WILLIAM A-VISITING.

Germany's Emperor Making a Flying European Trip.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS

Is Recognized by the Government in an Unofficial Manner.

CONCESSIONS TO THE CLERICALS

May Result in Giving the Ministry a Working Majority.

BISMARCK STILL A POLITICAL FACTOR

Emperor William is about to pay a series of short visits to his sisters, and his cousins and his aunts. The Government party is making combinations which will give it a good working majority in the Legislative bodies.

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BERLIN, April 19.—As the Emperor starts to-morrow upon a flashing tour of various points of the country, which will continue until the eve of the meeting of the Reichstag, a council was held at the Schloss to-day to consider the Ministerial programme.

The programme for the Emperor's tour is as follows: On Monday he goes to Bremen to lay a foundation stone in memory of his grandfather. Thence he goes to Bremer Haven, where he will embark on Tuesday to meet the squadron under Prince Henry. On the 23d he goes with Prince Henry to Altenburg on a woodcock shooting expedition. On the 25th he will meet the Queen of England at Darmsdat, thence he will go to Wartburg shooting with the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, returning here May 1. His meeting with the Queen will be a family affair. His Majesty will not be accompanied on his tour by any of his ministers.

WORKING THE PRESS.

Although the Government officials now pretend to ignore the press, reliable communications are obtainable when the Ministers deem them opportune. In this way it is known that the Council considered measures relating to reforms in the educational system, to the abrogation of the remaining May laws, to the strike movements and to the erection of monuments to the late Emperors William and Frederick.

Although Minister von Gossler showed no intention during yesterday's debate in the Landtag to concede the full demands of the Catholic clericals, he indicated the desire of the Government to sweep away the last traces of the May laws. The section of the Center party not closely adhering to Dr. Windthorst take Herr von Gossler's assurance as satisfactory and will support the Government. The leaders of the Center party—Barons von Huene and Schorlemer-Alst—are more ready than is Dr. Windthorst to form a coalition.

A GOVERNMENTAL MAJORITY.

The old Government groups have already assumed a position leading to a combination with the Conservatives, Imperialists and the right wing of the National Liberals. The prospects of the Government having a majority in the Reichstag are, therefore, good. Should the educational measure before the council extend to the clergy the control of the schools, the solid vote of the Centerists will be secured, thus assuring an overwhelming majority.

In to-day's debate in the Under Haust the Free Conservative speakers declared their intention of meeting some of the demands of the Centerists. An article which appeared in the *Freisinge Zeitung* from Herr Richter, leader of the Germans attacking Prince Bismarck, has raised a crop of concurrent rumors which are of absorbing interest here. The *Freisinge* affirmed that the ex-Chancellor, unable to support three weeks of political abstinence, summoned the editor of the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, who dined at Friedrichsruhe on Tuesday, and that

COACHED BY PRINCE BISMARCK,

the *Nachrichten* made a series of attacks upon Chancellor Von Caprivi, sneering at his speech in the Landtag and advising the Deputies to maintain a loyal adherence to the ex-Chancellor's policy.

The *Freisinge* inferred that Prince Bismarck meant war through the press and Parliament against General Von Caprivi, thereupon the *Post* (Conservative) denounced the article as insulting to the Prince, denies that the *Nachrichten* is inspired and expressed regret that that journal is in sympathy with Bismarck.

The truth is that Bismarck summoned the editor of the *Nachrichten* to consult in regard to the getting of a capable literary man and a reliable confident to assist him in arranging and compiling his memoirs. The day after the interview, Dr. Lucanus, Chief of the Civil Cabinet of the Emperor, was sent to Friedrichsruhe.

A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

This coincidence gave rise to the report that Lucanus was charged to demand the delivery of documents relating to the Emperor's doings at the time of the death of his father.

The *North German Gazette* announces that Bismarck's commission as a cavalry general has been made out in the name of Prince von Bismarck, Duke of Lauenberg. The ex-Chancellor has not yet used the ducal title.

The subscribers to the fund for a national monument to Bismarck include everybody of note in politics, finance and society.

MINISTER PHELPS' DINNER

To Chancellor Von Caprivi and Other Notable Diplomats.

BERLIN, April 19.—On Thursday Mr. Phelps, the American Minister, gave a dinner to Chancellor Von Caprivi. The guests included Minister Von Berlepsch and lady, Sir Edward Malet, British Ambassador, and Countess Von Hoenthal, Baron and Baroness Von Kreesbheck, and other members of the diplomatic circle.

Explorers Starting for Africa.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 19.—Six explorers, under the leadership of M. Suard, who have been sent out by the Paris Geographical Society to explore Central Asia south to the Indian frontier, have arrived here. Two officers of the Russian General's staff will accompany them.

The Strike Movement Spreading.

VIENNA, April 19.—The strike movement begun by the coal miners at Ostrau has spread throughout the Ostrawitz valley. All the miners at Basebka, Pezno and Czeladna have quit work.

Arranging for the Czar's Tour.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 19.—Colonel Kovaloff has started for Central Asia to arrange for the trans-Caspian tour which the Czar will make this year.

Victoria Reviews Troops.

AIX LES BAINS, April 19.—Queen Victoria reviewed the Alpine Chasseurs to-day. Her Majesty appears to be in good health and drives out daily.

Prohibiting Labor Demonstrations.

AMSTERDAM, April 19.—The Municipal Council here has forbidden the labor societies to make a demonstration on May day.

PRIMROSES IN PLENTY

Worn by English Tories of All Classes in Honor of Lord Beaconsfield — The Conservative Plans to Secure Popular Support.

[BY CABLE TO THE DISPATCH.]

LONDON, April 19.—To-day is Primrose Day, the ninth anniversary of the death of Lord Beaconsfield, and every true Conservative in London, from cabmen and street sweepers to Cabinet minister and princes, has the yellow flower in his buttonhole, while the ladies wear them in great clusters at their bosoms and the statue of Beaconsfield in Parliament square is wreathed and twined beyond the most sanguine hopes of Solomon in all his glory. Nevertheless conservatism is not happy. Mr. Goschen's budget has not created enthusiasm. It is admitted to be well meaning, but not heroic.

The consumer will not get the benefit of the reduced tea duty, the merchant, middleman and dealer will get that. The small householders will rejoice over the lessened house duty, but the great army of income taxpayers have no relief, and are sore accordingly. One of the most interesting points of Goschen's speech was his assertion that the improved prosperity of the country had caused a general run upon the public houses, or liquor saloons, the consumption of rum showing the greatest increase. This intemperance had given serious consideration to the Government, and as a result they increased the duty on spirits 6 pence a gallon, an artful dodge which will bring them in an increased revenue for next year, while they pose now as the champions of temperance. The teetotalers, however, are pleased at the idea that public house licenses are to be restricted, that new ones will not be issued unless in very special circumstances, and that many of those in existence will be canceled.

On the whole the budget is indicative of an intention on the part of the Government to hold on to office, for Goschen has framed the finances for the current year with a view to another grand surplus next year, and if he makes a coup then the general election is certain to follow immediately. Another interesting statement by Goschen was that England had paid off £23,000,000 from her national debt during the past three years, and that she is going on doing so at the rate of about £8,000,000 a year. This is releasing a pile of money for investment in other channels, a fact which American company promoters are not likely to lose sight of.

STOPPING THE DEMONSTRATION.

Hamburg Manufacturers Will Close Their Works if Their Employes Participate.

BERLIN, April 19.—In accordance with a decision of the Hamburg Senate all men employed on State works who take part in the demonstrations on May 1 will be discharged.

Manufacturers declare that they will close their works if their employes participate in the celebration. The Hamburg Socialist Committee advises the men to make no demonstration.

THE PENNSY'S ANSWER.

The Reading Company's Allegations Denied—The Latter is Charged With Not Living Up to Its Agreement to Arbitrate All Difficulties.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company to-day filed its answer through its counsel, Mr. George Tucker Bispham, to the bill in equity filed by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. It denies that the President and other principal officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company were members of the syndicate formed to effect a reorganization, and that such allegations are untrue in fact. It makes the assertion that the negotiations were conducted between the parties interested in the syndicate and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and parties representing the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and had their official expression, so far as relates to the Pennsylvania Company, in the letter of J. Pierpont Morgan to the President of the Pennsylvania and, the answer thereto, in which was contained the important and controlling provision that differences between the two companies should be submitted to arbitration and not for the purpose of securing to the former company the control and management of latter company, or to make the business of latter subordinate to the former.

In answer to the bill in the matter of arbitration the Pennsylvania Railroad Company says: "If reference is made to the attempted revocation of the agreement to arbitrate, then the defendant cannot say whether the plaintiff company or its officers were compelled by force of circumstances surrounding that company to attempt to delude the defendants by tendering a willingness to avoid future friction."

The bill avers that the contracts of June 8 and June 17, 1887, are complete in themselves, and were so at the time, and that said agreement to arbitrate was at all times regarded as continuing. The defendant denies that since the execution of this agreement the Reading has endeavored faithfully to carry out the provisions. The defendant avers that the suggestion that it was ever contemplated, suggested or intended by the defendant to put the plaintiff in a subservient position to the defendant, is unwarranted by any fact recited in the bill and utterly at variance with the actual facts.

POPULAR MRS. CLEVELAND

Is Greeted by Eager Throngs Upon Her Arrival at Atlantic City.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

ATLANTIC CITY, April 19.—There was a flurry of excitement at the Pennsylvania avenue depot this afternoon in anticipation of the arrival of Mrs. Grover Cleveland, and when the New York express came dashing in the platform was crowded with an eager throng. Mrs. Cleveland stepped from one of the Pullman coaches unattended by any escort other than two Irish servant girls.

She was attired in a plaid cloth walking dress, blue English walking jacket with white broadcloth revers, a stunning white shirt front and piecadilly collar. A navy blue satin hat and a white-spotted veil completed her outfit and it was the general verdict that she looked decidedly stylish and distingue. She was met by a matronly-looking old lady and together they walked slowly to one of the many hacks in waiting and were driven to the Brighton Hotel. It is said that ex-President Cleveland will join his wife in the early part of next week.

VERY CONFUSING.

The New Immigrant Landing Place Not in Running Order Yet.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The arrivals of immigrants at the barge office to-day numbered 2,269 and their landing and disposition was attended with the greatest confusion, and altogether the new landing place was the source of dissatisfaction and loud complaints on all hands.

The strangers in a new land were hustled about and unable to secure information, and Colonel Weber grew nervous and excitable over the tangle of things.

Struck a Gusher.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

LIMA, O., April 19.—The Lima Oil Company drilled in a gusher this evening on the French farm, five miles east of town. It started flowing at the rate of 700 barrels a day.

Delegates Are Elected.

American Lodge No. 29, of the A. A. of I. S. W., elected delegates yesterday to the National Convention in June. The contest was a lively one. There were 11 candidates, with five to be elected.

A SCORE OF MURDERS

Confessed by a Negro Who Has Just Been Hanged in Alabama.

HIS LENGTHY CAREER OF CRIME

Commenced by the Killing of a Companion at the Age of 14.

BURGLARY AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY

Served to Vary the Monotony of the Long List of Bloody Homicides.

Ben Elsey, just hanged in Alabama, left a confession admitting that he was concerned in 21 murders. Eighteen men and three women were killed, one of the latter being his grandmother. When 14 years old he killed another boy, because of a dispute over a game of cards.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 19.—To-day the written confession of the murderer Ben Elsey, who was hanged yesterday, was given to the public, and, if it is all true, as he swore it was, his career of crime was probably never surpassed. Elsey was born near Dalton, Ga., and at the age of 14 killed another boy over a game of cards.

For this crime he was sentenced to the penitentiary for 20 years, but was pardoned after serving eight months. Soon after his release from prison he began a career of crime which continued for 10 years. First he became a thief and gambler, and at the age of 16 committed his second murder over a game of cards.

IN A REGULAR BAND.

Soon after that he joined an oath-bound organized band of robbers and murderers, who had headquarters in Chattanooga, Tenn., and operated in the principal Southern cities. A white man was captain and leader of the band. They robbed stores and residences, and committed highway robbery whenever opportunity offered. The leader of the gang had an invention for blowing open safes, which is described by Elsey as follows:

"His usual way of using it is to put in a box about the size of a cigar box, light it, then wrap it up so as to look like a bundle. It burns very slowly and emits no smoke and usually takes from four to six hours to explode, making a very slight, stiffled noise. About dark he carries it to a merchant and asks him to lay it in his safe till morning, when he will call and get it. Some time after midnight he goes back and unlocks the door (we always have keys that will fit any lock) and takes the money out of the safe. He would never let me know how he made the machine. He always had a way of blowing them open when he found them locked."

SOME OF THE MANY CRIMES.

At Fulton, Ga., 1885, Elsey and other members of the gang murdered a merchant and robbed and burned his store. In 1886 they robbed and murdered three white men in Chattanooga and threw their bodies into the Tennessee river. The same year they murdered and robbed two men at Rome, Ga., and committed four highway robberies in Knoxville, Tenn., securing several thousand dollars. At Pinson, Ga., in the latter part of 1886, Elsey and three others murdered and robbed his grandmother, Rosa McCorner, a negro woman 70 years old.

Elsey had lived with her awhile, and knew she had $340. He planned the murder to secure this money. In 1887 Elsey assisted in the murder of a white man and woman in Mobile, Ala. In 1888 Elsey murdered Mrs. Hargrove, in Cobe county, Ga., by splitting her head open with an axe. Mrs. Hargrove had $800 in a trunk, which he secured, and then he came to Alabama. His two murders here were the killing of an unknown peddler and the Meadows murder, for which he was hanged.

NO TIME TO TELL MORE.

Isey's confession concludes as follows: "I will have to bring this to a close, as I cannot spare any more time on it. While I have mentioned only a few of the many crimes I have committed, I have mentioned the most important ones. I have been a gambler and a thief ever since my boyhood, and I have been a murderer and a robber ever since I was 14 years old. I can remember all the crimes I have committed. I followed my crowd most of the time for five years. I have been implicated in the killing of 21 people—18 men and 3 women. Nineteen were white and 2 colored. I have no idea of what I have stolen, nor of how many burglaries I have been implicated in, nor of how many safes I have helped to blow open, nor of how many people I have helped to rob. I have a wife and children at Atlanta. I was married to another woman here two months before I was arrested."

ARBITRATION IS POSSIBLE.

The Boss Carpenters' Association is Growing Rapidly in Chicago.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CHICAGO, April 19.—Last evening all the master carpenters of Kensington decided to join the new bosses' association. This makes a strong accession to the number of employers who are anxious to treat with the strikers and gives the new association strength enough to make the settlement of the strike very probable.

The clerks and other employes of the United States Express Company in this city, in number about 400, whose wages will be reduced on May 1 in accordance with the recent decision of the company strenuously object to the cut. They will hold a meeting on Monday to talk over their grievances. They say that the reduction is not warranted, and talk about resigning in a body, believing that the company cannot fill their places.

CAPTURED A DEFAULTER.

Teller Pope, of the Louisville City National Bank, Arrested in New Mexico.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The Fidelity and Casualty Company, of New York, has received telegraphic advice of the arrest of William H. Pope, the defaulting teller of the Louisville City National Bank, who stole between $60,000 and $70,000 of that bank's money, the Fidelity and Casualty Company being his bondsmen to the extent of $20,000.

After a diligent search throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico, Pope was found in Lamy, N. M., and will be taken to Louisville for trial.

A Legislator Killed.

MACON, MISS., April 19.—John E. Madison, a prominent lawyer of this city, who was shot yesterday in an altercation with Thomas F. Scott, a merchant of Cooksville, died to-day of his wounds. Scott is under arrest. Madison was a member of the Legislature. He leaves a widow and four little children.

No More Street Fires.

Inspector McAleese has sent out warnings to those merchants who burn up the rubbish from the stores on the streets. This is in direct violation of a city ordinance, and the municipal law will be rigidly enforced.

They Will Not Strike.

The story of a prospective strike of the Hostetter Coke Company's employes is positively denied by the officers of the concern. The relations between them and their workmen are perfectly harmonious.

Pilgrims to Rome.

ROME, April 19.—The Pope will receive Austrian, German and other pilgrims today and will deliver an allocution.

OFF FOR THE SOUTH.

The Pan-American Conference Has Concluded Its Diplomatic Labors—The Delegates Will Now Take Another Three Week's Tour

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The International American Conference adjourned sine die at noon to-day. Prior to adjournment the delegasion from Chili offered a resolution, which was adopted, that to commemorate this conference, the countries represented, associate themselves with the United States in celebrating the tour hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. Resolutions thanking the various officers of the conference were also adopted. Secretary Blaine made a closing speech, which was delivered with much feeling and received with great enthusiasm and cheers.

The delegates then left their quarters to pay their respects to the Chief Magistrate. Upon reaching the Executive Mansion the Pan-American delegates were ushered into the East Room, where they formed a circle. The President entered the room on the arm of Secretary Blaine and took each delegate by the hand, as he was introduced by the Secretary. The delegates were taken by surprise when the President, stepping slightly forward, addressed them. The remarks of the President were greeted with applause. The delegates then took their departure.

The delegates to the Pan-American conference left Washington to-night at 11 o'clock for a trip through the Southern States, which will occupy three weeks, as on the trip North and West last fall. The tour is tendered by the United States Government through the Secretary of State, and the party will travel in a train of Pullman coaches under the personally conducted tourist system of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The arrangements for the trip were made by Mr. S. W. F. Draper, tourist agent of the Pennsylvania Company, who will have charge of the train.

MUST WHACK UP.

The Laws to Collect Vehicle Licenses Will be Rigidly Carried Out.

Notices were issued yesterday evening to the people who have not as yet paid their vehicle licenses by H. H. Bengough, in charge of that department. They are rather imperative in form, as the penalty will be duly enforced, and after the first Monday in May any persons found driving a vehicle without a license is liable to arrest on sight, as special officers will be sent out on that date to find violators of the ordinance.

There are this year, Mr. Bengough said, about 1,500 delinquents, the average amount, many of whom are rendered so by mistake. A number of buggy owners, he said, thought they were not subject to license, imagining that it only applied to heavy draught wagons. There were some who sent messengers to the Treasurer's office to pay the vehicle license, and the messenger gave his own name instead of his employer. This would cause some confusion, but there was yet time to rectify such errors, and they should be arranged at once.

"Another thing," said Mr. Bengough, "is the display of the plates issued to licensed vehicle owners. The ordinance provides that the plates must be shown attached to the vehicle or the harness. Some people think that if they are stopped on the street by a special officer a display of the receipt is sufficient to meet the emergency, but it is not. The innocent have to suffer for the faults of the guilty, and in years past we have fined men who had taken out licenses, carried the receipt for one wagon and had two or more on the streets, trusting to luck for the officer to strike the man with the license. Every vehicle owner on the streets of Pittsburg not displaying his plate from this office is subject to arrest on view on and after the first Monday in May next, and the ordinance will be enforced to the letter of the law."

TWO MINE ACCIDENTS.

Four Men Terribly Burned by Gas Explosions Caused by Carelessness.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

SCRANTON, April 19.—Two very serious accidents occurred yesterday at Connell's National Colliery here. The first occurred early in the morning, when Mine Boss Henry W. Davis and a miner named Jones went into the mines and encountered the deadly mine gas with naked lamps. An explosion immediately followed, and Davis and Jones were badly burned about the face and hands. The accident is attributed to the carelessness of the fire boss.

The second accident was of a similar nature and is attributed to the carelessness of the driver boy in not closing a door behind him. It resulted in burning two men perhaps more seriously than the first. John Blackum, a miner of Minooka, was terribly burned about the head. His hair was completely burned off his head and his face so badly charred that it he recovers he will be disfigured for life. George Roberts, another miner, living at Minooka, was close to where Blackum was injured, and was severely burned about the face and had one eye burned almost from the socket. The chances are he will lose the sight of both of his eyes.

PAPPENHEIM GETS A LICENSE

To Marry the Wealthy and Beautiful Miss Wheeler.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—Count Maximilian Albert Pappenheim, who is to marry Miss Mary Wistar Wheeler, of this city, applied to-day for a marriage license. The Count's course of procedure was unusual. According to the laws of his native country, Bavaria, it is necessary to have the consent of the guardian of the bride before the marriage can take place. Miss Wheeler has no guardian, and consequently needed no other consent to the marriage than that of her mother, Mrs. Charles Wheeler, or Susan Farnum Wheeler, as she is called by the courts. To make up for the lack of a guardian, Count Pappenheim prepared papers appointing Mrs. Wheeler as the guardian of her daughter for the time.

According to the license, Maximilian Albert, Count of Pappenheim, was born at Pappenheim in Bavaria on the 15th of February, 1860, and has consequently just passed his 30th birthday. Miss Wheeler is 18. The Count before taking the oath took possession of the office Bible, which has sealed the oaths of so many happy couples. He then sent out for a new Bible for Clerk Bird.

THE STRIKE UNSETTLED.

A Change in the Manner of Working the Heats Causes Trouble.

The strike of the laborers in the plate mill of the Republic Iron Works that was begun on Friday morning remains unsettled. It is said that one of the heaters in the plate mill has been discharged because he declined to make the change in the manner of working.

The heaters have heretofore, as in other mills, charged 2,200 pounds of iron each turn, but as the men alternate weekly on night and day turn the idea was conceived of adding 300 pounds on each turn during the week of night turn, when only five days are worked.

ONE OF THE OLD STORIES.

An Unknown Woman Presents Mrs. Stamm With a Girl Baby.

At about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon a woman about 40 years old, moderately well dressed, left a paper parcel with Mrs. Frank Stamm, at No. 21 Long alley, in the Third ward of Allegheny. The strange woman said to Mrs. Stamm, "Here is a bundle for you," and at once walked away.

The bundle contained a girl baby, comfortably clad, pretty and healthy, but evidently only a few hours old. Mrs. Stamm decided to keep the infant, and declined to give it up to the police.

ALL WANT THE ROAD.

The Southern Counties Rejoice Because of the Revival of the

SOUTH PENN RAILROAD SCHEME.

Confidently Claimed That a Competing Line is at Last Sure.

PRESENT PLANS OF THE PURCHASERS.

The Reading Very Determined to Secure a Connection to the West.

The new management of the South Penn is not talking much, and will permit the plans to become public only as they are actually developed. The people in the Southern counties are much pleased with the prospect for a competing line.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

READING, April 19.—The reorganization of the South Penn Railroad and the possible time when work will be resumed and the road pushed to completion, still continue the principal topics of interest among the railroad men of this section. The new President, George F. Baer, of this city, has been away on business connected with railroad affairs most of the time since reorganization, and remains reticent as to the future plans of the parties now directly interested in the enterprise, preferring to let them become publicly known only as they are developed by their own movements.

There is, however, some well authenticated information in railroad circles as to the plans of the South Penn reorganizers. When Mr. Baer retired from the Board of Directors of the Reading Railroad it was believed that he did so at considerable personal sacrifice, because his ambitions all lie in the direction of railroad management.

MERELY A CHANGE OF BASE.

He, however, only retired with the knowledge that he would be called upon to lead to a successful termination the South Penn project. Besides being intimately associated with the Reading Railroad, he has long had the confidence of the Vanderbilts, and in another respect is fitted to lead in this enterprise. He is a native of Somerset county and spent many years of his life in the town of Somerset and Western Pennsylvania.

He is, therefore, well acquainted with the needs of that section. It is learned to-day that the Board of Directors elected last Thursday is only temporary, and that there may be some changes at the next meeting to be held in this city on May 5. Mr. Baer would not have undertaken the task of reorganization had he not the assurance that there were no longer the insurmountable legal obstacles in the way which would prevent the completion of the road.

AN HONEST EFFORT.

As far as he and his associates are concerned, leading railroad men say an honest, determined effort will be made to give Western Pennsylvania a competing line from the East as a connection of the Reading Railroad. The lack of money will be no obstacle in the way, because that will be forthcoming The old piers built for the monster South Penn bridge to cross the Susquehanna at Harrisburg are still standing, the same as when the project was temporarily killed by the opposition of the Pennsylvania, but a large force of men are already at work constructing new piers only 100 feet away, and the Reading road has given out the contract for the entire bridge.

Befides this the Reading has made a contract with the Western Maryland road for the construction of a connecting link to the Baltimore and Ohio at Williamsport, Md., so that the Reading will get a western connection at any cost. There is, therefore, no object in letting the South Penn be abandoned when this will serve no purpose.

ALL ARE DELIGHTED.

Information received by Mr. Baer from the southern tier of counties, through which the South Penn is already graded, says that the people there hail its advent with delight and are ready to give all possible encouragement. It will also stimulate railroad operations in the East. The Pennsylvania now has a line running from Philadelphia through Reading to the coal regions.

The recent completion of the Allentown terminal, at the cost of $1,000,000, gives the Reading two routes from New York to this city. One by way of Philadelphia and the other by way of Allentown, and from this city they take the same line at Harrisburg to join the projected South Penn. Since the revival of South Penn talk, the Pennsylvania has its engineers surveying for an opposition road to be built from this city to Lebanon, and thence to Harrisburg.

REASONS FOR CONFIDENCE.

Railroad men here have every confidence that the South Penn will be built. The Vanderbilts, they say, have more than a few millions invested in the bonds of the road, which bring them no return, and they and the Reading, under Corbin's management, are very friendly. The Beech Creek Railroad, which is owned by the Vanderbilts, and the Reading, are worked almost like one system.

They have their representatives on the South Penn Board, and there is a strong, overwhelming sentiment all over Eastern Pennsylvania that there should be a competing line to Pittsburg from this region.

LOCAL ITEMS. LIMITED.

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

THE funeral of Mary, wife of D. Allen, of Smithfield street, will take place from St. Paul's Cathedral, where solemn high mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Mrs. Allen was one of the oldest residents of the city, and was well-known as a charitable and Christian woman, who had endeared herself to a large circle of friends.

THE Criterion Club, of the Southside, has leased the two upper stories of the Hasselbarth building, on South Twelfth street, and will fit them up beautifully. The second floor will be used as a clubroom, and the third as a reception room.

HERRMANN, the prestidigitatur, will soon appear in this city at the Grand Opera House. This week he will frequently pass through the city en route to smaller Pennsylvania cities, playing one night in each place.

THE Wheeling Chief of Police yesterday wired Inspector McAleese to hold the two colored boys arrested on Thursday on Fifth avenue, as they were wanted on a charge of larceny.

ALBERT WILLIAMS and Frank Green, both colored, fought last evening on Wylie avenue. Officer Terence Fagan arrested the combatants. They were locked up in the Eleventh ward station.

SPARKS from a locomotive set fire to the roof of a house occupied by Mrs. Robert Tripplett, corner of South Twenty-ninth and Carson streets, last night. Damage slight.

A NUMBER of members of the Bar Association met yesterday and informally discussed the proposed new lawyers' club, but nothing definite was decided on.

THE Bar Association passed resolutions Friday on the death of Hanson Boggs Herron, Esq., who died at the Allegheny General Hospital on the 15th inst.

A FIRE occurred at Crafton, Friday evening. Mr. James' paint shop and the office of the Philadelphia company were destroyed. The losses are not known.

BURGESS, champion of Glenfield, having died recently, Mr. James Graham, a former occupant of the position, was last night elected to fill the vacancy.

THE Republican Iron Works will sink an artesian well this summer to supply its employes with pure water.

THE Grand Lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah will hold a session in Odd Fellows Hall, Southside, May 20.

THE Department of Awards met yesterday morning and several construction contracts were given out.

A MERMAID CAPTURED.

Captain Stanton Catches a Strange Creature, Half Human, Half Fish, Which Sobs Like a Child—It Lives Two Days in Captivity.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

JACKSONVILLE, April 19.—W. W. Stanton, mate of the schooner Addie Schaefler, now lying at the market house dock, while fishing for bass 300 miles off St. Augustine, drew in his line and found entangled therein the strangest fish, if it is a fish, that has ever been caught. The strange creature is about six feet long, pure white and scaleless. The head and face are wonderfully human in shape and feature. The shoulders are well outlined and very much resemble those of a woman, and the bosom is well defined and shows considerable development, while the hips and abdomen continue the human appearance. There are four floppers, two of which are placed at the lower termination of the body and give one the impression that nature made an effort to supply the strange creature with lower limbs.

Mr. Stanton confesses to quite a fright on first sight of his queer prize, which, on being drawn on board, gave utterance to a low, moaning cry, which might easily have been mistaken for the sobbing of a baby. It is extremely unfortunate that Mr. Stanton did not succeed in keeping the creature alive, which, he thinks, might have been done, as the strange object lived two days after being caught. The schooner has been thronged all day by curiosity mongers who express much wonder and astonishment at the strange object. Mr. Stanton, after visiting several ports and showing his queer creature, will donate it to the Smithsonian Institution. The fish or mermaid is in a large six-foot glass jar in alcohol.

CAUGHT ON A HOUSETOP.

An Alleghenian Causes Surprise and Gets Himself Into Trouble.

A man who gave his name as James Dougherty was arrested last evening by Policeman Canning, of Allegheny, at the corner of Grant avenue and Rebecca street. He is a man of about 32 years, small and smooth-faced. He was caught walking, in his stocking feet, on the roof of Richey's house at that corner, and was unable to explain his conduct to the satisfaction of the police. The people living in that immediate neighborhood said that a man had been seen on that housetop on several evenings, and they believed him to be the man who was arrested last night. Complaint had been made two or three times to Officer Canning, but on the former occasions he had been unable to catch the night prowler.

Next door to Richey's residence a new house is building, and to the men on the patrol wagon Dougherty said that he was building that new house. He said that he was up on the adjoining house pacing off the roof dimensions, in order that he might figure on roofing materials. This failed to convince the officers, who had heard of his nocturnal perambulations. Dougherty said that he was a workman for the Westinghouse Air Brake Company. He has lived in Allegheny for several years, is the head of a family, and personally has heretofore possessed a good reputation. He was not intoxicated, and acted as if perfectly sane, although he exhibited rather hilarious nervousness in the station house.

After he was put into a cell several friends called to see him, men of eminently respectable appearance. After conversing with him they confessed to Captain Wilson that they could not account for his conduct. At the hearing before Mayor Wyman, this morning, the true state of affairs is expected to be rather amusing than tragic.

ANOTHER COKE STRIKE.

Master Workman Kerfoot Gets the Whitney Troubles Settled.

The peace in the coke regions was perplexed yesterday by one strike. The employes of the Morrell & Wheeler Coke Works, of the Cambria Iron Company, inaugurated a strike for the reinstatement of a discharged miner. About 500 men are interested. Master Workman Kerfoot and Secretary Parker held a conference with Superintendent McFadden, of the Whitney Coke Works, last night, relative to the settlement of the strike at that plant. All grievances were amicably adjusted, but the scale was left unsigned since the company held that the plant was not included in the Connellsville region. Kerfoot claimed that the men should have Connellsville rates for coke drawing and Latrobe rates for mining, which will probably be conceded.

The miners have returned to work. The 800 employes of the Smithton district are making preparations to strike on May 1 if the operators refuse to sign the scale which calls for Columbus rates for mining and Connellsville rates for coke drawing.

A CHURCH WAR SCARE.

Homestead Catholics and Protestants Kiss and Make Up All Differences.

The proposed indignation meeting of the Protestants of Homestead, which it was rumored was to take place last night, did not materialize, and the danger of a religious war was averted. The statement that Mr. Hugh O'Donnell had used his influence to have three Protestants—Messrs. W. J. Abbott, Thomas Black and James Woods discharged from Carnegie mills because of the active part by them in the organization of the Loyal Orange Lodge, is not only denied by Mr. O'Donnell and the management of the mill, but also by the three men themselves.

The Loyal Orange lodge organized under the name of the Homestead Purple Stair last night, but no mention of the rumors was made in the meeting. A number of the members of the new lodge expressed themselves as very friendly to the Catholics. The only trouble, it appears, was among some who have been made to believe all sorts of rumors.

BIG DRIVE IN SHOES.

Handled Rapidly by Five Men in a Second-Hand Store.

Wm. Neal and Fred Lancamp went into the second-hand shoe store of Joseph Levinson, No. 523 Fifth avenue, about 8:30 last evening. An altercation about a pair of shoes ended in a fight. Neal and Lancamp were engaged with Levinson and his two shoemakers Joseph Best and Joseph Meyers. Nearly all the loose articles in the shop were used as weapons, and the windows were broken and all the men more or less cut and bruised. Levinson was knocked into the next room, and Neal was severely cut about the head and face, when Lieutenant Lewis appeared.

Neal, Lancamp, Best and Meyers were arrested and taken to the Eleventh ward station. Levinson will appear at the hearing in the morning.

Flagler's Yacht Christened.

WILMINGTON, DEL., April 19.—The steam yacht Alicia, building for H. W. Flagler, of the Standard Oil Company, was launched at noon by the Harlan & Hollingsworth Company. Mrs. Howard Pyle, wife of the artist, christened the boat. The Alicia is of steel, 160 feet in water line, 24 feet beam, 13½ deep.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING.

Some Who Travel, Some Who Do Not, and Others Who Talk.

—Harry Coleman, of New York, arrived in the city last evening, to accept a position at the Hotel Duquesne.

—E. C. Fletcher, an oil man of Titusville, is in the city, the guest of F. L. Mitchell, No. 106 Fourth avenue.

AN HISTORIC IMAGE,

Which Has Just Been Received From the Land of the Maoris.

A STONE IDOL 250 YEARS OLD,

The Property of a Famous Chief Who Died at Half That Age.

A CONVERT WHO BELIEVED IN FAIRIES,

And Wore the Heathen Emblem to Protect Him From Their Attacks.

An idol of green stone is now in the New York postoffice. It belonged to the famous Chief of the Maoris, who died at the age of 108 years. In his youth the Chief had met Explorer Cook, and his life was replete with thrilling incidents.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, April 19.—In a cigar box wrapped in brown paper in the customs department of the New York postoffice a Maori idol or fetish was found. Inspector Cross sent it to the Custom House to have it appraised for duties. It was consigned to Arnold, Cheney & Co. and came from S. Danneford & Co., Auckland, New Zealand. It was valued at $200 and was said to be destined for the Museum of Art.

The idol weighs ten ounces and is made of green stone and looks something like a big lizzard flattened out. There are great red rings about the eyes and through the head runs a human hair cord about as thick as the little finger. The idol is said to be 250 years old and the documents which came along with it say that it was worn about the neck of a famous Maori chieftain, who died on September 19, 1872, rejoicing in the name of Ernera Maihi Patuonye, and who to his last day averred stoutly that he was born in 1764.

RATHER ROMANTIC.

The sketch of the great chieftain's life which accompanies the idol sounds like the plot of a Rider Haggard novel. In it Patuome says he was at the Bay of Islands when the great navigator Cook visited that port in 1769. He tells how he saw Cook's vessel, and how, with his father, the reigning chieftain, he went out with the tribe in four canoes, one of them named by his father, and presented fish to the voyagers.

When Patnome became a chief he could handle a spear and club as well as any other savage, and in his memoirs of battlefields, which he dedicated to his biographer shortly before his death, in 1872, there are a dozen plots for Haggard novels. He tells how on a battlefield he had a personal combat with the great chief Tatakahuanni, whom he slew with a green stone axe.

"After a short struggle," he continued speaking of the combat with the chief of the long name. "I felled him to the ground and with a borrowed tomahawk cut off my man's head and carried it away in one of my garments." He also speaks of other battlefields where he swung his spear and club, notably that of Ikaranganni. But when the law of Christianity came, he says all such evil deeds were abandoned.

CHANGED HEART AND NAME.

He then became known as "The Peacemaker." He had four wites, and although he embraced Christianity fervently he believed, as every Maori does, in fairies. They were on the mountains and in the rivers, and perched upon twigs and branches, and the great chieftain could never understand why these dreams of fairyland were not embraced in the Christian doctrine. To show what a great believer in Christianity he was, here is part of a speech he made to his tribe:

"To the Maoris—O, hearken, O Maori people, to the words of my mouth: Do you love another? Let the men love the men, and the women one another, in Christ. Here is a word to the women: 'Women, obey your husbands and let the children honor their fathers and mothers that they may be long in the land given them by Jehovah.'

Let not the chiefs be unkind to their servants but slow to anger, for our Lord is in heaven, looking upon us. Hold fast to the Christian faith. Enough.

Toward the end of his long life he wrote weird poetry and worked like a beaver to prevent widows from strangling themselves when their husbands died. This was the custom of the Maoris, the women thinking they should kill themselves in order to accompany their husbands and take care of them on their last journey. But to the last day of his life he wore the idol around his neck as a sort of amulet to keep of bad fairies.

CAT AND DOG STATISTICS.

La Grippe's Ravages in the Boston Sheltering Home for Animals.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BOSTON, April 19.—