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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, OCT. 8, 1889.

A POSSIBLE RAILROAD EXTENSION.

The report that Mr. Andrew Carnegie is

about concluding the negotiations which

will give him control of a partly completed

railroad from Akron to Fort Wayne, thus

giving the Pittsburgh and Western a direct

connection with Chicago, is full of interest

to Pittsburgh.

The report may of course be a new instal-

ment of the rumors which have been so

abundant concerning Pittsburgh's railroad

connections; but it has many features which

give it weight. The most salient of these

are the rapid growth of the Pittsburgh and

Western to a prominent position in the

competition for Pittsburgh's freight traffic;

and Mr. Carnegie's active work in securing

the advancement of the competing influence.

The acquisition of the connection on terms

which will make the Pittsburgh and Western

a direct and solidly capitalized line from

Pittsburgh to Chicago appears to be a prac-

ticable and promising measure.

One thing may be taken as certain, Pitts-

burg will never again be without competi-

tion for her magnificent freight traffic.

A PERSISTENT MISSTATEMENT.

The views of Representative Milliken, of

Maine, in a recent dispatch yesterday,

showed that the Maine Congress-

man has accepted the usual cheap misrep-

resentation with regard to the Standard Oil

Company, that the agents of that monopoly

have industriously spread for the past few

years such a report as that the Standard

Oil Trust was "the pioneer in furnishing

illuminating oil" did a great public service.

People who know anything about the sub-

ject know that the Standard Oil Company—

such as the Trust—was not the pioneer

in the development of wells, the transpor-

tation of petroleum by pipeline, or the refining

of petroleum. It was the pioneer only in the

business of monopolizing by the aid of

freight discriminations. But the representa-

tion has been made that a great many peo-

ple, Mr. Milliken, honestly believe it. For

the Standard purposes a lie, well stuck to,

is better than the truth.

COURTS AND VOTE-BUYERS.

The dissenting opinion of Chief Justice

Horton, of Kansas, in a county seat case,

has occasion to severely characterize the

acts of Soule, an Eastern millionaire, who

invested large amounts of money in buying

votes in favor of the county seat where his

interests were located. The outspoken lan-

guage concerning such acts is very per-

vasive, and is probably fully deserved. Men

who use their wealth in buying votes for

any purpose should be held up to public

contempt; and the higher the authority by

which the reprobation is made, the more

telling will be the effect.

The views of Chief Justice Horton

fall short in two respects. The first is the

strongly intimated fact that such acts of

corruption by one party in a county seat

contest, justified the other party in resorting

to wrongful measures and illegal acts. The

Chief Justice joins in condemning these

wrong; yet he says "that these

acts were caused to a large extent by

the unparalleled iniquity of

Soule and his agents." To intimate that

one wrong is caused by another in such a

manner as to justify the latter is rather

dangerous doctrine for a high court to dis-

seminate. It provokes and causes are two

very different things, and should not be con-

fused with the result of producing an idea

that one wrong is justified as retaliation to

another.

Another very salient point takes the form

of a question why, if the New York million-

aire has by his agents committed the acts of

corruption denounced by Chief Justice Hor-

ton, the Kansas courts do not take an early

opportunity to land him in the peniten-

tentiary. This is the duty of all courts with

regard to all vote-buyers who come within

their cognizance.

SENSE FOR THE SOUTH.

In view of the large amount of silly talk

about "the race problem in the South," it

is encouraging and should be instructive

to the Southern people to find a positive

Democratic paper like the Philadelphia Record

telling them that the way to solve the diffi-

culty is to adopt the means of enlightenment

and civilization. That paper declares that

the true method of solving "the negro

problem" is to give the colored people their

legitimate social and political rights; to

protect them in their citizenship, and aid

them in obtaining the education which

will make them self-reliant and gainers

from down partisan appeals to race prej-

udice. If the Southerners can pay attention

to this solid truth from a steadfast Northern

Democratic journal, and abandon the shot-

gun for the school, they will soon dispose

of that trace of barbarism which is dignified

by the title of the race issue.

LAW IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

There is a Sunday school superintendent

at New Castle who is evidently a

reformer with a Big R. Last Sunday

morning when the Second M. E. Church

Sunday school had assembled, Superin-

tendent Reynolds is said to have told the

scholars that if any of them were caught

whispering while anyone was addressing

them they would be prosecuted before an

alderman for disturbing a religious meeting.

Some of the scholars were guilty of being

surprised at such remarks in a Sunday

school, and it is said that the attendance

at the school is likely to fall off. We trust

that the Superintendent will not be led to

abandon the firm position he has taken.

We never remember hearing of a Sunday

school being run with a law court and jail

as an annex, but we can readily imagine

what a comfort the annex would be to the

teachers. Superintendent Reynolds, we

trust, has thought out the scheme to a

conclusion. It will never do to stop at the

indignities of whispering scholars. Scholars

who are late in arriving at school should

be hauled up before the nearest magistrate

and charged with contempt of court. The

rosy-faced boy who climbs in at the back

window, and reveals his presence by the

rending of his knickerbockers on a nail, can

undoubtedly be taken with burglary.

The little girl who takes two picture cards

of that superb artist one only known to

Sunday schools where one is her due, is

guilty of larceny. The babe who bor-

rows a pencil and swallows it with-

out due notice to the owner might

possibly be tried on a charge of larceny by

indifference, but we are a little foggy on the

point. The Supreme Court could decide

upon it, and for once earn its large salary.

What offense in law the hardened villain in

kills or mauls skirts who makes faces at

his or her dear, kind teacher would be

guilty of, is also hard to tell, though prob-

ably disorderly conduct tending to provoke

a breach of the peace would cover it.

Under a strict administration, with a

magistrate and two of the largest-sized po-

licemen obtainable in the vestibule to carry

out the law, a Sunday school might indeed

be made a fearful and gorgeous institution.

What respects the strong arm of the law

in the month, which is of religion would be

instilled into the hearts of the little ones!

THE DIAMOND STREET QUESTION.

The decision of Judge Ewing in the suit

to restrain the city against the appropri-

ation of property for the widening of Di-

amond street, is in favor of the city, but

so emphatically as to remove all doubts as

to the possible outcome of litigation against

the constitutionality of the act of 1883.

The injunction is refused; but the vital point

which the case turns is regarded as subject

at least to doubt, which is expected that

the Supreme Court will settle.

As to the claims that property taken for

public purposes must be paid for by general

taxation; that the widening of the street is

not a local improvement; and that the con-

tents of the act are not sufficiently set forth

in the title of the Court is quite positive in

rejecting them. But on the pivotal question

whether legislation with regard to the

assessment for improvements, and the

opening and widening of streets, is of the

character which re-

quires different treatment in the

different classes of cities, the Judge is by

no means satisfied. He does not take much

notice of the fact that the Supreme Court

has not been wholly consistent on this

point; but on the ground that the weight of

cases favors the constitutionality of the act,

refuses the injunction.

Of course it is desirable for the city that

the matter shall be finally settled by the

Supreme Court. Not only on account of the

importance of this single improvement,

but for the sake of definitely showing where

the city stands on all improvements, the

case should go to the tribunal which can

place the law on one side or the other of the

question. It is not desirable that special leg-

islation from legislation for the different

classes of cities.

PARKS AND WATER.

The announcement that the Bedford

avenue basin is to be abandoned and its site

used for a park may be presumed to apply

only to the lower basin, near the High

School building. Otherwise there would be

decided public objections to the change.

Even as it is, there may be room for dis-

cussion as to its advisability.

A park on the site of the basin would be

a welcome addition to the open spaces of the

city, where there would be much good. But there

is one other open ground available; and even

the most desired parks are not as important

as a constant, abundant and pure water

supply. It is not so very long since the lower

part of the city was suffering from a water

famine, caused by a break in the pipes con-

necting it with the Hilland reservoirs. The

DISPATCH pointed out at the time that if

the Bedford avenue reservoirs were put in

proper condition and kept full as storage

reservoirs the danger of such shortages

would be materially lessened.

If the upper Bedford avenue basin can be

made to supply a ample supply of water

against interruptions of the mains, the

abandonment of the lower basin is permis-

sible. But it should be made absolutely

certain that the supply kept available for

the lower part of the city is ample to avoid

all danger of shortage. As to the talk of

"local impurities" in the Bedford basin, it

is hard to conceive that they refer to any-

thing more than the assertions that drainage

from the surrounding hills has been per-

mitted to get into the basin. It ought not

to be a matter of engineering skill to

prevent that in the past, nor should it be,

in the future.

On the proviso that the water supply be

kept ample for all contingencies the new

park will be a great improvement. But

without that condition fully met, the

project is questionable.

NOT AN OCCLUSIVE TEST.

A test of the Australian ballot system is

reported to have been made in Montana at

the election held there last week, and the

report of its operation is quite favorable.

The votes were polled rapidly, and all the

voting was done early in the day. The fact