

PULSE OF A PEOPLE.

Business of Pawnbrokers a First-Class Indication of the Prosperity of a Community.

THE OLD CLOTHES MAN VERY SAD.

While the Lender of Money on Jewelry and Other Valuables Speaks of Fairly Good Times.

PAWNSHOPS MISSING THE GAMBLERS.

Diamonds Above Par, but the Installation Plan Meets Second-Hand Dealers.

There are two kinds of pawnshops in the city, and taken together they make a pretty good criterion of the general prosperity of the people. Good times or bad times affect these two classes in a diametrically opposite way. These establishments where jewelry is handled principally find their biggest business when there is plenty of money in circulation among the people. The shops which deal most in cash-of-garments are the pawnshops where the business is done during times when the city now is in a state of prosperity, and it has its influence on the two classes of pawnshops.

The pawnshops which make a specialty of negotiating all kinds of jewelry and precious stones are on Smithfield street, while the several clothing shops lie around Wylie and Penn avenues and those immediate vicinities. DISPATCH reporter visited several of both kinds of pawnshops, yesterday, and found the proprietors of one class well satisfied with the general increasing prosperity which helped to fill their money drawers, while the other class they found sitting outside the doors of their establishments waiting for something to turn up which would send them a stray customer during the day.

ALONG SMITHFIELD STREET. The establishments that were first visited were the jewelry stores on Smithfield street. Two nicely-looking sporting characters of times gone by, one of them balancing a big glittering gem in the palm of his hand, were coming out of the De Roy Brothers' establishment, 307 Smithfield street, just as a DISPATCH reporter was going in. Mr. Israel De Roy, senior member of the firm, said that his loans and sales of jewelry were larger than for some time, and that the monthly payment system, which has been in vogue in former years, and that although there was a big advance in the price of the gems. The firm's loans to business men, he said, were larger than they used to be. Very few unredeemed pledges were left on his hands, and the articles were generally taken out before or about the time of the ticket's expiration. Four-fifths of his business was conducted with men. The firm handles principally articles of jewelry and precious stones. Mr. De Roy thought the increase of the jewelry sales must be attributed to a more general prosperity among all classes of people and to an increased population.

FEW PLEDGES UNREDEEMED. At Isaacs' store, 419 Smithfield street, where the same class of trade is done as at the De Roy Bros., it was said that most of the watches brought in there came from the laboring classes. Three young fellows were negotiating for the sale of their business watches, and while the reporter was there, but they went out without making a purchase. At this place, also, very few pledges, it was said, were left uncalled for. "It is not always a sign that an individual is hard up if he makes a loan," said Mr. Isaacs. "I have seen men come in with a pocketful of money and pawn their watches. Some people do it when they are in a tight place, but they get rid of an old watch, so as to buy a better one. We make a good many loans to people who are going away, perhaps for a short vacation, and wish to have their property taken care of. The number of articles that were redeemed was said to be larger than in former years, and that it was owing to increased prosperity.

SMITHFIELD ESTABLISHMENT, 313 Smithfield street, had a large patronage from among the laboring classes. One of the clerks said that one of the reasons for this was the monthly payment system, which has been in vogue in former years, and that the people near the end of the month would pawn some article to tide them over until pay day. But the pawn, he said, were very few.

NEARLY ALWAYS TAKEN OUT. Sometimes the best day and sometimes before the end of the month, the articles of the ticket, but it was very seldom that an article was left there and never called for. A good many of the sales here were made by the laboring classes, also, especially on watches.

At DeRoy's, 630 Smithfield street, a big amount of the jewelry was laid to the system of monthly and bi-monthly payments. Also, the working classes, it was said, did as much business with pawn shops when times were good as they did when times were bad, and sometimes more. The number of articles that were redeemed was said to be larger than in former years, and that it was owing to increased prosperity.

Cohen's shop, 629 Liberty street, did little clothing business, together with a trade in jewelry. For this time of year it was said that business was remarkably slow. The reason of this was said to be the scarcity of money, but a further investigation showed that the cry of poor times among the pawnshops was only among those places where the principal business was in second-hand clothing, and principally in jewelry.

The majority of the pawnshops where second-hand clothing is taken in are on Wylie and Penn avenues. There everything was said to be as usual, and the business was like a ray of light for a customer to cross the threshold.

FEW SALES OF OLD CLOTHES. A young man was haggling over the price of a suit of clothes at Wikowsky's, 24 Wylie avenue, when the reporter entered. He finally walked out with the uniform under his arm, having paid down \$7.00. "That is my first sale to-day," said Mr. Wikowsky, smiling all over his face when he learned the reporter's errand. He said that he had been in the pawnshop for a long time, and that the pawn part of the business was very good. Loads of all kinds of clothing, he said, were left there every day. But it was very difficult to get rid of customers who wanted to buy. Mr. Wikowsky said he was unable to give a plausible reason for this state of affairs. He had pondered over it all last week, and this summer, which were the dull periods since he has been in the business. The people seemed to be just as prosperous, if not more so, than they were in the summer of last year, but they didn't buy so much second-hand clothing, and they didn't want to give the prices for what they did buy. His regular customers, he said, were just as usual as they used to be. He said he could only attribute the falling off in the buying of second-hand clothing to the cheap ready-made clothing establishments, and to the system of paying big installments. People went to the ready-made clothing stores, where they could get new clothes for just the same price, and more than in the pawnshops. Then, again, the working people, he said, found it easier to pay 50 cents or \$1 at a time than to pay down the full amount at once.

BUSINESS ONLY FAIR. "Business is middling," said Mr. Louis

NO WIRES, NO TRADE.

Stockbrokers Lose Millions by the Western Union Blaze.

BUYING A CAR SEAT AT AUCTION.

Investigating Serious Charges Against an Almshouse.

A NEWSBOY WHO WAS POOR BUT HONEST.

THE REASON ADVANCED BY A NORTHEAST PAWNBROKER

For the Pulling Off in His Business—Sports Who Get to Have Jewelry Seized "Time a Day—Women Their Own Deceit."

"I want a watch!" The speaker was a well-dressed lady. The scene was the pawnbroking establishment of S. A. Sampson, on Ohio street, Allegheny. Time, last evening. "What kind?" asked the attendant. "Show us your gold ones."

A tray containing a varied assortment of gold timepieces was shown her. "No, I don't want that kind," said the woman. "Have't you any with a bird on the case, and a ring around it?" "No," replied the clerk, "we have't any of that kind."

THE MONTHLY PAYMENT SYSTEM. "I recollect the time in Pittsburgh when sports would pledge the same watch or ring to several pawnshops, and when they were in the store, we would gladly inform them if the article was handled by us. It is that class who hold the loan offers in bad repute. We would like to see if we are not doing a legitimate business."

USED TO BE DIFFERENT. "I recollect the time in Pittsburgh when sports would pledge the same watch or ring to several pawnshops, and when they were in the store, we would gladly inform them if the article was handled by us. It is that class who hold the loan offers in bad repute. We would like to see if we are not doing a legitimate business."

STUCK BY A STRIKE. INFLUENCE OF LABOR TROUBLES ON A SOUTHWEST SHOP.

The Proprietor Knows Just When a Lock-out Begins—Some Men Who Were Pawn Their Own Wives If They Were Negligent.

Louis Van Ullem, the Southwest pawnbroker, said that business with him was on the boom. He need not have stated that fact, for a half-hour's wait was necessary before the shop was cleared of customers and the genial "uncle" could find time to say "next" to the inquirer. It was noticed that the men coming and going were evidently workmen, and this fact was commented on. In reply, Mr. Van Ullem said he did not need a newspaper to tell him what was going on in the city.

WORKING HAND IN HAND. The Pawnbrokers Render Valuable Assistance to the Police.

The pawnbrokers and the police work hand in hand in the detection of crime. The places are connected with the police headquarters, and it is not many minutes after a suspicious looking man tries to raise some money on a valuable article until a couple of detectives are at his side. When a house is robbed a list of the articles stolen are printed and sent to the pawnbrokers, and when any of them are present as pledges, the police are at once notified.

Two More Regiments to Be Great. The Fourteenth Regiment started to Mt. Gretna Encampment last evening on a special train. Another special bearing the rear guard of the Eighteenth Regiment and the horses of Battery B followed them. The Fifth Regiment joined them at Johnstown.

Not Quite the Word He Wanted. An instance of how people twist words was given by Rev. E. R. Donohoe yesterday. "I was with a friend," he said, "watching people jump street cars. One man

SAVE FOR THE SICK.

Carnegie's Homestead Employees Beneficial Society Settling.

EXPRESSMEN COMING UNDER THE AGIS OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR MOVEMENTS.

HELP YOURSELF AND GOD WILL AID YOU.

PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS.

NOT CLEAR AS TO THE LAW.

INSPECTOR KEIGHTLEY IN THE CITY SEEKING ADVICE CONCERNING HIS LIST OF LEADERS.

A SOUTHWEST TUNING FIRM DISCHARGES EIGHTEEN OF ITS MEN.

BECAUSE THEY JOINED THE UNION.

EXPRESSMEN ORGANIZING.

THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MEN NOW WITHIN THE ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

HAS SIGNED THE SCALE.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MEN WHO OWN OR WORK IN MINE AND MILL.

THE EIGHT-HOUR SYSTEM WILL BE INAUGURATED AT HOMESTEAD-TOMORROW.

AT A WELL-ATTENDED MEETING OF THE IRON MINERS YESTERDAY IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE.

NO. 1 OF THE CARRIE FURNACES IS BEING BLOWN OUT FOR REPAIRING AFTER WORKING SINCE 1886.

IT WAS IN 1882, FURNACE D OF THE EDGAR THOMPSON CO. WAS BLOWN OUT.

THE INTEREST OF THE OAK HILL MINE OF THE NEW YORK AND CLEVELAND GAS CO. COMPANY, AT TURTLE CREEK, ARE STILL ON STRIKE FOR 70 CENTS.

THEY HAVE BEEN OUT FOR THREE MONTHS.

HUNTING FOR A BOY.

THREE PRIVATE DETECTIVES EMPLOYED BY A MEMBER OF THE FERRY.

CHARLES F. DUNN, EMPLOYED BY MORGANSTADT YESTERDAY. HE LIVES AT 361 CEDAR AVENUE, BLOOMFIELD, AND IS A BIG, MUSCULAR BOY. THE POLICE WERE NOTIFIED AND DETECTIVE BENDAL WAS PUT ON THE CASE. HE WENT OUT TO THE BOY'S HOME AND FOUND THREE MEMBERS OF A DETECTIVE AGENCY SCOURING THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE ESCAPED PRISONER.

THEY SEARCHED THE HOUSE AND LOFT, BUT NEVER A TRACE OF THE BOY WAS FOUND.

DETECTIVE BENDAL WALKED IN AND FOUND THE BOY ALONE IN AN OUTHOUSE. THE BOY HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY THE PRIVATE DETECTIVES WALKING ALL OVER HIM WHILE LOOKING FOR HIM, AND WARMLY WELCOMED THE MAN FROM THE REGULAR FORCE. THE BOY IS IN THE CENTRAL STATION, AND WILL BE TAKEN BACK TO MORGANSTADT-TOMORROW.

FIRES IN ALLEGHENY.

SUSPICION POINTS TO SEVERAL PERSONS AS THE ORIGINATORS OF THE CON-FERENCES.

YESTERDAY MORNING A BONFIRE WAS DISCOVERED IN WILLEY'S LAWN YARD, WHERE THE BIG CENTENNIAL FIRE OCCURRED THURSDAY NIGHT. NO ONE WAS AROUND. THE BLAZE WAS SURROUNDED BY PILES OF LUMBER, BUT WAS EXTINGUISHED BEFORE ANY DAMAGE WAS DONE.

SUSPICION POINTS TO A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO CAROUSED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS THE ORIGINATORS OF THE RECENT FIRES AT THAT LOCALITY.

OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THE CON-FERENCES OCCURRED LAID A PETITION TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGAINST THE EXTENSION OF RIVER AVENUE FROM DARRAGH STREET TO SCHOOL STREET, IN THE FIRST WARD, ON THE GROUND THAT THE WORK IS UNNECESSARY.

LEFT IN A GLARE OF RED FIRE.

AMID A BLAZE OF RED FIRE AND GLORY THE LOTUS CLUB, OF THE SOUTHWEST, DEPARTED LAST NIGHT, OVER THE PITTSBURGH AND LAKE ERIC RAIL, FOR THEIR CAMP ON THE BANKS OF LAKE ERIC. THE CLUB WAS 200 STRONG. AS THE CLUB MARCHED DOWN CARSON STREET, HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT, A. G. CAMPBELL, AND A DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AND CHEERS. THE MEMBERS WILL BE IN CAMP ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

SWITCHMEN'S FINEAL ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD A PICNIC AT BOWEN GROVE, ON THE WEST PENN. ROAD, TOMORROW. AN SPECIAL TRAIN WILL LEAVE AT 9 O'CLOCK. TRIP TICKETS 25 CENTS.

AN ALMSHOUSE SCANDAL.

The State Board of Charities After the Greene County Institutions.

A WAYNEBORO PAPER HAS BEEN MAKING SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

WHY THEY WERE CHANGED.

HEW A GRABBY ATTORNEY CAUSED A REVOLUTION IN RAILWAY TICKETS.

WHY THEY WERE CHANGED.

HIS FAITH IN DELAMATER.

AN INDIAN REPUBLICAN SAWS HIS COUNTY IS GOOD FOR 2,000 MAJORITY.

PROTESTANT JOHN A. SCOTT, INDIAN COUNTY'S LEADING REPUBLICAN, HAS BEEN VISITING HIS BROTHER, DR. WILLIAM M. SCOTT, OF THE EAST END.

HE SPEAKS A GOOD WORD FOR DELAMATER IN HIS COUNTY DESPITE THE BITTER FEELING THERE.

HE SAYS HE HAS A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY OF 2,000 IN INDIAN COUNTY.

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THE HON. JOHN WILSON, M. P.

He Formerly Worked at Irwin, but Was Unknown as a Labor Leader.

John Wilson, Treasurer of the Durham, England, Miners' Association, whose election to Parliament was noted by special term in the House of Commons, as he served for a year prior to the advent of the present administration, and failed to be returned at the last general election.

The district for which Mr. Wilson has been returned is the Durham constituency of England. The Tory candidate, Vane Tempest, whom he defeated, is related to Sir Charles Henry Tempest, Baronet, of Easton Hall, Leicestershire, whose influence in the district for which his relative was defeated is said to have been at one time very great.

FIXING UP HIS ACCOUNTS.

The Amalgamated Plaster Committee Closing Its Books—The Situation Unchanged.

The Plaster Committee of the Amalgamated Association met yesterday, at the office to wind up its accounts. The officers would only refer to the rebellion in the American Iron Works by saying that the men were still out. President Weibe is in the East, and it is not known when he will return. A number of the trustees and officials of the Association were about the office during the day, and it is possible that the puddlers' revolt was touched upon, but whatever is proposed to be done is kept severely under wraps.

At the National Rolling Mills and Moorehead & McClean's, affairs were as stated on Friday.

NOT CLEAR AS TO THE LAW.

Inspector Keightley in the City Seeking Advice Concerning His List of Leaders.

Miner Inspector Keightley has been in the city for a day or two. He said that he came to Pittsburgh to ascertain his position with regard to his present responsibility. Under the law he was obliged to assume charge of the entire work at Dunbar, and his provisions were not clear as to where his responsibility began and ended. He said he would have no amendments to the present mining laws to offer.

He doesn't want to bring a suit of any kind, but is not clear against whom it should be brought. He said he had no choice, but proceeded against Superintendent Long whom the coroner's jury found criminally negligent for the accident.

BECAUSE THEY JOINED THE UNION.

A Southwest Tuning Firm Discharges Eighteen of Its Men.

Eighteen tinkers employed by A. Northrop & Co., of Twenty-third and Mary street, were discharged last evening, they say for joining the Tin, Sheet Iron and Cornice Makers' Union.

A deputation from the union, which afforded this information, said that two of the firm's men had concluded to stay, because they had to do through necessity, and that the sole cause of the discharge was because the firm would not recognize their men if they entered the union. The firm could not be reached to confirm the report.

EXPRESSMEN ORGANIZING.

Three-Fourths of the Men Now Within the Order of the Knights of Labor.

Local Assembly 2237, Knights of Labor, composed of the expressmen employed by the principal express companies, held a well-attended meeting on Wednesday night. The organization of the men was reported as moving smoothly.

Of 250 men in the city eligible to membership, about 180 are now members of the order. At the next meeting a large number of new members will be initiated.

THE PAINTERS' ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The National Committee of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators are making preparations for a convention here on August 5. Committees have the work in hand and Local Union 84, of the East End, has arranged for a picnic for the delegates attending the convention.

The Union and all the provinces of Canada will be represented at the convention.

HAS SIGNED THE SCALE.

The United States Iron and Tin Plate Company, of Homestead, has signed the Amalgamated scale.

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