OKLAHOMA

THE DISPATCH has a Special Courier with the Oklahoma Boomers. He will enter the New Canaan with them to-day, and will graphically furnish all readers with events as they occur.

The Pittsburg Dispatch.

A RICH HARVEST

Will be reaped by all who advertise in THE DISPATCH. It reaches every home and is read by everybody. If you are in business let the public know it through THE DISPATCH.

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR. PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1889. THREE CENTS

ONE WILD RUSH

Like a Mad Torrent the Masses of Boomers Broke Into the Promised Land.

CITIES ALREADY IN SIGHT.

One Railroad Alone Carried in Upward of Thirty Thousand People.

FOUR FOR EVERY FARM.

And in Some Cases a Dozen or More Persons are Claiming One Quarter Section.

WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF ALL.

A Number of Eager Boomers Were Drowned in Attempting to Cross the Swollen Rivers.

VAGUE RUMORS OF BLOODY CONTESTS

Oklahoma is open. At noon yesterday the boomers swarmed over the line in a dense stream. Then ensued a mad race for land. Every farm in the territory is now occupied and claimed by from 1 to 15 persons. Each one is backing up his alleged rights with rifle and revolver. A number of persons were drowned in fording streams. There are unconfirmed reports of fights in the remote districts. The land offices cannot attend to one-hundredth of the business shoved upon them. Town site companies are preparing for a bitter contest.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

GUTHRIE, April 22.—The gates of Oklahoma, the beautiful land of the Chickasaws, were swung open at noon to-day, and restless torrents of humanity began to pour over its soil. The hunting ground of the Indian is now the home of the white settler. The wildness of yesterday is a populated territory to-day. Every acre of land from the Canadian to Cherokee strip has a claimant. Every quarter section has its squatter.

Around the boundaries and railroad stations whole colonies are camped on single quarter sections. Horsemen are racing in every direction to defeat the aims of rival homesteaders. The land offices here and at Lisbon are besieged by an army of eager, impatient men, who are fighting and struggling for a chance to file the records of their claims down in Oklahoma City.

Guns Already at a Premium.

Rival town site companies are preparing to enforce their respective claims with Winchesters and six-shooters, and in consequence an additional large force of deputy marshals have been dispatched there to help preserve order. From the banks of the Canadian come vague, indefinite reports of bloody encounters between old and new boomers, but owing to the lack of telegraph service the report cannot be confirmed.

Everything is in confusion and turmoil. Forty thousand men are sleeping in the open air. Some of them are without even so much as blankets to protect them from the night air. Thousands who are gathered at the stations are bewildered and hardly dare to move out of sight of the troops and marshals.

They are like men at sea on a raft without rudder or compass. The vast expanse of green plain offers them no relief nor consolation. It is little more than a dreary desert in their eyes. Scores of them are penniless, and are moving from tent to tent pitifully begging for something to eat. Many spent all they had to get to the beautiful land, and now, through an adverse fate, they are anchored to it as firm as its tallest cottonwood.

Everybody Was on Time.

The scramble for land began promptly at 12 o'clock, and for hours crowds poured into Oklahoma over all the four borders. All were eager; all were determined. From the Cherokee strip came the great fleet of prairie schooners, across the Canadian; from the Chickasaw nation came troop after troop of sturdy ponies, each one carrying a boomer; from the Araphoe and Cheyenne reservations on the west, came a yelling mob of horsemen who fired volley after volley to celebrate their final victory.

The Kiowa on the southwest and the Cherokee and Creek nations on the east, also furnished their contingent of boomers. Upon the northern line the boomers' wagons seemed to be less than a hundred feet apart, and the white line extended east and west from the railroad track as far as the eye could see. At the starting signal they moved all together as if propelled by a common force.

The big draft horses, lashed by merciless drivers, sprang ahead, and the lumbering wagons rolled over the green turf at a speed that would have done credit to roadsters. Across the line they went together, great waves of cheering breaking upon the air.

Racing at Full Speed.

Guns were discharged; at first at irregular intervals and then volleys that sent the horses prancing ahead faster than before. There was no halting; no hesitation. The wagons continued on over the level green plain until they were about half way across the northern tier of claims, and then upward of a hundred of them were brought to a standstill. The others rolled on to the lower tiers.

Men, women and children poured from the stationary schooners, and in an incredibly short time the foundations for the pioneer homes of Oklahoma had been laid by willing hands. Every farm had more than one claimant. Some had two and three and others as many as ten. They are all ready to swear that they crossed the borders first, and that theirs were the first improvements. So it is all over the territory and especially on the sections adjoining Guthrie and Oklahoma City. The land offices will have many difficulties to decide before the week is over.

One of THE DISPATCH correspondents, accompanied by a courier, rode a fleet pony from the north and rode clear down the Cimarron river. Before nightfall hundreds of horsemen dashed on ahead of the wagons, riding as if their lives depended on their efforts. Ponies and men rushed over the broken trails and plains until many of them fell from sheer exhaustion.

Some Exciting Scenes.

In several instances the racers were close enough to be intensely exciting. The horses ran side by side under the influence of whip and spur. The wild riders paid little attention to each other, but kept their eyes straight ahead. At intervals one would pull up on his pony, jump from his saddle, and then taking his hat from his head, would wave it with a loud hurrah as a signal that he was on his chosen claim.

The others kept on to the river. Despite all their plans, which were carefully laid while they were camping in the valleys of the Walnut and the Arkansas, the utmost confusion marked the movements of the boomers. They appeared to have an inadequate idea of the land for which they were chasing so eagerly. There were no stakes, no marks, no nothing to guide them but their eyes and their judgment, and in exercising this they laid the foundation for many bitter contests.

The horsemen in their wild haste filed upon the farms to the number of four and five, and then rather than lose what they already possessed remained there glaring at each other. Other cowboys, from ranges in the Cherokee strip, joined in the scramble, and their wild hurrahs as they tore along on ponies fleet as deer could be heard all along the northern border.

Speculators on the Field.

Many, too, were in pursuit of land, not, however, for the purpose of making it their homes, but to satisfy an insatiable craving for speculation, which is the inspiration of more than one man who crossed the Oklahoma border to-day. From the claims to Guthrie and Lisbon, where the land offices are located, was another race. As fast as men squatted, horses were saddled and then sent jumping toward the treacherous Cimarron. Fords were disregarded, the horses were plunged into the boiling waters at whatever point they reached the stream. Many of them breasted the almost restless tide, and carried their daring riders safely out of danger, but others fell into the deadly quicksands and were swallowed alive.

It is feared that many settlers have perished in the same way. Few of them from the north are acquainted with the trails and fords. Having no means at hand to get the desired information they ran every gauntlet of danger. The ferryboats that were to have been stationed at the Clark ford, east of the trail, to give horsemen safe transportation across the river, were carried down with the flood early in the day.

EVEN WILDER STILL

Was the Great Scramble Over the Swollen Canadian River—Plans of the Old Boomers—Some Early Birds Who Captured the Best Land.

Down the Canadian, where the colonies of old boomers have been in camp for months and years, the scramble was even wilder than on the northern line. The river was high and dangerous. The banks are deep and the soft earth affords but a poor foothold even to Indian ponies. Yet thousands of men unhesitatingly plunged their horses into the roaring stream.

Deprived of all other means of entrance to the land in which their hopes and aspirations have been centered, they faced the danger and boldly risked their lives. It was a strange sight to see hundreds of horses struggling against the awful rush of water, and the faces of the rough men who urged them past the quicksands and guided them through other channels of danger.

A great crowd of gamblers from Purcell and other points along the Santa Fe stood on the banks of the river and watched the race in silence. Finally the ponies began to clamber up the north bank, and some of them waded their way through the soft earth and carried their masters and riders into the promised land with a dash that brought forth cheer after cheer. Others fell back into the water again and again, and went down toward the rocks and the railroad bridges.

They Know What They Want.

The old boomers who got into Oklahoma give but little evidence of uncertainty or confusion. They had been there before. They had staked the most desirable claims in the Territory, and they knew the trails that led directly to them. There was but little competition among them. If they raced their bronchos they did it to beat fellows they knew were swarming from the railroads.

They were all thoroughly armed, ready to defend the land which they believed was theirs by all rights. If they find strangers upon their claims they will doubtless precipitate conflicts which will result in bloodshed. In fact, they have formed a sort of mutual protection association or colony, the chief aim of which is to band its members together for mutual protection. Every man is under oath to help his fellow against the invasion of strangers, whether he is right or wrong.

Many of the old boomers who foresaw the difficulties and dangers that would attend the crossing of the Canadian resorted to the railroad and proceeded to Oklahoma City, where they will endeavor by combining their forces to control the movement or forming independent municipal governments If they can do this they believe they can control the apportionment of town lots, and thus make more money than if they simply take up claims.

Some Early Birds.

There was plenty of evidences during the day that the bushes and gorges and creeks along the southern half of the territory were not entirely free from invaders. Before the hour of setting open the gates, many of the followers of Payne were found complacently tilling the soil along the fertile sections south of the Cimarron, when the boomers from the East and West reached them. How they get there is only matter of conjecture, but that they intend to remain they stated with as much emphasis to every new-comer as a six-shooter or Winchester could give to plain language. It is safe to say that tonight every farm in the territory is in possession of one or more claimants, and that there are from 20,000 to 30,000 more wandering aimlessly about in search of land. Here at Guthrie the rush is terrific.

The new Land Office building, from which the Stars and Stripes are floating, is surrounded by a mob of howling men which is being augmented by horsemen, who are galloping in from every quarter. Land Agent Killey and his force of assistants are unable to give attention to a hundredth part of the business that is being forced upon them. The detachment of troopers, which has been detailed around the building with a view to keeping the mob in an orderly line, is completely worn out and the marshals under Captain Farlisor are so tired that some of them talk of resigning.

THE RUSH BY RAIL.

One Road Pours in Between 20,000 and 30,000 Excited Boomers—The Scrambles to Get on Board—Everybody Armed and Prepared for Trouble.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 people were dumped here to-day by the Santa Fe road, which ran 22 immense trains from Arkansas City at 9 o'clock, with men clinging to the hand rails of the platforms. Superintendent Turner, with the aid of officers and his own assistants, tried to head the mob back by assuring it that he had sufficient accommodations for all, but he might as well have tried to stop the flow of the Canadian. An eager, expectant crowd was struggling to reach the track and the first train.

Every man wanted to reach Oklahoma before every other man, and there were not officers enough in the State of Kansas to keep him from trying to fulfill his ambition. As the train slowly pulled out of the depot amid a volley of cheers men ran after it trying to clutch the hand rails and thus pull themselves aboard, but they were forced off by marshals and sent back to join the scramble for a seat in the second train.

The noise of the crowd was terrific. Some men in their eagerness and haste tossed aside grips and blankets, and plunged into the struggling, writhing mass of humanity on the platform to tear their way to the platform. Coats were destroyed, hats were crushed, and in some instances were bruised and eyes blacked.

Trains Five Minutes Apart.

Three hours were consumed in manning the 20 trains in and out of the depot, and by that time every man who was bound for Oklahoma had been accommodated with transportation facilities. The trains moved across the Cherokee strip cautiously and slowly. There was no need for hastening, They were scarcely more than five minutes apart as they approached the land of promise. Thousands of heads protruded from the windows, and curious eyes feasted on the green panorama that lay before them.

As the noon hour approached there was a noticeable increase of nervousness on every side. Suddenly the cars seemed to bound ahead and then they went swinging down the track very lively. "We're across the line, boys, in Oklahoma," was the word that passed through every car, and it was greeted with cheers. There was a temporary halt at the Cimarron bridge, where the engineer exchanged signals with strange men who were armed with rifles, and then the train load of pioneers went on over the turbulent waters which have been the grave of many a brave fellow.

From the Cimarron to Guthrie the run was a short one, and before many minutes elapsed the high hill back of that station came into view. The American flag floated from its crest. The sight seemed to inspire the crowd with enthusiasm.

Ready for Any Sort of Trouble.

There was as much fighting to get out of the cars as there had been to get in them, but nobody was hurt and the coaches were soon emptied. It was a curious sight to watch the boomers after they had got fairly on foot. Many of them gazed stupidly to the north, south, east and west and then moved ahead like men who were lost. They started for the hills, and still others bent themselves to the task of raising tents which they brought with them to open various kinds of business.

Those who went for the hills were after claims. They were a restless, tireless lot, and were willing to enter the land with the mounted men who were clattering to the claims on every side of them. They were all well armed and evidently ready for any sort of trouble.

THE DISPATCH correspondent at Oklahoma City telegraphs that the condition of things there is even worse than here. The town site settlers of the southern cities are nearly all Texans, Arkansans, and white men from the Chickasaw and Creek nations. Over at Kingfisher or Lisbon, where the crowds brought in on the Rock Island are gathering, there has been no trouble as yet.

TEN THOUSAND VOTES CAST.

Guthrie Organized Into a City and a Municipal Election Held.

GUTHRIE, April 22.—No one who has never seen a Western town take form and shape can comprehend how quickly a full-rigged city with a double-deck boom can be put in running motion. Guthrie already has its main street, its Harrison street, its Guthrie avenue and its Oklahoma avenue, and this morning it was a wilderness; the antelope sported and the jack rabbit flapped its ears in the sun. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock the first municipal election occurred. The election notice appeared to-day in the *Oklahoma Herald*, a daily paper published at Guthrie on the first day of its existence.

Nearly 10,000 votes were polled, as there are about that many men in Guthrie with the intention of becoming citizens. The leading candidates for Mayor were Adjutant General Reice, of Illinois; William Constantine, of Springfield, O., and T. L. Summer, of Arkansas City. A strong dark horse is T. Volney G. Hagglet, of Helena, Dak. The count of the votes has not yet been completed.

GOOD FOR CAPTAIN ARMES.

A Number of Witnesses Attest to His Good Character.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Armes court martial began proceedings to-day by the secret examination of Sergeant at Arms Canady, of the Senate, and Chief Bell, of the secret service. It was currently reported that the testimony of these witnesses, taken in connection with that of Colonel Swords last Saturday, went to show that Captain Armes had appeared in the inaugural parade as a special bodyguard to the President, and had the highest warrant for his attendance.

General Lamon gave some testimony to show the high estimation in which Armes had been held by President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, he having saved Washington by timely warning from a Confederate raid. Other evidence to establish the good character of the accused was taken, and when the court adjourned it was generally understood that the proceedings would close to-morrow.

THE NIPSIC NOT A TOTAL LOSS.

Her Engine Given a Trial and Found to Work All Right.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Rear Admiral Kimberly has forwarded to the Navy Department a report from Chief Engineer Kiersted, stating that the engine of the Nipsic has been tried and worked well. The propeller is considerably bent, and its effective area much reduced.

The report says the ship can be moved by steam if required.

Superintendent Bell Resigns.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The resignation of Nicholas M. Bell, Superintendent of Foreign Mails, Postoffice Department, has been accepted by the Postmaster General.

NO WATER WANTED.

Massachusetts Decides to Stick by the Tipple it Likes Best.

PROHIBITION BADLY KNOCKED OUT

The Majority Against the Proposed Amendment Will Reach 35,000.

A WORSE DEFEAT THAN WAS EXPECTED.

Third-Party People the Only Workers for the Latest Lost Cause.

As was predicted in a Boston special to yesterday's DISPATCH, the Prohibition amendment in Massachusetts is defeated. The majority, though, is greater than even the most hopeful of the enemies of the amendment had expected. It is no less than 35,000. The straw is called a significant one, and may mean much in Massachusetts politics hereafter.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BOSTON, April 22.—Too much water started a landslide which has buried the prohibitory party and the proposed Constitutional amendment under a drift of about 35,000 votes. Nothing so destructive to party hopes has struck this State since General Butler whipped the Republican party in 1882. The third party leaders have not yet recovered the wind which was knocked out of them when the avalanche struck them. It came when the polls closed and the returns began to roll up the majority against the amendment.

The public sentiment of Massachusetts does not favor Constitutional prohibition, and the friends of the measure find that they have been basing their hopes upon an unreliable estimate of public opinion. For years past they have been demanding a submission of the prohibitory question to the people, and have taunted both parties with cowardice. They have argued that the people would quickly shut up the grogshops in the State if they had an opportunity to vote directly on the question. They have had the chance, and have rejected it. Now the leaders are dumb.

LOCAL OPTION PREFERRED.

The people have decided to stand by the local option law, which gives each town and city the right to regulate the sale of liquor within its own territory. The vote shows that the people are not ready for prohibition.

There is general surprise over the lightness of the vote cast. In view of the earnest solicitation of party leaders, it had been expected that the response of the voters would be unusually large, but there were many thousands of voters who dodged the question.

They did not want to see the amendment carried, and they were afraid to go on record as voting in favor of it. These stay-at-homes were largely Republicans.

The dyed-in-the-wool Prohibitionists, of course, stood by their guns to the last, but they were sadly demoralized when the battle ended. They saw men who had always voted against granting licenses walk up to the polls with "No" ballots in their hands, but the "No" to-day was just the opposite of the "No" ballot used in the local option vote.

There were men who have never thought of voting with the rum power who could not agree with the straight-out Prohibitionists as to the feasibility of adopting the amendment. They voted against their cold water brethren, and called down upon their heads loads of abuse.

LIVELY SCRAP AT THE POLLS.

In Everett there was a lively scrap in front of the polling place, growing out of a little heated crimination and recrimination. A man who was peddling "No" ballots resented the imputation that he was a "rummie" by calling the other man a liar. There was a knock-down, a drag-out, intervention of friends, and voting was resumed as though nothing had happened.

The members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union did yeoman service for the cause of prohibition, but they were not permitted to vote themselves, and their gentle arguments were of little avail at this eleventh hour. Some committees stuck close to the ballot boxes and distributed "Yes" ballots. Others presided with more dignity and grace at the coffee tables which were spread in nearly all of the precincts, but the majority of the women spent most of their time in the several churches throughout the Commonwealth. Services were held in Evangelical churches from the opening to the closing of the polls, and the women and pastors and deacons prayed while the politicians and other citizens voted.

After the opening hour there was little excitement around the polls. There was no rush of importance, and the "prohibs" did not even have the pleasure of being wiped out in a spirited contest. They died a slow, lingering death.

BOSTON ONE OF THE SURPRISES.

Boston was expected to vote heavily against the amendment, but the friends of the liberty-restraining legislation did not expect to hear such an overwhelming negative vote. When the votes were counted the anti-amendmentists were in the plurality by 20,015 votes out of a total vote of 42,135. When they saw those figures, the Prohibitionists saw that the country would add to rather than alleviate their suffering.

But the greatest surprise came from Quincy, the home of Henry H. Faxon, the famous liquor dealer detective, who in five years spent more than $36,000 out of his own pocket to convict rumsellers. Faxon managed to answer a call to the telephone, and in response to a question as to the vote of Quincy, said: "We're snowed under completely, but we'll have a nice time coasting on Democratic sleds next fall." Quincy cast 491 votes for the amendment and 1,059 against it. Last year the town (now a city) cast a vote of 1,394 to 458 against granting license. There was a change of nearly 900 votes against prohibitory legislation.

Brockton's vote of 3,026 against license fell to 1,428 against the amendment. In 1888 Malden voted against licenses 1,803 to 613. To-day the vote stood 1,050 to 1,216 against the amendment.

The following is the vote of the cities:

HOW THE CITIES VOTED.

Cities.	Yes.	No.	For.	Ag'st.
Boston	11,660	31,675	—	20,015
Worcester	3,745	5,637	—	1,892
Springfield	1,733	2,602	—	869
Holyoke	735	1,706	—	971
Lawrence	984	3,476	—	2,490
Lynn	2,281	3,149	—	868
Fitchburg	1,391	1,393	—	62
Brockton	1,229	1,428	—	199
Quincy	491	1,069	—	578
Haverhill	801	1,672	—	871
Taunton	1,193	1,420	—	227
New Bedford	1,306	1,470	—	164
Newburyport	408	935	—	527
Salem	2,909	879	1,130	—
Waltham	740	119	621	—
Gloucester	941	1,142	—	201
Malden	1,050	1,216	—	166
Chelsea	1,192	1,611	—	419
Woburn	1,007	1,479	—	470

Cambridge, the city in which Harvard students are taught mugwumpian ideas and all the latest scientific points in pugilism, etc., turned a vote of 4,483 to 3,819 against licenses to 4,621 to 1,983 against prohibition. Harvard boys must have their night-caps within easy reach or they won't have any standing among other college students.

The returns from the towns were even more surprising than the vote of the cities. The cider agitation evidently stirred up the farmers, and they were out in force to kill the amendment. The result of to-day's vote may not be seen until next fall, but it is everywhere admitted that the third party leaders have sharpened their knives and axes for a regular monkey-and-parrot time with the Republicans.

INSURANCE FRAUDS.

A Test Case to Decide the Legality of a Singular Manner of Defrauding a Mutual Insurance Company—Money Collected on Fake Corpses.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 22.—About a year ago the startling discovery was made that there existed in Charleston a well-engineered scheme to defraud mutual insurance companies. The whole plot was unraveled, and the chief swindlers were tried and convicted of forgery, and are now in the penitentiary at Columbia. A family by the name of Bond were the chief instigators of the swindle. The total amount collected by the "trust" was about $80,000, which was paid by drafts on several New York City banks in sums varying from $2,000 to $3,000.

The method pursued was to insure a fictitious person in several mutual insurance and benefit societies, making the loss payable to either the wife or mother of the assured, and then at the proper time to furnish a corpse from the potter's field to impersonate the fictitious individual mentioned in the certificate of membership, and a living woman to act the role of widow or mother. In some cases the insurance on a single individual was as high as $10,000, and in others as low as $2,000.

This swindle is recalled by an action which is now pending in the New York courts for the recovery of $2,000 paid after the supposed death of an imaginary member of the Royal Templars of Temperance early in September, 1886. The Supreme Council of the Royal Templars of Temperance at Buffalo received a notification from John H. Bond, the Secretary of the Charleston branch of the society, of the death of C. S. Smith, which was alleged to have occurred on September 1, the day after the earthquake. The usual proofs of death, membership, and other vouchers being inclosed, the Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Royal Templars purchased of the bank of Attica, of Buffalo, a draft for $2,000 on the Importers and Traders' National Bank of New York City. This check the Secretary indorsed to the order of Sarah L. Smith, the presumptive mother of the deceased man, and then sent it to John H. Bond, to be by him handed to Mrs. Smith.

Tom Bond signed Mrs. Smith's name on the back of the check, together with his own name, and got the draft cashed by the Carolina Savings Bank. The Carolina Savings Bank forwarded the draft to its New York correspondents, the Ninth National Bank, who indorsed it and sent it through the clearing house, where it was sent to the Importers and Traders' Bank, which paid it. The suit is to decide who will lose the money, and will be a test case.

PLAYED A LOSING GAME.

A Scheme to Milk a Street Railroad Company for Damages Fails.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, April 22.—Lawyer Arthur P. Conlin and Henry C. Dubois and Sarah E. Dubois, his wife, were arrested in Brooklyn to-day accused of conspiracy. The arrests were made on warrants issued on the complaint of Henry W. Slocum, Jr., acting President of the Crosstown Railroad. Charles Carlstrand, a driver, was arrested three days ago on a bench warrant in connection with the same offense.

Dubois made arrangements with his wife that she should throw herself from one of the horse cars of the company in such a way as to make it appear that the accident was due to the carelessness of the driver. Carlstrand was to be conveniently near when the incident occurred, so as to be able to testify against the company, and arrangements were made beforehand, as alleged, with lawyer Conlin to bring the suit.

One such occurrence, in which all these persons figured, took place on July 10. Mrs. Dubois either fell or threw herself under a crosstown car in Park avenue, near Washington. She made a claim on the company through Lawyer Conlin, but the company refused to settle and a suit was brought, which resulted in the jury awarding the plaintiff damages to the amount of $250. Carlstrand was one of the chief witnesses for Mr. Dubois.

It is now asserted that the accident was all planned days ahead, the time and place where Mrs. Dubois was to fall from the car being arranged, and this was only one of several other similar plots in which these persons have been engaged in this city and Brooklyn. Carlin and the other prisoners were locked up to-night in the Adams street police station. They deny the charge.

SWEPT BY FOREST FIRES.

McKean and Potter Counties Suffer Great Loss by the Flames.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BRADFORD, April 22.—Forest fires have been raging throughout McKean county all day, and some valuable timber lands are totally destroyed. As yet no oil property has suffered, but it feared that unless checked soon, some rigs and tanks will be destroyed. In the Allegany field, they have been fighting forest fires all day, and now have the flames under control. A number of barns and crops of hay have been destroyed.

The business portion of the village of Scio, Allegany county, was totally destroyed to-day. No estimate can be given of the loss in Allegany county, owing to the prostration of the wires. No lives are reported lost. At Keating Summit, Potter county, a large saw mill and a large amount of sawed lumber was totally destroyed. The loss is estimated at $5,000.

CHURCHILL TO CHAMBERLAIN.

The Tory Lord Heaps Reproach Upon The Liberal Unionist.

LONDON, April 22.—Lord Randolph Churchill, in an angry letter reproaching Mr. Chamberlain for his want of magnanimity after the Conservative sacrifices in Birmingham, and justifying in detail his own actions, bluntly tells Mr. Chamberlain that if the Conservatives choose to test their strength throughout Birmingham the result would certainly be the annihilation of Mr. Chamberlain and his friends, who, if they have Unionism at heart, had better moderate their pretentions and conciliate rather than provoke the Conservatives.

RATHER TOO AVARICIOUS.

A Pension Agent Convicted of Appropriating Exorbitant Fees.

CLEVELAND, April 22.—Major Daniel O'Driscoll, for many years a lawyer in this city, but recently a pension agent at Washington, was to-day convicted in the United States Circuit Court here of violating the pension laws.

O'Driscoll was charged with withholding $1,000 of the $1,700 pension obtained by him for Mrs. Phoebe Rich. Bail was refused the prisoner, and he was committed to jail.

Carrying on the War.

A well-attended temperance meeting at the Centenary Church, Kirkpatrick street, last night, was addressed by the Rev. J. S. Littell, of the Second U. P. Church. Rev. J. T. McCrory will address the meeting next Monday night.

STUCK ON BASEBALL.

Novel Excuse of a Legislator for Absence From His Post of Duty.

HE SAW HIS HOME CLUB BEATEN.

Mr. McManes Hustling to Save the Judges' Increase of Salary Bill.

NEWS THAT WAS A FEW MINUTES LATE.

A Fine Parliamentary Point Causes a Five-Minute Adjournment.

The 57 members of the House who were absent from Friday's session without leave, were brought before the bar yesterday, and after listening to their excuses—most of them very flimsy—all were excused, with the understanding that this will be their last offense. The New York junketing bill passed second reading, with an amendment. Mr. Lafferty's pool bill was reconsidered by a vote of 91 to 76.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

HARRISBURG, April 22. — Fifty-seven members of the House of Representatives were brought to the bar of the House this afternoon to explain why they had been absent from Friday afternoon's session without leave. They appeared in a body, but spoke individually. Many had been called away suddenly by business, and others had made business engagements before the Friday afternoon session had been decided on that could not be broken at a moment's notice. Each was excused as he concluded his explanation, with the exception of Chairman Dearden, of the Appropriation Committee, who spoke so contemptuously of the proceedings that he was not permitted by the Speaker to finish. Ex-Speaker Ray, of Cambria, who presided over the House in 1852, convulsed everybody, including Speaker Boyer, with his statement, and insisted on completing it, so that everyone could understand his position, though several motions were unanimously carried during its continuance to excuse him. Mr. Ray said—and he said much of it with emphasis:

SIMPLY A BASEBALL CRANK.

MR. SPEAKER—I confess, sir, that I have no valid excuse at all, except my love for the game of baseball. I was seduced out of the House by my admiration for that game, because a baseball club was here from Altoona, in my immediate neighborhood, and I have such an admiration for their skill in playing that game. I came here at 2:30 o'clock that afternoon and found there was no quorum here, and so came to the conclusion I might be absent, which I ought not to have done, I will admit. But I went up to that game, and I saw there that club, in which I had implicit confidence, routed horse, foot and dragoons by the Harrisburg club, and I reflected on the vanity of human wisdom. That, sir, is my excuse, and the only one I have.

The Dearden incident created a positive sensation, and is the subject of much comment. The stenographic report of his tilt with the Speaker follows:

Mr. Dearden—I don't know as I have any particular excuse to offer. I don't think very much of these proceedings. I went away because—

The Speaker—These proceedings are under the call of the House, and it is a very disagreeable duty for the Chair to perform.

Mr. Dearden—I should say so. More farcical than the running away on Friday. I went away because my personal interest required it, and I don't think much of these proceedings.

The Speaker—The Chair will not listen to such remarks from the gentleman. The Chair will not listen to the gentleman's excuse at this time.

SOME LEGITIMATE EXCUSES.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Lemon were among those brought to the bar. The former had been called home by the illness of his wife. On behalf of the latter the Speaker made the statement that Mr. Lemon had been summoned home by the death of a friend and he (the Speaker) had promised to secure him leave of absence, but had forgotten it in the rush of business.

After all the others had been heard, the Speaker announced that all had been excused save Mr. Dearden. On motion he was also excused, and immediately thereafter, on motion of Messrs. Marland, of Pittsburg, and Neff, of Fayette, the whole proceedings were expunged from the record.

SIMPSON.

ADJOURNED FOR FIVE MINUTES.

A Fine Point, but One That Was Considered Well Taken.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

HARRISBURG, April 22. — During the discussion over the National Guard appropriation bill, this afternoon, Representative Kratz, of Montgomery, who has gained some reputation as a constitutional objector, raised the point of order that the House having taken recess on Friday afternoon until this afternoon, the consideration of Monday's calendar was out of order, and that therefore the National Guard bill, which was a special order for second reading at 4 o'clock this afternoon, could not be considered.

Speaker Boyer at once decided that the point was not well taken, because the special order was for a certain hour on Monday; but after the debate on the bill had progressed for almost an hour, the chair reached the conclusion that Mr. Kratz was right, and that his point of order was well taken. This left the House in a snarl which could only be unraveled only by adjournment, and on motion of Representative Fow, the House adjourned until 4:55 o'clock. It was then 4:50. When it reconvened, the regular Monday afternoon calendar was taken up and regularly considered.

THE NEWS WAS TOO LATE.

A Bill Signed by the President of the Senate a Little Too Soon.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

HARRISBURG, April 22.—Senator Newmyer's bill for the renewal, every five years, of municipal liens, was brought to the attention of the House again this afternoon, by a motion to reconsider the vote by which it was passed. This and a motion to postpone for the present were carried, but the news didn't reach the Senate in time to prevent the President of that body signing it after 9 P. M. All Speaker Boyer could do then was sign it.

The only thing now is to pass a resolution through the Legislature to recall the bill from the Governor or to induce his Excellency to veto it.

THE POOL BILL HAS A SHOW:

It is Reconsidered in the House by a Significant Majority.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

HARRISBURG, April 22.—In the House, to-day, the pool bill, which was defeated last week, was reconsidered by a vote of 91 to 76.

On the basis of the vote to-day, Mr. Lafferty's bill has a fair show for passage upon another trial.

Must Pay Their Own Way.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

HARRISBURG, April 22.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Packer offered a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission of five to represent the State at the Paris Exposition at their own expense.

THAT NEW YORK JUNKET.

The Bill for the Payment of the Expense Thereof Not Yet Passed.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

HARRISBURG, April 22.—The bill appropriating $12,000 to pay the subsistence of Pennsylvania troops at the New York Centennial in case of an emergency, was amended by the House to-day so as to provide for the expenditure of the money for transportation, food and clothing, which makes it practically the measure as introduced.

In this shape the bill passed second reading.

NOT SURE OF ITS PASSAGE.

Mr. McManes Hustling to Save the Judges' Salary Bill.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

HARRISBURG, April 22.—James McManes, of Philadelphia, came here to-day to smooth away the opposition to the judges' salary bill. He thinks the Philadelphia members are all right, but the Allegheny and rural members worry him.

An attempt will be made to pass the bill to-morrow.

GIVING ALL A CHANCE.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission Notifies 150 Railroad and Navigation Companies of a Hearing in Which They Are All Interested.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Inter-State Commerce Commission has had under consideration several complaints of George Rice, petitioner, versus the Cincinnati, Washington and Baltimore Railroad Company and others. The commission, in considering the complaints, has found that in addition to the question of reasonableness of rates, the following other questions are also raised, namely: The question of the like classification of barrel and tank oils, and of the right of the railroad company to charge for the weight of the barrel package, in addition to the weight of the contents. Discrimination arising from the returning of empty tank cars free of charge, and also of the paying of mileage rate on such empty tank cars; whether railroad companies are obliged to furnish tank cars as well as cars of other descriptions for oil transportation.

It further appears to the commission that the questions here presented are such as will affect, or may affect, nearly all the railroads of the country over which oil is shipped. In order to avoid a multiplicity of complaints, and to secure as far as possible a settlement of these questions that may be general and just, and in order to give all of the principal railroad companies of the country an opportunity to be heard, if they so desire, upon these questions in these proceedings, the commission has ordered that the tendency of said proceedings be made known to said carriers by notice from the commission, and such notice has been accordingly issued to about 150 railroads and navigation companies throughout the country.

Each of the carriers is informed that upon prompt application by such of them as desire to intervene or to be heard in these proceedings, a copy of the complaint in these cases will be furnished to them by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, and they can, if they desire, present arguments and be heard upon all questions involved. Any other railroad company in any State or Territory of the United States not receiving notice may avail itself, if it so desires, of the opportunity afforded by this notice, in the same manner in all respects, as the other roads receiving notice.

DAISY'S DEFENSE.

Physicians and a Priest Testify to Mrs. Besendorf's Sanity.

The inquiry into the sanity of Daisy Hutchinson was continued yesterday. Daisy was put on the stand and closely cross-questioned by Mr. McKenna. She denied that she ever said her sister had been murdered and answered all the questions asked very intelligently.

Dr. J. Guy McCandless testified that he had talked with Daisy, and he was sure she is not insane. Dr. W. U. Brown signed the certificate to get her out of the insane department of the St. Francis Hospital.

Father Gregory, of the hospital, had conversed with Daisy by request of the sisters and he was soon convinced she is perfectly sane.

THE NEW TRACTION BRIDGE.

A Charter Issued for the One Between Sixth and Seventh Streets.

A charter was issued by the State Department yesterday to the City Bridge Company of Pittsburg. The capital stock is fixed at $100,000 and the bridge is to be built not nearer than 250 feet to any existing bridge. It is to be exclusively for traction cars, and will be used by any of the Pittsburg companies that desire to use it.

The stockholders are Joshua Rhoades, who is President; F. C. Hutchinson, who is Treasurer; George C. Wilson, George Rice, A. C. McCallan, Jr., and J. A. McDevitt, of Lancaster, who once was Mr. Magee's candidate for State Treasurer against Mr. Quay.

DELEGATES ARRIVING.

The Retail Grocers Will Hold Their First Meeting This Morning.

The committee in charge of the Retail Grocers' Association which convenes this morning in the exchange rooms on Liberty street, have completed all their arrangements. About 20 delegates from Eastern Pennsylvania arrived last night, and about 75 are expected to attend.

On the third day the delegates will visit the mills of the city in carriages. A regular programme, including a banquet, has been mapped out.

W. S. WRIGLEY DROWNED.

The Paper Box Manufacturer Took a Fatal Canoe Ride Last Night.

W. S. Wrigley, a manufacturer of paper boxes on Robinson street, Allegheny, and whose home is on Federal street, was drowned in the Allegheny river near the Union bridge last night. In company with his brother-in-law, Frank Josenhans, he went out to ride in a small canoe, and when near the Pittsburg side the boat capsized. Both men were thrown into the water. Josenhaus swam to the shore, but Wrigley was drowned before aid could reach him.

NEW THEATRICAL MANAGER.

Walter P. Dean, of Baltimore, is in Charge of Harris' Theater.

Walter P. Dean, of Baltimore, has arrived in Pittsburg and taken charge of Harris' Theater as local manager of this popular house. General Representative Friedlander will remain in the city for a few days initiating Manager Dean into the business of the theater.

Mr. Dean has for several years been connected with Mr. Harris' enterprises, and being an energetic and genial young gentleman, will add even new popularity to the local playhouse.

BAD PITTSBURG LIGHTS.

They Cause a Judgment for $30,610 to be Rendered for a Boat.

The Court of Claims in Washington yesterday gave judgment for $30,610 in favor of Walton & Bunton in their suit against the Government for damages sustained by their vessel Isaac V. Bunton in colliding with a wharf at Pittsburg, which, it is alleged, was not properly provided with lights.

ONLY 93 LICENSES

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