the death of two persons, occurred at Orangeville, a small hamlet 8 miles north of Sharon, Saturday night. Jeff Hamilton and John Martin of Greenville, became involved in a quarrel with a German, who refused to give his name. Hamilton and Martin drew pistols and opened fire on the German, who grabbed a knife and stabbed Martin just below the heart and then plunged the blade into Hamilton's neck. Martin is dying and Hamilton is in a precarious condition. The German was terribly used up and his ribs were smashed by the infuriated men.

The principal parties have been arrested. Yesterday a number of Hamilton's friends went to Orangeville for the purpose of releasing him, but the citizens formed a guard around the building and drove the attacking party away. Bloodshed was only averted by the determined action of the residents of the place.

**He Will Try His Gas Here.**

B. W. Loomis, the inventor of the process to make fuel gas, stopped over in the city last night on his way to Chicago. He expects to put one of his machines in a Pittsburg mill in a short time, but could not say which one.

**A Floating Sawmill Burned.**

The floating sawmill owned by Messrs. Cook & Graham, in the Monongahela river, caught fire from the furnace last night, and burned to the water's edge. Loss about $5,000, without insurance.

**The Boiler Explosion.**

Boiler Inspector Neeld said yesterday that the evidence adduced so far, shows that the boiler of the steamer Two Brothers burst under a pressure of over 500 pounds to the square inch.

**Devine Versus Levine.**

Morris Devine yesterday accused Morris Levine of stealing $17 from his trunk last December. Devine had Levine arrested, and he was put in jail in default of $600 bail.

**In the Courts, Perhaps.**

It is now stated that the trouble between Inspector McAleese and Assistant Superintendent O'Mara and Dr. Orr will be settled in the courts.

**Democratic Nominees.**

The Thirtieth ward Democrats met last night and made the following nominations: Select Council, William Nolden; School Directors, Harry Sellers and Ed McMullen.

## LOCAL ITEMS, LIMITED.

**Incidents of a Day in Two Cities Condensed for Ready Reading.**

JOHN MCCALLY, employed in Wightman's glass works, West End, had his leg broken by falling from a bench yesterday afternoon.

THE Twelfth ward Democratic primaries were held last night and nominated John W. Driscoll, for Alderman, and John Exler, for Select Council.

THE Democrats of the Fifteenth ward met in the Lawrence schoolhouse and nominated J. P. Lentz, for Select Council; Joseph Fuhrer, Jr., and F. P. Souders, for School Directors.

THOMAS PACKARD, one of Alderman Porter's officers, received a notice that if he did not behave a Pittsburg branch of the White Caps would pay him a visit. The officer looks upon the affair as a joke.

THE silk flag presented by the Jr. O. U. A. M. to the O'Hara School, to be given to the room having the best average attendance during the month of January, was awarded to Room No. 10, taught by Miss Jennie De Armit.

REUBEN SMITH, of the Twelfth ward, who was defeated by Thomas Perry for the Select Council nomination on the Republican ticket, stated yesterday that he would not run independent, as requested by many Republicans of that ward.

MARTIN SIMON'S barber shop at No. 153 Robinson street, Allegheny, was robbed on Sunday evening. The thieves secured a number of razors. The robbery occurred before midnight, as they tampered with the clock and stopped it.

## NOTES ON NAVIGATION.

THE stage of water is about 3 feet.

BOTH rivers are comparatively free of ice.

THE Tom Lysle arrived from below yesterday with a tow of empties.

"IT cannot be denied," said a railroad coal operator yesterday, "that the Kanawha river coal is injuring the river operators in Cincinnati. The rivermen will deny this and run down the Kanawha coal as an inferior article, but denials will not replace lost revenues. The coal is inferior, but for all that it is cheaper than the Pittsburg coal."

**River Telegrams.**

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

WARREN—River 1 foot 7-10 inches and stationary. Weather cold and snowing.

MORGANTOWN — River closed. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 32° at 4 P. M.

BROWNSVILLE — River 6 feet and falling. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 28° at 6 P. M.

## GONE TO EUROPE.

**A Westinghouse Representative to Establish a Branch in London.**

Mr. James T. Humbird, the Assistant General Manager of the Westinghouse Electric Company, left this city last night for New York, en route for Europe.

Mr. Humbird has only returned from England a few months ago, where he had been all last summer, in the interest of his company. It was he who secured the electric light contract of 25,000 lights in the city of London, and as that contract has recently been duplicated, it is thought that Mr. Humbird will go to England to establish a branch office of the Westinghouse interests in London, to be known as the European branch of the Westinghouse electric works.

When the gentleman was asked last night at the Union depot as to the object of his European trip he only stated that he was going on business. Further than that he did not care to say anything, although he did not deny that an English branch of the Pittsburg electric plant would be established by him.

## AN ALLEGHENY INVESTIGATION.

**Charges Made Against the Pay Roll of the Water Department.**

The Allegheny Water Committee met last night. Bills and the payroll, amounting to $10,746 62 were approved. In this matter Mr. Steffan stated that a charge had been made that the payroll contained the names of a number of employes designated as leak inspectors, and that the number was far in excess of the requirements of the department. In justice to the Superintendent, as well as the committee, he suggested that the Chairman appoint a committee to investigate the matter.

There was no discussion on the question whatever, and Messrs. Cochran, Steffan, Stayton, Henricks and McGeary were appointed to investigate and report as to the necessity of employing ten leak inspectors to do the work of the department.

A number of minor contracts were awarded by the committee.

## TO BEAT THE L. & O.

**Druggists Working to Have No Sunday Laws Affect Them.**

J. J. Miller, an Alleghey druggist, went to Harrisburg last night to see what legislation he could have enacted to relieve druggists from the petty persecutions of the Law and Order Society for violations of the Sunday law, as he expressed it.

Mr. Miller would not say whether he represented the druggists of both cities or no, but he intimated that he was an advance guard sent out to feel the way, and if anything can be done the druggists will make a combined effort to have the Sunday law changed in respect to their business.

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