THE NEW MAIL MAN.

Postmaster McKean Takes the Reins of Office.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. Collins Summarizes the Great Growth of the Office.

OFFICIAL TRANSFER DETAILS

John B. Larkin retired to private life last evening at 9:30 o'clock, and James B. McKean became postmaster of Pittsburg amid a shower of congratulations for both gentlemen, a deluge of official documents for Mr. McKean and a number of expressions of bonhommie and good-fellowship which were pleasant to all persons concerned. So complete and perfect were the preparations that have been in progress for over two weeks that the transfer of $80,000 worth of Government property from Mr. Larkin to Mr. McKean was accomplished in a few hours. The United States Inspectors, Messrs. Riggs and Holmes, were surprised by the way things were hustled along, and their examination, although careful, and their severe scrutiny of accounts was accelerated in every possible way. Everything was O. K., and not a hitch occurred from first to last.

Mr. McKean was assisted by Messrs. A. L. Swift, of R. C. Smertz & Co.; John D. Kramer, of the First National Bank of Allegheny; W. R. Errett and Robert McKean, respectively cousin and brother of the new postmaster. People are guessing which one of the above four gentlemen will make up his mind by 9 o'clock this morning whether or not the position of cashier in the postoffice will warrant attention. Postmaster Larkin was assisted by Superintendent of Mails Collins, J. P. Larkin, G. G. Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Mails, and Cashier McCalley, Messrs. Riggs and Holmes played star roles as watchdogs of the treasury.

During the last hours of afternoon work the suburban stations were transferred to Mr. McKean by means of special statements, a very simple procedure. The Pittsburg main office transfer was a much more important matter. The general property was all listed in the most careful manner, and Postmaster McKean was instructed to personally view every article enumerated, and see it checked off the list. This painstaking inspection occupied nearly two hours hard work.

THE MONEY ORDER DIVISION.

In the money order division it was noted what orders were paid, payable or in transit, what letters of advice were received, what money was required to balance the business of the day, and what the number of the last money order issued by Mr. Larkin was. The next money order issued will be consecutive in number. Whoever gets the first money order issued this morning will have Mr. McKean's official signature by legal proxy. In the registry division the checks and stamps were balanced and an accounting made. The salable articles were all gone over the same way, and a balance struck to the sum of one cent. All blanks were numbered and noted and even mail pouches and gunny sacks were placed in the manifest.

When everything had been fixed up and turned over to Mr. McKean, Mr. Larkin turned to his successor, and, with a hearty handgrasp, congratulated the incoming Republican postmaster of Pittsburg. There were many congratulations, and the transfer was made according to law. At 12 o'clock Superintendent of Mail Collins invited those present to the Hotel Duquesne, where a quiet little dinner had been prepared to commemorate the occasion of the evening. Mr Collins' guests were the following gentlemen:

James S. McKean, John B. Larkin, W. C. Connelly, A. E. McCandless, Robert McKean, A. L. Swift, Harry Schwab, W. R. Errett, G. G. Wagner, Leonard Wales, W. C. Moor, J. P. Larkin, C. F. Jahn, H. W. Gleffer and A. H. Griggs, George N. McCain and George Welshons.

LARKIN REMEMBERED.

Earlier in the evening Mr. Larkin was presented with a gold watch and chain and a pair of onyx sleeve buttons by the officials and clerks, and a handsome tea set by the Letter Carriers' Association. To both of these gifts Mr. Larkin made an appropriate and feeling response. Inspector Pattison did not visit the Postoffice during the evening, the affairs of the postoffice not being within his duties. Mr. McKean received official notice last Thursday that his request for ten new carriers had been honored, and that he could proceed immediately in filling the list in the usual manner in conformity with civil service rules.

SUPERINTENDENT COLLINS' REPORT.

That the postoffice business of a city furnishes as accurate an index of the growth and importance of the city as the Clearing House reports cannot be questioned. It is, however, only at rare intervals that the public is enabled to digest the figures showing the volume of business of their postoffice. Such an opportunity has not been presented for over four years; at least a thoroughly complete statement has not been made within the term of Postmaster Larkin.

The immense growth of our city can easily be discerned in the wonderful increase of the volume of the postoffice business. A very complete tabular statement showing the figures by years as a basis of comparison has been carefully prepared by Mr. Stephen Collins, Superintendent of Mails. To each of the subjoined tables Mr. Collins kindly appended a few remarks which emphasize the story told by the numerals:

The deliveries in the calendar year of 1889 were as follows;

Letters, 13,335,766; postals, 2,344,014; registers, 42,522; newspapers, 4,489,198; carriers employed, 94. Collections for the same year were: Letters, 9,196,691; postals, 2,896,612; newspapers, 822,297; pieces handled, 33,126,707; per carrier, 352,412.

The cost of service was: Aggregate, $84,464 16; mills, 2.4; per carrier, $898 56; postage on local matter, $114,145 72; increase in number of letters delivered for four and a half years, 89 per cent; increase in number of postals delivered for four and a half years, 23 per cent; increase in number of registers delivered for four and a half years, 50 per cent; increase in number of newspapers delivered for four and a half years, 53 per cent; increase in number of letters collected for four and a half years, 138 per cent; increase in number of postals collected for four and a half years, 147 per cent; increase in number of newspapers collected for four and a half years, 48 per cent; increase in number of pieces handled for four and a half years, 89 per cent; increase in cost of carrier service for four and a half years, 72 per cent; increase in postage on local matter for four and a half years, 118 per cent.

PITTSBURG'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH.

"The figures summarized above tell the tale of Pittsburg's growth," said Mr. Collins. "Over a hundred per cent increase in delivered letters and postals indicates that Pittsburg's business and social growth has been over double in the above period. Elsewhere I will explain the increase in the cost of carrier service. But in the latter item is shown one of the most potent reasons for our demands that the office be given increased and superior facilities. The postage on local matter has increased 118 per cent in 4½ years, beats the record of any big city in the country, even the big boomer towns of the West and Northwest. But the chief cause for congratulation is found in the financial table which I have prepared."

Increase in gross revenue for 4½ years, 54 per cent; increase in clerk hire allowance for 4½ years, 33 per cent; increase in cost of free delivery for 4½ years, 84 per cent; increase in net revenue for 4½ years, 50 per cent.

WHY THE INCREASE WAS GREAT.

"The 33 per cent increase in salaries above noted was due to the new classification of salaries act which went into effect last July, giving considerable increase to nearly all the bonded clerks and entailing heavier expenses in the aggregate. The cost of free delivery increased 84 per cent for a variety of reasons. There was an increase of 44 carriers in the 4½ years, and, although a number of routes were added, the chief factor of the increase was the eight-hour law, which went into effect about two years ago. By its provisions there was an immediate increase in the number employed, and the annual leave of absence of 15 days also had its effect upon the service. These innovations, as the figures show, nearly doubled the expenses of that branch of the service.

INCREASE IN EARNINGS.

"It is little short of marvelous, therefore, that notwithstanding such heavy additions to the expenses, that the net revenues have increased in the same term of years over 50 per cent. Pittsburg is now seventh in its yield of net revenues to the Government in postal matters, while it is the eleventh in population. To show how closely in accord with the volume of bank business the postoffice statistics are, it is a fact that the Clearing House reports show Pittsburg to be seventh in bank business as in postoffice returns. And it must be remembered in connection with the above figures that during the period of this phenomenal increase, the unit of weight, used in figuring, against the 74 per cent increase in gross revenue, was in letter postage, increased from one-half ounce to one ounce, and postage on newspapers was reduced from 2 to 1 cent a pound."

In the mailing division the letter section record was as follows in 1889:

Number pounds of letters, 568,832; number pounds of transit letters, 141,694. In the paper section number of pounds was 3,179,653. Number of transit pounds, 899,663. Increase in letter mail, five years, 74 per cent; increase in transit letters, five years, 97 per cent; increase in paper matter, five years, 52 per cent; increase in transit papers, five years, 45 per cent.

SOME MORE COGENT FACTS.

"In its way," said Mr. Collins, "the 74 per cent increase of letters mailed is as remarkable as the matters above cited for it bears out the assertion that Pittsburg is the fastest growing postoffice in the country. With the influence, which Mr. McKean has with the Governmental departments, there is no doubt but that the Pittsburg postoffice can be made the finest in the country. All he has asked for will be accorded attention, and when we get in the new building things will move along much more rapidly. As you observe, transit letters have increased in volume quite 100 per cent in five years. This means that the tributary postoffices, many of which are in Western Pennsylvania, are growing with as great rapidity as Pittsburg itself. This argues a general prosperity which bodes well for the future of Western Pennsylvania."

The total money order business of Pittsburg postoffice from and including May 25, 1883, to and including January 31, 1890, was $8,713,291 10.

Disbursements from and including May 25, 1883, to and including January 31, 1890	$8,709,243 20
Cash balance turned over to James S. McKean	4,047 90
Total	$8,713,291 10
Total volume of business in money order office for dates given	$17,426,582 22

ANOTHER ELECTRIC ACCIDENT.

A Young Man and a Pair of Mules Knocked Down—The Telephone Line Crossed With the Trolley Wire—Allegheny Market House Afire.

The festive electric street railway wire got in its work again last night, and once more the poor mule was the recipient of a shock of 500 volts of electricity. This time the accident occurred at the corner of Ohio and East Diamond streets, Allegheny. About 6:30 o'clock a fire was discovered on the northeast corner of the roof of the market house. A telephone message was sent to the Columbia Engine House, and the firemen responded promptly. Several of the men got on the roof, and began to chop their way to where the fire originated. A telephone wire running into the building was struck with the ax and severed. The part attached to the pole swung out toward Ohio street, and its weight carried it against the wires of the Pleasant Valley Electric Railway Company. The "feed" wire runs along the tops of the iron posts on that side of the street, and the telephone wire struck this line as well as the trolley wire. One end of the telephone wire hung down over the street, but owing to the darkness it could not be seen.

In a few minutes a Troy Hill car came along going toward Chestnut street. The mules came in contact with the wire, and as a result went through a double shuffle for a few minutes. Bystanders said the scene was laughable, as the mules recovered from the shock and began to plunge. The driver held to them, and the spectators gave their assistance. One of the bystanders, a young man named Short, got too close to the wire, and received a severe shock. The mules plunging caused the wire to be thrown against him, and as a result he was knocked down. The fire was caused by a defective flue. The loss was trifling.

THE ROAD INSPECTED.

Orders to be Given for Double Tracking the Cleveland and Western.

William Semple, of this city, President of the Cleveland and Western Railroad, yesterday made a tour of the road and will give immediate orders for the work of reconstructing the line. The road will be the new line to connect with the Pittsburg and Western, and will give that company an almost straight route to St. Louis. The following telegram was received last night from Lima, O.:

William Semple, President, and C. W. Risley, General Manager of the Cleveland and Western Railroad, made a tour of inspection of the line between Carey and Delphos to-day. In an interview with Mr. Risley this evening he said the work of widening the gauge of the road would commence as soon as ties could be procured.

Parties are now contracting for them. The standard gauge equipment has all been ordered, and will be furnished promptly. The work of grading between Carey and Akron will be pushed vigorously and completed this summer. At Akron the line will connect with the Pittsburg and Western, and an arm will be built to Chicago Junction, where connections will be made with the Baltimore and Ohio for Chicago. The whole line will be operated in connection with the Baltimore and Ohio. At Delphos close arrangements will be made with the Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas City line, thus giving the Baltimore and Ohio a route to St. Louis and the Southwest. This line will be of special importance to Cleveland and Pittsburg.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS.

What the Detective Force Accomplished During January.

During January the city detectives and a few of the patrolmen in the Central station district arrested 97 men as suspicious persons. It is under this heading that the most dangerous criminals, including professional thieves, are taken in. Of that number, 28 were discharged after a hearing, 21 were sent to the workhouse for 30 days, 5 for 60 days and 2 for 90 days, 17 were sent to the county jail to be held for court or further inquiry, 11 were released by the Inspector, 8 were transferred to the Twelfth ward police station, 2 were sent to Morganza, 1 was fined $8 40 and paid it, and 1 was turned over to an officer from Cadiz, O. The only entry of disposition set opposite three names is "Held over."

Maxwell Will Not Resign.

A communication has been received by the vestry of Trinity Church from the pastor, Rev. Samuel Maxwell, to the effect that he would not resign his position. He was given until January 20 to do so, and, according to his letter, he has refused.

DR. B. M. HANNA. Eye, ear, nose and throat diseases exclusively. Office, 718 Penn street, Pittsburg, Pa. s&Su

STANDARD literature is a feature of THE DISPATCH. Rider Haggard's charming story, "Beatrice," and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' romance of Biblical times, "Come Forth," are continued in to-morrow's 20-page issue.

EIGHT-HOUR CONTEST

Master Builders Do Not Favor a Limitation of the Day's Work.

NO VIOLENT MEASURES URGED,

But Workmen Will Insist on Shorter Hours and the Same Pay.

VIEWS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYES

One of the delegates to the St. Paul Convention of Master Builders, Mr. Linsey, returned home yesterday. None of the others are expected before Sunday or Monday. Mr. Linsey came home on account of feeling unwell. The rest of the delegation intend to visit different places on the way in reference to trade matters.

A number of architects, building trade men and members of the Federation of Labor and K. of L. were seen yesterday about the position taken by the convention on the eight-hour question. The general opinion of employers is that there will be no opposition to the movement if the workmen are satisfied to accept eight hours' pay. A diversity of opinion exists, however, on the question of putting a limit to the number of hours for work. Some take the system of payment by the hour to have no reference to the the eight-hour movement, but take it to mean that a workman shall receive pay only for the time he works, and that he shall work more than eight hours if required. Several intimated that it is not a declaration against eight hours only, but a condemnation of any effort to limit the time a man may work, even so far as the present nine-hour limit is concerned.

ABOLISHING RESTRICTIONS.

It was learned that the intention of the convention was to abolish all restrictions in reference to any limit to the time for work. At present nearly all the departments of the building trades are paid by the quarter or half day, while the new system implies that pay will be given only for the actual time at work.

John U. Barr, Jr., architect, said: "So far as I know none of the Master Builders have as yet received any demand from their men on the eight-hour question. Several of the men have been heard to say that the demand will be made, but it can be certainly said that if they attempt to get ten hours' pay for only eight hours' work it will be absolutely refused. It is unreasonable for the men to ask pay for time and work that they do not do. I am in favor of the payment by the hour system, and I think it is the only way a man should be paid. I do not believe in paying men for something they do not do. I am also opposed to having the hours for work limited. If the workmen insist on working eight hours, even though they do consent to receive only eight hours' pay, it will not result in the employment of any more men, for we will simply see that they work harder in order to get as much work done.

SOME TIME WASTED.

"There is at present considerable time wasted by the men, and they do not seem to have their hearts in the work. It amounts to just this: A man with $10,000 at his back can wait longer than the man who merely depends on his labor, and it is not likely that the master builders are going to grant any unreasonable demand. The state of business would be upset, and we are determined to resist the effort to establish eight hours on a nine or ten hours' basis of payment."

One of the members of the Pittsburg Tiling Company said: "We have given the action of the convention no thought as yet. There has been no request made of us for eight hours' work. We are in favor of paying by the hour, and we would have no objection to accepting the eight-hour working day; in fact we rather favor such an idea. We think that a man's capacity for work would be increased. Of course the state of business is such that we could not pay a ten-hour payment rate for eight hours work. We are on the most harmonious terms with our employes, and we are disposed to act fairly with them."

one of the firm at 117 Second avenue, carpenters, said: "We think that if the men demand ten hours' pay of John McCormick & Co. for eight hours' work, it will result in people using iron in many places where wood is now used, and business would be injured to that extent."

MAY UPSET BUSINESS.

I. K. Becker, a plumber on Penn avenue and Eleventh street, said that he had given the matter little thought. He had received no demand, but he felt that business would be turned topsy-turvy if the request for eight hours and full pay was made. He was willing to assist in bringing about a shorter working day in any manner that did not upset the condition of trade.

Several other builders and contractors were seen, and they all agreed that eight hours and full pay could not be granted, and that such a demand would be resisted.

Mr. J. J. Flannery said: "It is hard to say just what means will be adopted to secure the eight-hour working day. I do not know what the men in the building trades will do. There is absolutely nothing known as yet about the matter. The A. F. of L. will not insist on any particular trade making the attempt. That organization has merely declared in favor of the eight-hour system, and allows each trade to determine when it will make the effort. Only those trades which have a national organization will be asked to make an attempt, because it is felt that to push the movement in any one trade which is not organized thoroughly is to place the employes of the city in which the demand is pushed at a disadvantage with other places.

BUSINESS WON'T BE HURT.

"The policy is to secure ten hours' pay for eight hours' work, but nothing will be done to cripple business in any way. The coke men in their new scale will demand the eight-hour day. We are disposed to adopt fair means to bring about the eight-hour system, and it is hoped the employers will also act fairly in the matter, and do what they can to assist the movement along."

Mr. Wm. Martin said: "The Federation has declared for eight hours' work and eight hours' pay, and will only make an attempt to secure it in those trades that are most likely to succeed. The building trades men will probably be part of those who will make the attempt. No general strike will be ordered. The A. F. of L. guarantee each trade the right to manage its own affairs, but whatever trades decide to act in the matter, they will receive all necessary support from the Federation, Wm. J. Dillon said:

"The question as to what trades would ask for the eight-hour day has been left in the hands of the Executive Board, which is now very probably acting in the matter. Each trade will decide for itself what means it will adopt to secure the system."

NOT THE RIGHT TIME.

I. N. Ross, of the K. of L., said he did not think the time was yet ripe to inaugurate the eight-hours system. "The K. of L. will do nothing to retard the movement and will do what it can to assist if any effort is made," he said. "Our purpose is to reduce the hours of labor by degrees instead of inaugurating a general attempt."

Many other workmen in the building trades were seen, and while they all declared in favor of nine hours' pay for eight hours' work, none were ready to say that it would be insisted upon.

From the foregoing opinions it is safe to assume that many trades will make an effort to establish the eight-hour day, and that they are willing to sacrifice part of their wages to secure that end.

THEY FAVOR NINE HOURS.

Mr. A. J. McDonald, the newly elected President of the Bricklayers' International Union, said: "Our union is a thoroughly independent organization and we are not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Knights of Labor, or any other organized body. While we sympathize with every other union in its effort to advance its interests, we think that each trade can better manage its own business. We have decided to make no effort to secure the eight-hour day, but will continue our present nine-hour system for the coming year. We do not believe in strikes. Our union is composed of 60,000 members, and during the last year we had only two very small strikes on our hands."

SEARCHING FOR MEN.

Chambers & McKee Cannot Get Glass Blowers for Their New Tank.

Chambers & McKee are now worrying themselves about where they will get window glass blowers for their new tank, which they expect to put into operation April 1. They will need 60 more blowers, but the men are not to be had. Mr. Chambers said last night that there were more pots in the country now than men to work them, and they are at a loss to know what to do.

It was expected that the third tank would be ready to start March 1, but on account of delays caused by rain, the work will not be finished in time. When it is put in operation the firm will have a greater capacity than two or three of the largest window houses in the world. They will be enabled to turn out 3,000 boxes of glass per day, 18,000 per week or nearly 1,000,000 boxes per year.

It is the intention of the company to build another tank as soon as the new one gets under way. The idea is to erect seven of them altogether.

AN ELECTRIC COAL DIGGER.

The Use of the Tesla Mine Motor is Becoming General.

The Hercules Mining Company have just concluded a contract with the Westinghouse Electric Company of this city, for a large number of Tesla motors to be used to drive their electric drills in coal mines. The Monongahela Gas Company have just put the motors in their mines and are much pleased at the new digger.

The company first tried compressed air to drive their drills, but this did not give satisfaction. With the electric drill they are enabled to do the work of two or three men. The production of coal is 600 square feet floor space in ten hours. This can be done by one man operating the drill and the estimated cost of mining is less than 1 cent per bushel.

WAGES TO BE INCREASED.

Tin Workers Want Nine Hours and Extra Pay for Overtime.

The tin, sheet iron and cornice workers, L. U. 12, held a special meeting at Ruppel's Hall last night. The question of increasing wages was acted upon, and an attempt will be made on May 1 to secure an advance of 25 per cent. It is intended to fix the minimum rate at $15 per week. At present the lowest wages received is $13 50.

The increase will affect all the different grades. This union has decided to continue on the nine-hour system of work, but the payment by the hour system which is proposed by the Master Builders' Association will be resisted. In case overwork is required an extra rate of wages will be demanded.

FROM THE PUNXSUTAWNEY STRIKE.

A Railroad Man Says the Imported Miners Are Having Trouble.

Daniel Domer, Traveling Passenger Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, returned yesterday from a trip over the branch lines of the company. He spent considerable time working up business on the Clearfield and Cresson road, and was in Punxsutawney several days. He says the new men who have been brought here are working steadily although they are experiencing trouble with the strikers. Among the miners imported were 53 colored men from Virginia. The operators have also brought in 100 men from the Scranton region. The Hungarians are still going through the eviction process.

BRICKLAYERS' MEETING.

A Long Report From the Kansas City Delegates.

The Bricklayers and Masons' International Union No. 2 held its regular meeting last night at No. 41 Fifth avenue. The delegates from the Kansas City Convention made their report. The report was very lengthy and could not be finished. The remainder will be read at the next meeting.

Their convention, while at Kansas City, sent a communication to the St. Paul Convention of Master Builders, requesting that difficulties between them be settled by arbitration.

Glass Men Reorganized.

Master Workman I. N. Ross organized an assembly of glasshouse men night before last. It was a reorganizing of old assembly 1465, which was in existence in 1881. The assembly will probably be given a new number; it is composed of 55 members, and is situated at Bellevernon.

MALONE IS RETICENT.

He is Not Worrying About the Whereabouts of Inspector Pattison.

Architect Malone sat meditating at his desk yesterday afternoon when accosted by a newspaper man, who asked him if Inspector Pattison had been at the building during the day. Mr. Malone's answer was that he did not trouble himself to take note of Mr. Pattison's whereabouts.

"There seems to be some special animus in this agitation," said the architect. "Yes, I have had some communications from the department to-day. They are confidential. No, I have no comments of any kind to make as to Colonel Andrews' suggestions. They do not concern me.

"What do you think of the system of time or penalty contracts, Mr. Malone?" was asked.

"All the contracts are time contracts," rejoined the architect. "The contracts for the stone work and the iron material are to be finished by a certain date, but I cannot explain details, as it is confidential business. No, the contracts for the interior woodwork, floors, plumbing, windows and plastering have not been let, nor have the specifications been prepared. Those matters lie within the promise of Mr. Windrim, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, and I know nothing about them. I have nothing further to say, and have no more information of any nature to impart."

ACCUSED OF MURDER.

Annie McGuire, of Sewickley, Sent to Jail for a Mortal Charge.

A woman named Annie McGuire, alias Street, was committed to jail for court trial, yesterday, by Justice of the Peace Rudisill, of Sewickley, on a charge of murder, the prosecutor being Constable Backhouse. Coroner McDowell was asked about the case last night and was considerably surprised to hear that such a case existed, and he knew nothing about it. He said he would go to Sewickley to-day to investigate the matter.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Louis Wagner Will Have to Answer for James Bond's Death.

Coroner McDowell last night lodged a commitment for murder against Louis Wagner, the man who struck James Bond at McNulty's livery stable in the East End last Friday, from the effects of which he died at the Mercy Hospital yesterday. Bond leaves a widow and four small children. He was 34 years of age and lived at 6024 Broad street.

The Coroner's inquest will begin at the Coroner's office at 10 o'clock this morning.

A FIRE AND ARREST.

Sudden and Mysterious Blaze in Rookeries on Ferry Street.

BUILDINGS TOTALLY BURNED OUT.

The Proprietor Placed Under Arrest an Hour Afterward.

CARRIED BODILY INTO THE STATION

A mysterious fire and a strange arrest took place last night on Ferry street, near First avenue. At 7:21 o'clock an alarm was sounded from box 4, located at the corner of Ferry street and First avenue. When the engines reached the box the frame building at No. 7 Ferry street was blazing like a Fourth of July bonfire.

The buildings in that row are all very old wooden structures. The scratch of a match on a black clapboard would almost set them all ablaze before the match could be blown out. They have been standing for 40 years and are guiltless of paint. The one-story shanty at No. 5 Ferry street was occupied as a coal and woodshed by Lowry, the proprietor of the United States Hotel, which fronts on Water street. No. 7 is two stories in height, with a small dwelling in the rear, which was occupied by Barney Dougherty. The two-story front was occupied by Brown & Co., makers of tents and awnings.

The one-story-house at No. 9 Ferry street was occupied by Joseph Howard, a colored man, who kept a restaurant where the most elaborately prepared dish would not cost a patron more than a dime. All these properties belong to the Risher estate, and are in the hands of Black & Baird. A contractor would probably have refused to tear them down and take the material for his pay.

IT BURNED RAPIDLY.

About ten minutes before the alarm the policeman on the beat passed along the sidewalk and saw nothing. The flames burst out of the roof before the alarm was rung. The fire began in the second story. The place had been closed and the three workmen left at six o'clock. Barney Dougherty, in the rear, was eating his supper. The first warning he had was the burst of flames and smoke. He had no time to save any of his furniture. The firemen threw such a volume of water that in 15 minutes the blaze was out. Everything was burned in No. 7, and the building practically destroyed. The loss there was not over $500, Superintendent Evans thought. There was very little stock. The small shanties on either side was somewhat scorched and were deluged with water. Howard estimated his loss at $50.

The firm of Brown & Co. consists of William Brown, who lives at Ingram station, on the Panhandle Railroad; Robert C. Brown, living at the corner of Bedford avenue and Morgan street, in the Thirteenth ward, is said to be interested.

A DRUNKEN MAN ARRESTED.

The fire was rung "out" at 8:21 o'clock. Just about one hour later Patrolman William P. Smith, who went on duty at 9 o'clock, saw a drunken man stumbling over a pile of sewer pipe at the corner of Ferry street and First avenue. The man finally fell in a heap on the sidewalk. He was fairly well dressed, was about 35 years old and well built. The officer called the wagon and sent the man to the Central station as a "drunk." At the station the patrolmen carried the prisoner into the cell.

When he was searched by Sergeant Myers it was found that his pockets contained a lot of bill and letter heads of Brown & Co., a letter addressed to William Brown by Robert C. Brown, and a postal card addressed to William Brown. In addition to this there was an illustrated handbill entitled, "The Devil's Toboggan Slide." It was circulated by the prohibition amendment advocates in May last, and depicted in horrid imagery the swift descent of the toper down the incline into the hissing flames at the base, where there stood a sable gentleman in undress style holding firmly in his two hands a well-sharpened toasting fork. A penknife completed the property.

An hour later Inspector McAleese took a look into the cell, and recognized the unconscious prisoner as William Brown, the principal member of the place which was burned.

A SORROWFUL CASE.

A Father and Baby Dead, and the Mother Delirious and in Want.

A young woman named Green came to the Society for the Improvement of the Poor three months ago, and said her husband had promised to send money from Denver for her passage, but meantime she needed help. She was sent to the Homeopathic Hospital, where she gave birth to a child. Subsequently she disappeared, leaving the babe, which was taken to the Temporary Home for Children, where it died on Thursday night.

The other day a letter was received from the woman's sister, in Harrisburg, stating that a relative had encountered Mrs. Green on the street and had sent her to the writer's house, where she was then in a delirious condition and not expected to live. It is also said that Mrs. Green's husband died with typhoid fever in the West during the time she was awaiting money from him to pay her fare.

A SENSIBLE CONCLUSION.

Col. Herron Says Widening Diamond Alley Would Double Property Values.

The Board of Viewers yesterday held another secret meeting to get the views of real estate and business men on the benefits to be derived from widening Diamond street. Colonel W. A. Herron, I. M. Pennock, Charles Sauers and James Mellon, Esq., were examined. Colonel Herron told the board very promptly, when asked, that the widening to a 50-foot street would double the value of the property abutting. His view was shared by the others.

A PITTSBURGER IN CHARGE.

Superintendent De Loury Given a Complimentary Promotion.

John De Lourv, who for many years was the Superintendent of the Birmingham Street Car Company, has gone to Rochester to take charge of the roads there recently purchased by the Pittsburg Company. This is a compliment to Mr. De Lourv's ability, who has always been held in high esteem by the men employed under him.

It has not been decided who will fill the place made vacant by Mr. De Loury, but it is intimated that a man will be taken from the Citizens' line.

Bring on the Oldest Inhabitant.

A large cloud of white moths was noticed hovering in Cherry on the 30th of January, 1890. Can the oldest "inhabitant" cap this story.

It Paid Him.

Mr. Thos. R. Jenkins, of Brookville, Trumbull county, O., was hit in the eye by a piece of coal or "fire" while mining. This soon caused an ulcer, which spread and destroyed the central half of the cornea and the sight. After two weeks of waiting and getting worse, he came to Pittsburg and placed his case in the hands of Dr. Sadler, 804 Penn ave. The eye had become so thin that it bulged forward ⅛ of an inch at the point of ulcer. Under the doctor's skillful treatment it began to improve at once, and he returned to his home to-day. He remarked "it would have paid better to have come sooner."

LADIES will find some interesting reading in the Woman's Department of TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH from the pens of Mrs. Frank Leslie and others.

PREPARING THE REPORT.

The Secretary Hard at Work Tabulating His Johnstown Disbursements—He Says Beaver and Hastings Worked Together—The Commission Not Bothering About That $300,000.

J. B. Kremer, Secretary of the State Flood Commission, dropped into Pittsburg yesterday, coming from his home in Carlisle. He came ostensibly upon private business, but paid a long visit to Mr. W. R. Thompson, Treasurer of the Pittsburg Relief Committee. He secured from that gentleman some data desired in the preparation of the report which will be made at the next meeting of the Flood Commission.

Mr. Kremer also called upon Mr. James B. Scott, of the State Flood Commission, with whom he chatted for a few moments. He was seen by a DISPATCH representative, and talked hastily. "The payment of money at Johnstown," said Mr. Kremer, "is practically concluded, and I am now back at Carlisle engaged in my own business, which has been neglected for over nine months. I am preparing a painstakingly correct report of all the disbursements made by me since Judge Cummin's decease, and it will be very voluminous. The report of Governor Beaver as Chairman of the State Flood Commission is engaging the attention of the Executive at present, and will be largely historical in its nature. All the reports are to be printed by the next meeting of the commission, which will be about a month hence, I suppose."

"Have you heard Governor Beaver state the sources from which he borrowed that $300,000, Mr. Kremer?" was asked.

"Nothing was said about it at any meeting of the commission. The facts will appear in the Governor's report. The commission has never had any knowledge of the amount borrowed by the Governor, and did not expend any portion or part of the sum. The whole matter has been in Governor Beaver's hands, and the money was loaned to him as a representative of the State and not of the commission, consequently we have no knowledge of any of the circumstances."

"It has been several times announced that the Governor intended to make a showing of his connection with the work of the State which would diminish the luster of the halo which surrounds General Hastings' Johnstown record. What do you know about that matter, Mr. Kremer?"

"Oh, as to that, Governor Beaver and General Hastings were in touch all the time of the continuance of the work done by the State. I have a pile of telegrams which passed between them, comprising many hundred messages, and extracts from them will be used liberally in my report. Whatever may be the political relations between the Governor and his Adjutant General, I am sure that there was no unpleasantness growing out of the conduct of affairs at Johnstown."

A FINE SHOWING.

The Manufacturers' Gas Company Laid 37 Miles of Pipe Last Year.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Manufacturers' Natural Gas Company, held at their office in the Germania Savings Bank Building, January 28, the following directors were elected to serve during the ensuing year: C. Meyran, B. L. Wood, Jr., James McCutcheon, Henry Fisher, M. K. Moorhead, E. H. Myers and E. M. O'Neill. The board organized on the following day, electing C. Meyran, President; B. L. Wood, Jr., Vice President; E. H. Myers, Treasurer; H. E. Seibert, Secretary and Auditor, and A. E. Niemann, Superintendent Low Pressure Division.

The business of the company during the past year proved highly satisfactory, the gross earnings amounting to $235,149 38; expenses of operating and maintenance, including drilling of 11 gas and 2 oil wells, $151,839 97; net earnings for the year, $83,309 41, or 14 per cent on the capital stock. The operation of enlarging the company's plant during the past year included the laying of over 37 miles of new lines at Washington, Taylorstown, Canonsburg, Knoxville, Beltzhoover and St. Clair boroughs, Allentown and Southside, Pittsburg, making the total length of its lines on January 1, 136 miles. The production of the company's oil territory has been handsomely increased by two new wells, that came in yesterday, making 100 barrels per day each.

THE PRESIDENT HEARD FROM.

The Illness of Mr. Morenus Attributed to Southside Water.

Secretary Cake, of the Window Glass Workers' Association, received a letter from President Morenus yesterday. Mr. Morenus is still confined to his bed, and it is hard to tell when he will be able to resume his duties as the executive of L. A. 300.

In speaking of Mr. Morenus' illness yesterday Mr. Cake said: "I am satisfied that the water here was the cause of the whole trouble. None of the Eastern or Northern can endure Pittsburg water when it is at its best, but the Southside water in its present condition was too much for Mr. Morenus.

THE NEW WING COMPLETED.

West Penn Hospital Supplied With Additional Room at Last.

The new wing of the West Penn Hospital commenced about six months ago has been completed at a cost of $5,000. Most of this amount was raised through the annual entertainment given last year.

There are 32 beds in the new part and the female ward of the old building has been transferred to the new part. There are now 230 patients in the hospital.

High Class and Very Stylish.

A little in advance of the season, but at $10 apiece they'll sell fast. To-day we place them on sale—seven styles of men's light colored overcoats, silk sleeve lining and silk faced or plain. We bought them cheap; we'll sell them cheap; $10 buys one to-day. Understand, they are worth looking at. P. C. C. C.,
Cor. Grant and Diamond sts., opp. the new Court House.

Gentlemen!

New 25c neckwear to-day—equal to any 50c neckwear in the city.
Latest New York fashions and styles in 50c neckwear. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

Something Nice

At $8. Those fine men's suits in corkscrews, diagonals and cheviots. To-day, $8.
P. C. C. C., cor. Grant and Diamond sts., opp. the new Court House.

ALL sizes heavyweight stockinet jackets at $5—worth $20.
JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

NEW neckwear at James H. Aiken & Co.'s, 100 Fifth ave.

B. & B.

A lot (Fisk, Clark & Flagg's) gents' night shirts, $2 50 at $1 50. Stock taking brings out the bargains.
BOGGS & BUHL.

YOU will be well pleased if you make use of the Iron City Brewing Co.'s ale and beer. Competent judges pronounce them the leading brews. All dealers keep them.

B. & B.

Gents' suspenders—$3 50 ones for $1 50 today; Fisk, Clark & Flagg's make.
BOGGS & BUHL.

NEW neckwear at James H. Aiken & Co.'s, 100 Fifth ave.

USE Angostura Bitters to stimulate the appetite and keep the digestive organs in order.

CRUSOES of the Pacific Islands, a strange, true tale written by Edward Wakefield, will appear in TO-MORROW'S 20-PAGE DISPATCH.

A SCHOOL OF MORALS.

Weeding Dead Beats by the Retail Grocers' Protective Association—How the Three Collectors Work—A Minister's Recommendation no Good.

The Retail Grocers' Protective Association met in the hall No. 628 Liberty street, and discussed a proposition to withdraw from the State organization, but took no definite action, as some objected strongly to withdrawal on the ground that isolated they would not have the power to influence legislation as at present.

The three bad debt collectors, Messrs. R. C. Dalzell, A. L. Sulzner and another, reported collection of $623 during four weeks.

These collectors find less trouble in getting pay out of people than when the system was first established. Some people who have lived largely at the expense of retail grocers in the past have found it very unpleasant when in need to learn that their names were on the blacklist of the association. When a doubtful appearing customer asks for credit in a new district the list is examined by the grocer, and if the name be found and the applicant has no other resource he must apply to a poor board, or some other eely-mosynary institution, or boil the dish-cloth for soup. The collectors are also pretty well known now in the districts they visit, and when they call on the Green family for a bad debt, the wives of Smith, Brown, Jones and Robinson all come to their respective windows to gape, which injures the feelings of the Green family.

Not long since a man applied to a grocer for credit, and his application was backed by the minister of the denomination in the place to which the applicant belonged, the minister evidently supposing a man belonging to his communion must be O. K. in a business sense. The grocer replied that according to the rules of the association he must examine the list, and he did so, when it was found that the applicant had done up a leading retail house for $40, and that he had also been recommended there by another minister of the same denomination. The man's standing in the church was not only hurt, but he since finds it necessary to pay as he goes.

The effect of this kind of scrutiny has been to save retail grocers many thousands of dollars during the past two years.

AN UNPROFITABLE GUEST.

Mr. Myers Owes the Hotel Anderson, Also the Nell House.

Mr. W. H. Myers, who claims to be President of the American Business Exchange, was arrested last night, together with his wife and son, at the Nell House, in Columbus, charged with non-payment of his hotel bill which amounted to $135. The officer was compelled to break down the door in order to effect the arrests. The same individual in a like manner victimized the Hotel Anderson in this city recently.

Mr. Hoerr's Funeral To-Day.

The funeral of Mrs. Anna M. Hoerr, Phillip Hoerr's mother, has been arranged to take place this afternoon from her late residence on the Southside.

DINNERS at Washington, by Miss Grundy, Jr., in TO-MORROW'S DISPATCH. Some of the modern extravagances of the capital and interviews with wives of statesmen.

B. & E.

SOME JANUARY BARGAINS.

Extra grade genuine

SEAL COATS

Reduced from $125 to $