

The Dispatch

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PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 1890.

THE FIFTEEN MILL RATE.

The meeting of the City Finance Committee before the public report in favor of fixing the levy for next year at fifteen mills, an increase of three mills over last year.

It hardly seems that the assurance of reducing appropriations in order to bring expenses within the revenue from that rate, is exactly what the city requires.

The schedule of appropriations given elsewhere shows that the increase of the total, beside the two leading items of parks and the deficit of last year, consists of enlargements in the ordinary appropriations for the bureau, all of which are liberally supplied last year.

The subject is now open for public discussion. Pittsburgh can afford to pay a 15-mill tax levy if it is necessary.

THE DOWN-RIVER FLOOD.

The vagaries of flood and wind are shown by that while Pittsburgh has had to take hardly more than usual amount of rain which has been of a moderate character.

THE ARMY'S WEAKNESS.

Nobody doubts the wisdom of building a new navy; the efforts made in this direction have been applauded by statesmen of all parties, and the people are very willing to see their money spent on ships of war.

A TARTAR REMEDY.

Dr. Bapahinski, a medical man of great repute in St. Petersburg, has discovered that diphtheria can be cured by inoculating the patient with erysipelas.

UNITY AND UNIFORMITY.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries, especially among the class journals devoted to building, are arguing in favor of unity in the construction of cities.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Cable Cars Can Make Express Time Without the Cable—Mrs. Langtry Sold With Beauty—Miss Pixley's Play.

With the Fifth Avenue cable at the Wood Street crossing on Tuesday night caused a good deal of trouble, and repetitions of the accident have since occurred.

THE STEEL GRADES OF THE NEWEST CABLE LINE promise to make a speedy despatch some of the wire which is being made.

THE MISSION CRUIZERS have been fined five dollars each, they should pay, and they devote their energies to electing officers for the year.

SHEPHERD GUSHERS are contributing to the uncertainty of the petroleum market in this country, and it is not likely that oil can be sold above a dollar.

IT IS REALLY UNJUSTIFIABLE for the doctored Louville Courier-Journal to suggest that Henry George has his hand scheme.

CYCLOPES in the South, bilizards in the West and apaches in the Middle West, prove that the country can enjoy all varieties of weather at the same time.

THE REPORTED DISCOVERY of salt wells in Ohio, which are owned by the Standard Oil Trust, is certainly important as typifying the fact that the original trust gobbles up salt.

THE CHARACTERISTICS of the Astor will be comparatively modest bequests to charitable purposes, and the descent of an immense and undivided property to a single successor.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

PATTI has lost none of her passion for batti, and spends much of her time in playing with Nicolini.

THE SACRED CONGREGATION at Rome has emphatically declined to grant General Bonaparte's application for a divorce.

MR. J. M. STRUBENACK has placed on his desk a copy of the big which has cost him \$2,000. Of course he bought it in New York.

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IT IS SAID that the marriage of another daughter of the Prince of Wales has been arranged, and it will be publicly announced in April.

QUEEN VICTORIA invited to dergymen to the coronation at Edinburgh. It is said that she does not approve of dergymen attending such performances, which is lucky for her.

THE SOUTHERN QUESTION.

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MR. CHANDLER is a man of great repute in St. Petersburg, has discovered that diphtheria can be cured by inoculating the patient with erysipelas.

MR. HARRIS desired the ruling of the Chair. Mr. Berry asked Mr. Chandler whether he had himself prepared the statement he was making.

A GREAT SHOWMAN'S SON.

YOUNG ADAM FOREPAUGH'S Character Illustrated by a Cherish Rode.

As illustrating the versatility of Adam Forepaugh, Jr., who became manager of his father's show, Charles A. Davis, of the advance force, tells the following to the Philadelphia Press.

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MISS PIXLEY'S NEW PLAY.

Number 22, Second Floor—A Comedy of No Little Merit.

MR. G. H. JESSOP'S new comedy, "22 Second Floor," was performed for the first time in Pittsburgh last night.

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A GRAND CANAL PROJECT.

The Union of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Monongahela Waterways—How It Could be Effectuated—Vast Possibilities of Benefit to Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore in the Scheme.

TRANSPORTATION on our Western rivers will never reach a high degree of prosperity until the eastern termini of the water route is extended to the great foreign and coast commerce centers on the Atlantic seaboard, which is the advantage now possessed by all the great trunk railways.

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OUR MAIL POOL.

Looking Backward.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DISPATCH: In view of the approaching semi-centennial of the incorporation of the city of Allegheny, the following facts, most of which are of official record, may be of interest:

A special meeting of the Borough Council of Allegheny, held January 11, 1850, it was resolved, "That, in view of the great and growing increase of the population embraced within our corporate limits, and the many advantages to be derived from the consolidation of the city of Allegheny with the city of Pittsburgh, as an expression of their opinion, do recommend to the next Council the propriety of incorporating the Legislature for a city charter."

On July 1, 1850, a copy of the charter bill, as amended, having passed both Houses of the State Legislature, was read before Council.

On August 1, 1850, the Mayor, James H. Murray, appeared and read the written opinion of the borough solicitor on the subject. A resolution was then passed, "That the Mayor be and he is authorized to call for a copy of the charter bill, as amended, and to read the same to the Council."

A year later, June 18, 1851, the Council arranged for the first election to be held on the second Tuesday of July, pursuant to act of the 12th of April, 1850, incorporating the city of Allegheny.

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CURIOS CONDENSATIONS.

A popular Brooklyn preacher says that he can see no objection to smoking a cigar.

The variations of the British noblemen are limitless. One has just taken out a license as a burlesque, and another has won a bribe as a laborer.

A Yankee genius has invented and patented a machine for buttering bread. The machine cuts and butters 70 loaves of bread in a few minutes.

All the Czech women's associations are about to address a monster petition to the Austrian Reichsrath in favor of the admission of women students to the University.

In South Carolina two superstitious colored persons, becoming frightened by the darkness which preceded a storm, ask to the ground and expired almost instantly.

In his biography of Lord Houghton, Mr. Womys Reid has used 20,000 letters received by that helpful literary man from friends on which he will draw. Lord Houghton never kept a diary.

The various branches of one of the most distinguished Russian families are about to get together at Moscow to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of their attachment to the Imperial service.

Rev. J. A. Dennis, pastor of a church in New Brunswick, N. J., used to be a lawyer and resumed practice in that city on Monday long enough to appear as counsel in a case before the Superior Court.

The sudden appearance of a mouse on the floor of the English House of Commons a few nights ago, upon the dignity of the employment, has caused a great deal of talk that made it necessary to drop business for awhile.

Prince Albert of Monaco is said to intend to devote the \$100,000 per year that he gets from the gambling table to the relief of the poor and to give all the rest to the improvement of his subjects and his own family.

A locomotive from the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad was run a long distance a few days ago without a smokestack, a barrel being substituted for the chimney, and a pair of driving wheels and a steam chest.

A kind-hearted woman at La Crosse bought a pair of shoes and gave them to a poor man and gave all the rest to the improvement of his subjects and his own family.

Three women, one of whom is a well-known artist, and another the author of a very popular novel, are engaged in the question of smoking among women.

English storks and wansels are being exported to New Zealand from England in large numbers to kill off the rabbits, and the rats, which have been food for the storks and wansels, and one of the storks was shot in some districts. There is a talk of a movement to prevent the exportation of any more rats.

In a German of some note who was traveling in England, said that the Panama Canal was Germany's safety, meaning that the French had dropped so much money in that direction that they would be unable to pay for 20 years to come.

Charles Johnson, of Norristown, aged 18 years, died a companion named Harry Dignan in a bog head foremost on Saturday as he was drawing from a well, and was found struck Johnson in the small of the back with a lead pipe, and the person who divided between the two by Burgess Gray.

On a half acre of land in Middleborough, Ky., the town which is now having a boom, there are 28 distinct varieties of trees, as follows: White oak, red oak, yellow pine, chestnut, hickory, persimmon, plum, maple, mulberry, pawpaw, water hick, hickory, dogwood, and many others.

In a recent sale of old books and manuscripts in New York a letter written by Christopher Columbus sold for \$2,000. It consisted of 110 lines and 84 words, and very easy words.

Mr. Columbus was good at sailing but might be good at anything else. He was a very good sailor, but he was not a very good politician.

Fortland, Me., correspondent tells about an impatient operator in Portland who was as good as dead in the winter, as he had the Kenebec ice men. He went around, the first of the season, and got into the snow, and he was not able to get out of it.

Jay Gould pays \$2,000 a year for his pew in Dr. Hall's church. Although fairly regular at the morning service, he never appears at the evening service. He is a very good man, but he is not a very good politician.

A candidate for political office in Bellefonte, Pa., originated a novel method in canvassing for a political appointment. He at first started out to make a house-to-house canvass, but finding that his two opponents were doing better than he, he changed his plan.

Chicago has called the first turn in our race against the world. It is a very good man, but he is not a very good politician.

A Chicago View.—New York—There'll be no fair by a 4—4—4. Chicago—No, but there will