consent to a consequent reduction of wages to meet the decrease in working hours.

The Cost of Living Increased.

"The cost of production will increase, and the cost of living will have to advance in the same proportion. For a year there may not be any change, but after that it will cost a laboring man more to live than it does now. The increase in the rates for labor and cost of production will certainly increase the cost of the necessaries of life. Two dollars a day and nine hours work will not go farther than the same amount when a man is working only eight hours. It is a well-known rule that when wages go up the cost of living advances in the same proportion.

"As far as the manufacturing interests are concerned, I do not see why there should be any objections. In outdoor trades I think the artisans are committing suicide by striking for the enforcement of the short day. With the carpenters, bricklayers and others engaged in the building trades it should make a great difference whether the men work eight, nine or ten hours. If I was working outside and could find employment only when the climate was favorable, it seems to me that I would put in as much time as possible in the time at my command. The men in the building trades can only work on an average about eight months in the year. Many of them are paid by the hour, and I think they would want to put in as much time as they could. Their trade means wealth during the building season and idleness during the winter months.

"I do not think this agitation is going to benefit business generally. Agitation of any kind, especially labor troubles, always has an adverse effect in business circles. Whether any trouble will result or not from the agitation I could not predict."

Thinks Eight Hours Enough.

Assistant Postmaster General James S. Clarkson was seen at the Seventh Avenue Hotel last night. He is an enthusiast on the subject. "I am in favor of the movement," said he. "Eight hours is enough for any man to work. I approve of the manner in which the movement has been made. I think it has been made at the right time. The country needs it; the condition of the laboring class demands a change, and I hope they will succeed."

Mr. Henry Schenck, the contractor and builder, of Erie, was at the Seventh Avenue Hotel yesterday. Talking of the reduction in the hours of labor, he said: "I am placed in a somewhat singular position in that regard. My men here in Pittsburg are working nine hours, and my men in Erie are working ten. A great many builders are opposed to the eight hour movement, but I can't understand why they should be. As I look at it, it is a reform that is bound to come to pass, though not at once. I believe in two years from now, all mechanics will be working under the eight-hour system, but I also believe that the more intelligent mechanics do not consider that the times are yet ripe for the reform. So far as the builders and contractors are concerned, it will simply be a matter of their charging two-tenths more in their specifications than they do under the present system."

A New Proposition to Make.

E. B. Gawthrop, of Hughes & Gawthrop, Pittsburg agents of the Thomson-Houston Electric Company: "We are about to make a new proposition to our men. They now work nine hours per day and we are so rushed with orders that it is necesssary to work them longer. We will ask them to work ten hours and pay them for the extra hour. I do not think they will object to the extra work as long as they get extra pay. I think this eight-hour agitation all over the country will have a bad effect on general business. No wonder there are strikes. An employer now paying $3 per day for nine or ten hours' work should not be expected to pay the same rate and only receive eight hours labor. Such a proceeding on the part of employes is unnatural and seems to me to be unjust. I do not think a man's health is impaired by working nine hours a day. I work 10 and 11 and very often more than 12, and I think I manage to enjoy life as well as anybody."

Mr. Atterbury, of Atterbury & Co., glass manufacturers, was reticent on the subject at all. "The subject is simply a matter of figures," said he, "that anyone could work out. There are few men now employed by us who work over eight hours."

George A. Macbeth & Co. said it would not affect them at all, and that the same would be true generally of glass houses.

Wouldn't Work at All.

A member of a wholesale bedding firm in the city, who requested that his name be omitted, said: "The eight-hour system would never work in our business. It would not be possible to get through with our business during the busy season, and if we increased our forces we would be obliged to decrease them again when the rush passed over. There are other lines of trade that would meet with the same difficulty. I would be in favor of paying my men by the hour. During the dull season we could do our work in eight hours and sometimes less. When a rush would come they could make over time."

Superintendent Patton, of the B. & O. road, said: "It is strange, but I have always noticed that when times are good there are plenty of labor movements looking toward one thing or another. If the market should suddenly drop, where would they be? All these movements would be dropped and forgotten.

An Official Favors the Move.

Assistant City Controller John J. Davis thinks eight hours is long enough for any man to work. "When the people become accustomed to the change they will find that just as much, if not more, can be accomplished than what is done now. At best the life of the workmen is hard, and they ought to have some time to enjoy themselves and improve their minds. I remember when I was a boy I had to work 16 hours a day, but that was barbarous. We don't do that now. The stores were generally kept open until a late hour, but now they are closed at 6 o'clock."

Superintendent J. C. Dysart, of the Chartiers Block Coal Company, expressed himself as follows: "If the men want shorter hours it will mean that more men will be required to do the work and less pay must be expected. The labor market is controlled by the law of supply and demand. Miners generally complain that the work is divided among too many men and they don't have the opportunity to make as much as they like, but in advocating the adoption of eight hours they favor the very state of affairs they object to."

LABOR LEADERS' VIEWS.

A DIVERSITY OF OPINION AS TO PRACTICABILITY.

Some Think the Agitation Has Not Been Thorough Enough—Others Say the Present is Just as Good a Time as Any to Settle the Matter.

The opinions of even the labor leaders differ materially as to the practicability of enforcing the eight-hour rule. Some think it has been precipitated prematurely, and that there is not an organization sufficiently complete to force its adoption. Others feel confident that the movement will succeed, and that the demands will be peaceably granted.

I. N. Ross, Deputy Surveyor of the Port and ex-Master Workman of D. A. 3, K. of L., says: "I don't think the movement can succeed, because the people are not prepared for it. They have not calculated on it coming so soon. The working people are not in a position to force it. They are not organized. The principle of eight hours for a workday is correct, and all Knights of Labor are in favor of it; but all organizations should be combined. A time should be set far enough in advance to allow the manufacturers to prepare for it. I believe it could have been gained with little difficulty if the reduction of half an hour each year had been asked for. The people would not have missed the time so much. But a general reduction now to eight hours will not be a simple reduction of two hours. In many cases it will mean a lessening of a day's work three, four and five hours."

One Solution of the Problem.

Eccles Robinson, ex-Master Workman of the National Trades' Association, No. 252, K. of L., composed of brass molders, said: "I don't know what the ultimate result will be, but I do know that eight hours is long enough for any man to work, and I believe the only solution of the labor problem, so as to give employment to all, is to reduce the hours and make the pay accordingly. I look for a general suspension of business all over the country this season as a result of this agitation."

A member of the Street Car Employes' Assembiy, composed of the Birmingham Traction conductors and drivers, said: "We are heartily in favor of the move, and are watching developments. However, we will not be satisfied with any comparative reduction in wages. The men work for 25 cents per trip. A trip takes an hour and 20 minutes, and the conductors work from 11 to 12 or more hours."

John J. Martin, associate editor of the *Commoner and Glassworker*, said: "I believe there will be no general move for the adoption of the eight-hour day in Pittsburg. Few trades, if any, have made preparation for the event. The American Federation of Labor has advised none but the carpenters here or elsewhere to make a demand. The carpenters here refuse to join the movement at present. There is no valid reason why the eight-hour day should not be peaceably granted by employers. The margin of profit is not so small as to make a concession impossible. Opposition to the movement must of necessity be blind, and there is no use obstructing the inevitable.

The Work of a Number of Years.

"There has been for years a persistent tendency to reduce the hours of labor, and the reductions that have already taken place have left no mark of desolation behind. The fact that the carpenters are already going into business for themselves in places where they are out, proves that there is a reasonably profitable margin on the new basis.

"The question at present should be a question of policy as to how the new conditions may be most easily accomplished. The workers have in many cases shown a disposition to adopt a sensible policy by relinquishing a portion of their wages to secure their end, but the employers seem to be anxious to force the question of principle to the front and to deny the justice or correctness of the idea of shorter hours. The old economical views must die. Under the present wage system industry is not rewarded. The harder a man works, with but few exceptions, the sooner will his wages be reduced. Shorter hours mean better educated men and better citizens. It will do more to improve the standing and intellect of our people than churches or maxims can ever do; it will reflect happiness even on the wealthy, who cannot really be happy while dangerous criminals threaten them; while grinding poverty surrounds them, and immorality, the result of bad conditions rather than inherent viciousness, sickens and shocks them."

A Philosophic View of It.

John Ehman, editor of the *Glass Budget*, looks at the question in a philosophic manner. He says: "My opinion of the eight-hour movement is, that it will not only result in establishing this standard in the building trades in many of the large cities, but it will also succeed in shortening the hours in trades where they are now longer than ten. Where the building trades at the present time are unable to secure the eight-hour system, nine hours will be instituted. At present it appears that the building trades lead the van in the short-hour movement, and the carpenters are at the head of the column.

"The International Cigarmakers' Union adopted the eight-hour standard on May 1, 1886, four years ago. It has been found to work very admirably, and wages are not any lower because of the reduction in hours. Among the steel workers a progressive movement is also at work, as I notice the men in Jones & Laughlins' Bessemer Steel Works have instituted three turns of eight hours each, in place of two of 12 hours each. As they are paid by the hundred tons, the change will not necessitate paying out more money. In fact, the firm is more likely to secure a larger output every 24 hours with three eight-hour turns than with two working 12 hours. I believe the reduction of hours will be eventually recognized as one of the greatest progressive measures ever undertaken by the working class. It will mean increased education, less crowded tenement houses, more intelligent citizenship, better paid labor and a longer average existence. It is absurd to think that in the nineteenth century it should take the average man every hour of his conscious existence to earn the means to feed and clothe himself and family."

Looked at in Another Light.

According to Joseph L. Evans, Master Workman of D. A. 3, Knights of Labor, the rule would be acceptable to the members of his organization. Said he: "We all favor it. An eight-hour work-day will furnish labor for the unemployed; will give the employed time to get some of the benefits of Mr. Carnegie's free libraries, and will lessen crime. As it is, the laboring man has no time for anything but to eat, sleep and work. The Knights of Labor were preaching a reduction of hours long before the Federation was organized, and the only reason we are not in the movement now is because we don't think the people are educated enough on the question yet."

Editor John Flannery, of the *Trades Journal*, gives an interesting and instructive talk on the subject: "The investment of tens of millions depends upon this one question. The workingmen who are thoroughly organized seem to think they never had a better opportunity, and they are not mistaken. Capitalists are anxious to invest. The fever for making money is at high pitch. Opportunities for profitable investments are multiplying. Shorter hours are a necessity, and it must be conceded that the workers have the best of the argument. The advance made in labor-saving machinery, the increasing wealth of the country and improved facilities for exchanging products, the demand for better education to fit men for active, useful and efficient service, even in mechanical work; the broadening of character to keep pace with national progress, which can only be acquired through more leisure and better remuneration, all point to the need of the reform.

Will Not Force the Issue.

"Locally, the building trades are not to force the issue. The carpenters of this district have voted for a continuance of the nine-hour day for a year longer. Eight hours, if labor so elects, and eight hours' pay, may soon bring 12 or 15 hours' pay for eight hours' labor. The eight-hour movement is being watched by the ruling classes abroad with almost as much interest as by American employers. The whole world is on the eve of an advance. The ablest minds of labor direct the organized forces."

From chats with several drug clerks in the city it is evident that they are watching the movement very closely, and should it become more general will also put in their claims. They work from 15 to 18 hours and some are on duty practically for 24 hours, being required to sleep in the stores after closing up to answer night calls. The greatest interest is manifested on the Southside, where there are about 40 clerks, but at present they are not organized. Mr. Frank Beam said yesterday that an attempt was made to organize some time ago, but failed through lack of leadership. The demand then was for 12 hours.

Thinks it is Impracticable.

Mr. J. A. Koch, representing the proprietors, said: "The eight-hour law is impracticable in the retail drug business. It would require three sets of men and 99 out of 100 retail stores have not enough business to warrant the expense."

At the various clubrooms near Jones & Laughlins' works, on the Southside, workingmen from all the departments were sounded on the movement. With the puddlers it is thought impracticable, as it takes about 9 or 9½ hours to finish 5 heats, or a turn, and could not well be made less. The other departments are moving slow in the matter, and will watch the effect of the system in the steel department, which will commence May 5. If all works well with the tonnage men, other departments will then consider following in their footsteps.

MAKING THEM THINK.

Food for Reflection Found in Mr. Reed's Speech.

OPINIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

Doings of the Day After the Americus Club Banquet.

THE GUESTS ALL RETURN HOME

The speech of Speaker Reed at the Americus Club banquet on the Federal election question, was the subject of general comment among the local politicians yesterday. Many of the guests who attended the feast remained over during the day, and what they had to say about it appears in what follows. The Republicans in the main approved the extreme views taken by the Speaker, while the Democrats in general—those at least who had read the effort—put it down as so much "bloody shirt talk." Even the Republicans, however, were guarded in their expressions, and when it comes down to the question of controlling State or local elections they were all emphatic in denying that the National Government had any right to interfere.

Visits were paid to the Randall and County Democracy club rooms in search of leading Democrats, but the majority of them are in the habit of spending Sunday at home. Those who were discovered either hadn't read the speech or were not qualified to speak on its general bearing.

THINKS REED DESPOTIC.

General P. M. Guthrie was met on the street, and after he had been posted as to its drift, he said: "Well, you know Reed is a despot, anyhow, of the rankest kind. His rulings this winter in the House prove that. His ideas are certainly bitterly partisan and extreme. I do not believe the position he has taken is correct. His plan could only be carried out by calling into authority the military branch of the Government, while the aim should be to keep that as far in the background as possible. This is a civil, not a military government, and the people should have full control."

Colonel Hudson, ex-Assistant Postmaster, thought it was a masterly effort from a Republican standpoint, but he was more pleased with the speech of First Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson, and paid the most attention to it. He thought that Reed had indulged in considerable unnecessary "bloody shirt" talk, and this is all he had to say about it.

Many expected that the Speaker would talk about his course in Congress, and give some further reasons for his rulings, but in this they were disappointed. As the dinner was intended to commemorate the birthday of General Grant, the Republicans claimed that the Speaker knew such a speech would be out of place.

The Americus Club boys were highly pleased with the whole affair, and Mr. Reed's oration in particular met with their general approval. On the Republican side of the fence there were none wanting to indorse it.

THE CLUB MADE FAMOUS.

Said Robert W. Tayler, one of the orators, before leaving for New York, at the Union depot last evening: "These annual dinners have made the Americus club famous all over the country, and they will continue to attract attention as long as they can get one or two prominent men in whom the people are interested to attend. The selection of the minor speakers to fill in is a matter of indifference. Now, the dinner of the Republican Society in New York in February was a big affair, and yet it did not attract half the notice that this banquet will, although there were any number of prominent national characters present.

"As for the speech of Speaker Reed—he is right in what he advocates. His position is incontrovertible, to my mind, and the plan should be put in operation as soon as possible, if a fair count is to be had and the political outrages in the South prevented. The idea is for the Government to take charge of its own elections, and to see to it that they are properly conducted. It is not necessary to call into service the military end of the Government to accomplish this purpose. Speaker Reed had no such thought in his mind. Senator Sherman, in his bill, struck the idea when he suggested the appointment of Federal officers to superintend the elections. So far as the local elections are concerned, the Government, not being directly interested, could let the people attend to it themselves."

ANOTHER INDORSEMENT.

Captain Jesse M. Baker, of Media, said the Speaker was right. He did not think his views were at all extreme. He did not understand that he intended to extend governmental control to State elections, but only to the contests where Federal offices were the objective points.

The captain's old law partner is now a Democratic Representative from Texas. Not long since Mr. Baker was in Washington, where he met his friend. The latter said to him: "Come, I want to introduce you to Cæsar Reed. I am against him politically, but I don't mean anything disrespectful by that title. He is the greatest man in the House to-day. You can't upset his equilibrium. Only yesterday a Congressman from Arkansas roasted him most unmercifully, when some Republican rose to the point of order that the gentleman's language was unparliamentary. 'Oh, let him alone,' replied the Speaker. 'He is trying to make a personal explanation.'"

Captain Baker then remarked that he had a very wholesome respect for the ability and utterances of Mr. Reed.

Young State Senator Ed Robbins, of Greensburg, was in the city yesterday. He had perused Mr. Reed's speech in THE DISPATCH, and had come to the conclusion that the Speaker was radical in his ideas. In expressing his views, he said: "I should be inclined to go a little slow. The people are very tenacious of their rights, and are not any too fond of national interference.

WHEN IT WOULDN'T WORK.

"The general idea of true government is to confer the greatest liberty on the greatest number, in the truest and highest sense of the word. I am sure such a plan would not work if applied to State elections. It would be bad policy. The people would feel that, having no voice in the selection of officers to conduct the ballot, their rights were usurped, or else they would take no interest in the elections."

The Americus Club banquet, as a whole, came in for a good share of praise and comment yesterday. The guests and the members retired late, and few of them were seen around early in the morning. Governor Beaver, Secretary of the Commonwealth Stone and Secretary of Internal Affairs Thomas J. Stewart left for Harrisburg on the 3 o'clock train yesterday morning. Some of the guests formed a party after the banquet, and spent the time in eating a late lunch at Newell's restaurant. In the crowd were Mr. Clarkson, General Hastings, Senator Delamater, United States District Attorney Walter Lyon, Colonel Swords and some others. They got to telling stories, and each one tried to get ahead of the other in telling the biggest. Mr. Stewart seemed to hold his own better than the others, and finally the interest centered in him. Walter Lyon was a good second, and when the conversation flagged, Senator Delamater insisted that Stewart should tell another story. Mr. Clarkson related a few, but he preferred to be a listener.

REED WANTS TO COME AGAIN.

Speaker Reed, General Osborne and Governor Thomas retired soon after the banquet, and returned to Washington early in the morning over the Baltimore and Ohio road. The Speaker expressed his pleasure at the warm reception he had received, and he also hoped that another occasion would soon be presented for a visit to Pittsburg.

Mr. Clarkson took dinner with B. F. Jones, and the greater part of the afternoon was spent at his house. He returned to the Seventh Avenue in the evening, where he was besieged with callers, who came up to bid him goodby. He and Frank Willing Leech, Dick Murphy and Mr. Cushing left for Washington at 9:20 last night on the Baltimore and Ohio, one of the special cars having been held over.

Senator Quay went to Beaver in the morning. State Chairman W. H. Andrews arrived from Philadelphia and met Senator Delamater. The pair dined at the Seventh Avenue, and then proceeded northward on the next train.

Lieutenant Governor Davies and Attorney General Kirkpatrick left for Harrisburg on the day express, while General Hastings and Captain Baker returned last evening.

ALL EXTREMELY SATISFIED.

All the guests, before their departure, were seen by committees of the Americus Club. They one and all expressed extreme satisfaction over the success of the dinner.

Colonel Bayne is still at the Schlosser; Congressman Dalzell is at the Anderson, where he will remain for a week or so.

During the day Mr. Clarkson was kept busy, but he managed to talk a little toward evening. He is not in the habit of giving state secrets, and he deftly escaped answering a direct question about the McKeesport Postoffice by stating that the appointment was in the hands of the President and the Postmaster General, and he had nothing to do with it and didn't know anything about it. He talked considerably about himself, and among other things said that he had been a newspaper man for 24 years, and he was still in the business. On the subject of national politics he was silent. He reiterated his statement, already made in THE DISPATCH, that Senator Quay would not resign as Chairman of the National Committee, and that the rumor was no doubt of Democratic origin. The Democrats, he said, would like to see Quay out of their way. The meeting of the committee is for the purpose of discussing national affairs and looking after the election of Congressmen and Senators.

WHY HE WAS ABSENT.

Postmaster James S. McKean was to have been the host of the table nearest the G. A. R. Orchestra, those at that table being present by his invitation. The dangerous condition of his mother, who is at the point of death at the family home in Charleroi, was the reason he was not present. Both the cause of his absence and the fact were the subject of much regret. In his stead, Hon. Walter Lyon and Internal Revenue Collector S. D. Warmcastle played the host to perfection, and contributed to the pleasure of the guests.

AN IRON POLE CHARGED.

Electricity From the Second Avenue Line Knocks Down an Italian—A Baby Suffocated While Asleep—Deaths Investigated by the Coroner—Some Severe Falls.

One of the iron poles supporting the wires of the Second Avenue Electric Railway, at the corner of Fourth avenue and Grant street, yesterday morning became strongly charged with electricity, and the fluid traveled to an awning post in front of Johnson's cigar store at the corner, heating the post to such an extent that it began to smoke and steam where it entered the ground. Officer Frank Yeager's attention was called to the matter, and he reported it to the company's office. While the officer was waiting for a reply an Italian, whose name could not be learned, came along and caught hold of the electrified post. He was thrown upon his back with great force, but after awhile was revived, and was able to walk away. Later an employe of the company came and disconnected the wires.

Charles Pfluger, aged 10 months, was found dead in bed at his parents' residence, 141 Prior street, Southside, yesterday morning, having suffocated while asleep. The Coroner was notified.

The Coroner was also notified of the sudden deaths of John Weyland, an old man, at 166 Forty-fifth street; Mary D. Ruppel, 104 High street, Allegheny, and Mary Carney, 9 Fort street. The cases were all investigated, and no inquests deemed necessary.

A young man, Elzie Larmer, is lying at his home on Killbuck street, Allegheny, in a very critical condition, the result of a fall on last Friday off a roof, a distance of ten feet. He was badly bruised outwardly as well as inwardly, as subsequent developments have shown. He struck on his head, and has remained in a semi-conscious state ever since.

Pyries Avohopos, a Pole, living at No. 2818 Mary street, Southside, was struck by the Wheeling express going east, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, opposite the Copper Works station, about 7:30 last evening. He was knocked about ten feet to the side of the track, seriously injuring him about the head and body, but no bones were broken. He was removed to the Mercy Hospital by patrol wagon No. 10.

About 8 o'clock last night James Sparks, a resident of Duquesne, who was a little the worse for liquor, attempted to cross Penn avenue at Thirty-third street, when he tripped and fell. A horse attached to a buggy was being driven along at the same time, and was so close to the spot that before the horse could be stopped the buggy had passed over Sparks' body. When picked up it was found he had received a very severe cut on the forehead. The injured man was taken to the Seventeenth ward station.

A SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT.

New Board of Managers of St. Michael's School to be Elected.

An entertainment was given last night in Columbus Hall, Pius street, by the pupils of St. Michael's Parochial school and those of St. Michael's Orphans' Home, which is under the care of that parish. The entertainment is an annual one, and marks the end of the term of the board of managers of the asylum. Preceding the entertainment a list of delegates was appointed whose duty it will be to elect the new board for the ensuing year. The election will take place in a few days.

Secretary and Treasurer Stock will submit his annual report at the election. The present board will probably be re-elected.

LOST A SECOND TIME.

Little Helen Paul Traced by the Bright Colored Dress She Wore.

A 4-year-old child named Helen Paul, whose parents live at 10 Pine alley, Allegheny, wandered away from home yesterday afternoon, and on account of a colored dress she wore, was traced and found about 6 o'clock. An hour later she wandered out of the house and became lost a second time.

This time her bright pink dress, brown hat and brown ribbons were not enough to enable her friends to find her, and although search and inquiry were made in both cities, she had not been found at midnight.

Honor to Whom It is Due.

It was no error of design that caused the omission of the name of one of the hard-working members of the Americus Club Banquet Committee from a post of honor at the committee's table in the banquet hall where Mr. W. H. Keech sat, instead of at one of the guests' tables. The remodeling of the original plan of seats caused the mistake.

Concert for the Elmer Street Church.

The concert to be given at Liberty School House Hall, on Ellsworth avenue, Tuesday evening, April 29, for the benefit of the Elmer Street Presbyterian Church, promises to be a great success. Among the performers will be Mrs. Adah Thomas, Miss Ella Semple, Miss Lizzie Reed, Dr. English, Daniel Bullock, C. C. Mellor and others.

Miss Edith Smithson will entertain the audience with some fine select reading.

TAKING FRESH HOLD.

Railroad Troubles Pass Into the Hands of the Supreme Council,

WHO WILL BE IN THE CITY TO-DAY

Mr. Wilkinson Addresses a Meeting of the Federated Order.

HE TALKS FOR CLOSER COMMUNION.

The intensity of the lull in the railroad difficulty during the greater part of yesterday seemed to indicate that the agitation was about to die out without any benefit to the men resulting from the two-weeks' hard work. Matters livened up somewhat last night, however. A general meeting of the Federated order was held at 101 Fifth avenue which continued in session until nearly midnight.

Grand Master Wilkinson had returned from Philadelphia in the morning, and he was present. He announced to the workmen that the Supreme Council will arrive in the city at 7:20 this morning over the Fort Wayne road. They will meet immediately, and receive committees from the various roads. These committees will lay before the Supreme Council the exact nature of the grievances on each road, together with the demands made by the men and the replies received from the companies.

The Supreme Council will then discuss and determine upon the merits of the case. Should they decide that the propositions made by the companies are sufficient, they will declare all further negotiations off, and the matter will be settled at once.

STILL FEARS OF A STRIKE.

However, if it is the opinion of the council that the men should get more money or shorter hours, they will call in person upon the several superintendents and make a final effort to secure more generous concessions. Should they fail, a strike will be ordered without further delay. The whole business will be settled to-day.

The Supreme Council is composed of the following grand officers: F. P. Sergeant, Grand Master of the Federated Order; E. V. Debs, Vice Grand Master; William A. Sheehan, Chief of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; W. G. Howard, Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors; A. B. Davis, Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; John Sweeney, Grand Master of the Switchmen's Association; John Downey, Vice Grand Master; S. E. Wilkinson, Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; William Simsrott, Vice Grand Master; John A. Hall, of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors and Trustee John Glenn.

The chances of a strike would seem to be somewhat lessened by the fact that it requires a unanimous vote of the Supreme Council to order a tie-up, and two members of the body are said to be greatly against striking. One of the yardmen said last night, however: "You don't know those people. They will not stand any foolishness. If they are not successful in getting for us what we ask you can depend on it there will be a strike."

Mr. Wilkinson delivered an address at the meeting last night which created considerable enthusiasm among the yardmen present. He discussed the situation from the beginning, and said he was glad the railroad men in Pittsburg had determination enough about them to stand up for their rights.

WARNED TO BE CAREFUL.

"When the Supreme Council comes tomorrow," said he, "I want you to go before them and tell all you know. Tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, as you are true members of the order. There is enough to say without any exaggeration, so I caution you to be careful that you do not misrepresent your grievances. You will be bound to be satisfied with whatever decision the council arrives at, and you will probably have to accept what the companies have offered you. But don't grumble. It is an advance over your former pay of 20 per cent. It would be easy for you to get another advance later. I am sorry that, although the Supreme Council has been in existence a year they have not done much to be proud of.

"I want to say a word to the firemen and engineers.

"Don't think that, because you have nothing to gain in this fight that you should take no interest in it. Stand together as though we were in one organization, for I believe it will not be many years until all of the railway organizations will be consolidated. I look forward with much pleasure to the time when I expect to see all men in the service, members of one grand brotherhood. It will then be a grand and noble organization. It is necessary that we should come together in order to meet the greedy corporations that try to grind us down below living wages. Selfishness is the cause of all our troubles, but stick together men, and victory is ours."

SOME YARDS CROWDED.

There was nothing new in the yards yesterday. Freight was being removed as usual, although most of the yards are somewhat crowded. The non-union men are getting very anxious to have the trouble settled. One of them said yesterday: "Our people are ready to strike any time. We have no organization and no rules to keep us from going out. We have nothing to lose and everything to win. I wish it was settled one way or the other."

Shippers are still anxious about the trouble and are fearful that a strike may occur. It is stated on reliable authority that should a tie-up be ordered the railroads will be caught short, and among the first people to suffer will be the blast furnace owners. In the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys there is very little stock coke, on account of the price being so high, and if the railroads are crippled the furnaces will probably have to shut down. At present the pig iron manufacturers have been running their furnaces with coke received from day to day, and are dependent on the railroad companies to furnish their quota of loaded cars each 24 hours. If the blast furnaces close down, the finished iron manufacturers of this city will be affected, and, in addition to being unable to ship cars, it will be impossible for them to get pig iron. If this turns out to be the case the strike will be a serious matter to this city.

WORK OF THIEVES.

The Police Recover Mr. Reese's Stolen Horse and Buggy.

William Reese, who said he lived in the Twenty-seventh ward, reported to Sergeant Hedrick, at the Fourteenth ward station, yesterday afternoon that he had lost a horse and buggy. When queitioned as to the occurrence Reese was not disposed to be communicative, but under pressure finally stated that he had left the rig standing on Second avenue, near the South Tenth street bridge, while he was calling, and when he came out the horse and buggy were missing.

He gave the Sergeant the location of the place and a description of the missing property. A couple of hours later the animal was recovered in the lower part of the city.

A Row Over a Goat.

David Peeler, who lives on Martin street, East End, made an information before Magistrate Hyndman yesterday, charging Charles Little with aggravated assault and battery. Peeler alleges that Little struck his goat, and because he accused him of it Little pulled a penknife and cut him on the right temple, inflicting an ugly gash. He was arrested, and gave $500 bail for a hearing on Wednesday.

LIFE size crayon $3 50, or 12 cabinets $1 00. Aufrecht's Elite Gallery, 516 Market street, Pittsburg.

WHAT THEY WILL DO.

Work Ahead of the Allegheny Public Library Committee—As to Mr. Carnegie's Representative—Book Matters and Art Works to be Considered.

Charles W. Dahlinger, Esq., Chairman of the Library Committee of Allegheny Councils, was seen at his home in Allegheny last evening and questioned as to the probable business of the initial meeting of the committee this evening. He modestly disclaimed any intention of speaking for the committee, but said that he had of course devoted considerable thought to the matter personally. He thought a resolution ought to be passed requesting Mr. Carnegie to designate his representative on the committee. He was asked if it was not supposed that Mr. John Walker would be Mr. Carnegie's choice and replied that he hoped so, as Mr. Walker was much interested in book matters and art.

Mr. Dahlinger stated that an ordinance should be referred to Councils turning over to the Library Committee the $15,000 appropriated by Councils, and that the committee would undoubtedly set apart a meeting for the election of a librarian and his assistant, beside expressing views upon the best methods of procedure. Further discussing the subject Mr. Dahlinger said:

All the members of the committee, including myself, have profited by the newspaper discussions which have been in progress, and I think we are not unprepared to meet the problems which will arise. The selection of a librarian (a home man preferably) means much for our success. He should be experienced and a German and French scholar, the former because of the large German population in Allegheny, and the fact that many textbooks are in that language. He should be close to the people and know what they want, and we don't want to load the shelves with obsolete works. There is hard work to be done, and we want an energetic man who will make the library his life-work. There might be something in the plan of choosing a sub-committee in conjunction with the librarian to visit public libraries in Boston, New York and Baltimore and the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington. I think that contributions to the library will be valuable and numerous as soon as we are ready to receive them. Scientific and learned civilians should feel free to communicate with the committee and offer suggestions.

The committee has no money to buy pictures for the art gallery, and I doubt if Councils could rightly appropriate money for that purpose. What should be done is to call upon our artists for pictures and help in securing works of art. I know of a $4,000 painting by an artist of international reputation which is to be given to the art gallery. I have no doubt that many of our wealthy citizens will come forward and enrich the art gallery. That there are fine pictures in our two cities is indisputed, and we hope that generosity will serve to give the space tenants of artistic character. In the fall it is hoped to commence lectures in the assembly room on scientific matters, manufactures and lighter subjects, such as the delineation standard novel character. I am certain that the public will have no cause to complain of the manner in which the library will be handled by the new committee.

James S. Young, Esq., President of the Allegheny Board of School Controllers, states in positive terms that the present free library in Allegheny will not be transferred to the new Library Committee. The failure to secure representation on the committee has led to this determination by the board.

IT PLEASED EVERYBODY.

Newspaper Men and Others Speak Words of Praise for The Dispatch.

The manner in which THE DISPATCH, in its 18-column report of the Americus Club banquet, thoroughly exhausted the subject, was extolled on every side yesterday. The immense membership of the club was highly flattered, and the guests and visiting statesmen commented admiringly upon the comprehensive treatment of a national political epoch, which the banquet cannot but be regarded. A few of the comments are given as follows:

First Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson said: "THE DISPATCH has reason to feel proud of its masterly showing in the line of expert journalism. I have never seen a Republican banquet better 'covered,' either in Republican or any other journals. As an editor of some experience, I cannot refrain from praising such enterprise."

Mr. Calvin Wells, proprietor of the Philadelphia *Press*, said: "It was a magnificent treatment of a national event, and does justice to a club that deserves all it receives from the press."

Marshall Cushing, private secretary to Postmaster General Wanamaker, and ex-political editor of the New York *Press* said: "THE DISPATCH reaches us in Washington, and from what I have previously noted of its enterprise, a model report of such an event was to be expected. As a newspaper man would express it, you had a corking issue this morning.

George S. Houghton, Secretary of the Americus Club, said: "We feel especially gratified at the pictorial excellence of the portraits of the officers. You will never be able to use those cuts for stray murderers. The club appreciates the attention it received at the hands of THE DISPATCH."

Frank Willing Leech, Secretary of the National Republican Committee, said: "THE DISPATCH was a fascinating paper this morning, and its report of the banquet was beyond criticism." In which opinion Mr. Peter Hughes, of the Philadelphia *Times*, and Mr. C. E. Brennen, of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, expressed hearty concurrence.

Mr. Will Henry, of the Indian Bureau, formerly of the Kittanning *Republican*, took in the banquet on his way home to enjoy a brief visit. He said that THE DISPATCH grasped the occasion in its usual enterprising fashion.

FIFTY TRANSIENT GUESTS.

Quite a List on the Register at Central Station Yesterday.

When that genial host, Magistrate Gripp, looked over the register of the ever popular caravansary, the Central station, yesterday morning, he found the names of 50 transient guests. Some of them stepped up to the desk and paid their bills, while others said they would board it out. James Carroll, who kept a disorderly place in the Yellow row, got 60 days, and his eight guests paid fines. John Smith, a colored man with a penchant for scrapping, got 30 days, as did John Jones for being disorderly in a Water street saloon.

James Marron, a habitual drunkard; Henry Decker, who was found hiding in a Grant street cellar, and Wash Jones, who blacked Ida Mellon's eyes, each got 30 days. Five girls, captured in the raid on Gertie Lee's place, each got the same sentence. A number of other prisoners paid fines or were discharged.

A HANDSOME 8x10 photograph given away free to-morrow with every dozen of cabinet photographs at Hendricks & Co.'s, 68 Federal street, Allegheny. Don't fail to get one. Good cabinets, $1 a dozen. Full lifesize crayon only $3.

Special for To-Day

For men, 500 electric blue coats and vests, bound with mohair flat braid binding and cut on the popular roll sack pattern, at $12. Tailors charge $28 to $35 for similar garments. P. C. C. C., Cor. Grant and Diamond sts., opp. the Court House.

B. & B.

Every lady reader of The Dispatch requested to come to-day or early this week and ask to see 3½-yard lace curtains $5, 4-yard lace curtains at $6 a pair, pointe brussels effect and extra wide.

BOGGS & BUHL.

LIFE size crayon $3 50, or 12 cabinets $1 00. Aufrecht's Elite Gallery, 516 Market street, Pittsburg.

Wrappers, Tea Gowns and Silk Negligees.

Ladies' suit parlor. *Summer opening, Wednesday and Thursday, April 30 and May 1. PARCEL & JONES, 29 Fifth avenue.

SHIRTS to order at Pfeifer's, 443 Smithfield, 100 Federal st., Allegheny. MWF

CAPTURED A WIDOW.

She Put on Her Best Dress and Diamonds, and Went Away With

A HANDSOME POLICE CAPTAIN.

Her Guests Made a Hasty Exit Over the Garden Wall.

CLEANING OUT THE SPEAK-EASIES.

"You'll go to jail!" Chief Brown has not said this in so many words to the speak-easy proprietors, but the number of raids made by the police yesterday speak in tones which cannot be misunderstood.

Captain Dan Silvis opened the ball yesterday afternoon by raiding the place kept by Mrs. Mary Ingalls, a young and pretty widow, at the corner of Eleventh street and Mulberry alley. Mrs. Ingalls has been patronized by a well-to-do class of business men who do not care to be seen in a saloon, and their correct manners and the widow's caution has heretofore prevented the police from obtaining direct evidence against her. Yesterday, however, the Captain got into the house. The barroom door was locked, and when Mrs. Ingalls was asked to open it she kindly informed her customers that "The police are here." Her patrons at once piled out the back way and climbed over the fence in their hurry to escape, by stalwart Officer Moran was waiting in the alley for them, and made them climb back again. Their names and addresses were taken, and they were allowed to depart.

DRESSED IN HER BEST.

Mrs. Ingalls, after donning her best silk dress and diamonds, was escorted to the Central station, where she awaits a hearing in default of $1,000 bail. Mrs. Ingalls had four half-barrels of beer on ice, and a goodly quantity of whisky. John Cowny, who was acting as cashier, was also arrested.

Officers in citizens' clothes yesterday obtained evidence upon which speak-easy informations will be made against Mrs. Maggie Keefe, who dispensed liquid consolation in the rear of No. 53 Fulton street; Mrs. Annie Dufflein, who has been doing a good liquor business at No. 284 Second avenue (the Yellow row), and Mrs. Moore, of Second avenue, near Try street. Mrs. Keefe's husband is in the workhouse, and Mrs. Dufflein has seven children, the youngest 5 months old, and a husband in Alabama.

Lientenant Loder swooped down upon Thomas Murphy's house on Bates street. A number of men in various stages of intoxication were in the house at the time, and a speak-easy information will probably be made against Mr. Murphy, who is now dating his letters from the Fourteenth ward station.

Police Captain Brophy, of the Second district, is "in it," and early yesterday morning he raided two gambling houses, one kept by George Lester, at the corner of Penn avenue and Main street, and the other by Charles Shade and Robert Davis, at the corner of Fourty-seventh and Plummer streets