

BACK TO THE BOATS.

Numerous Reasons Why Shippers Prefer Sending Goods South by River Instead of Rail.

THE OLD WAY IS THE FASTEST.

Freight Sure of Getting to Cincinnati by Water in About Three Days, Way Ahead of the Roads.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE WATERWAYS.

Advantages That Would Accrue to Pittsburgh Through the Ship Canal.

Local Government Engineer John Arras calls attention to the growth of river freight traffic at the expense of the railways.

It is not taking into account the river coal trade, but general freight carrying. The latter part of 1888, all of the winter of 1889 and a considerable portion of this summer there has been water in the Ohio sufficient to do all the freighting required between this city and all river towns, including the large cities of Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and New Orleans, and a host of smaller cities far up the Missouri and Mississippi and their tributaries, and what is more—mile for mile—steamboats carry freight more quickly than railways do, unless it be that high-class freight, on which almost express rates are charged.

"For instance," says Mr. Arras, "you want to send freight to Cincinnati. You ship on a packet leaving this port on Monday, and your freight is almost certain to be on hand in Cincinnati on Thursday, if there is a sufficient stage of water. Should you ship by rail, you may get your freight there on Saturday, or later, but that provided it isn't lost, so that a tractor must be sent after it."

SLOWNESS OF FREIGHT TRAINS.

"Ordinary freight trains rarely run over 15 miles an hour, and they are side-tracked a considerable portion of their time, even on double-track roads, so you see that not only will a steamboat reach more river ports sooner than a freight train, but the difference in freight cost is in favor of the water route, to a trade profit for the hauler.

"I think that in the next 25 years the river will see a revolution in freight-carrying. The cost of carriage has become an item so important in the shipping competition of commerce that an immense impetus will be given to the improvement of waterways, and if the railway interest does not secure adequate control of legislation, we will get back, in a considerable measure, to canal digging."

This remark led to the discussion of the proposed ship canal between the Ohio river and Lake Erie. Mr. Arras has no doubt of the feasibility of its construction, nor of its success as a paying venture. In this Mr. Arras agrees with John S. Scullery, of the Diamond National Bank, that it will pay Pittsburgh to build it first and then fight to make the Government pay it afterward. Coal is yet king in this vicinity, even though natural gas has invaded its home territory, and, as Mr. Arras remarks, there are a canal to Lake Erie, the great bulk of Pittsburgh's freight, which keeps its mills in operation, would be carried at a rate that would amount to a good profit on many kinds of manufacture.

VALUE OF THE RIVER.

It may be held by some that Mr. Arras' connection with river improvement may bias him in that direction, but anyone who will take the trouble to tabulate the amount of freight carriage during the last two years of witness and absence of ice will be convinced that the question of cheap freights is as vital as that of natural gas or cheap fuel of any kind. Some years ago the river channel had almost ceased to be considered of moment, except as a vehicle for the carrying away of coal and the sewage of cities, but though many thousands napping and detail headwaters in the mountains have been dammed, the fact is that it has nevertheless been a very considerable factor in the prosperity of the last two years, the most exuberant this city has ever experienced. As a river, it has remarked the other day, regular pocket lines to lower ports seem to have been put on to stay, and although, owing to the almost uninterrupted business of last year, the coast trade seemed to be in the boom, there were moved out by degrees 112,000 bushels, and by means of locks and dams uninterrupted navigation for nine months of the year, prospects would be assured to many thousands who in years of low water live from hand to mouth and are never able to form definite projects on account of the lack of figures to calculate with any tolerable degree of certainty on employment. No matter whether the system of locks and dams or that of storage reservoirs at headwaters in the mountains be adopted, the result would be much the same. The latter would in many respects be the best, but as its advantages have been fully pointed out in other columns by Colonel F. P. Roberts, it is not necessary to enlarge on them now.

ADVANTAGES FOR FRAGILE GOODS.

Many transient shippers along the Monongahela wharf of late must have noticed the increasing volume of merchandise being shipped for transportation. Shippers of more fragile goods, such as glass and earthenware, give the preference to the boats. Captain Henderson said yesterday that glass manufacturers are generally shipping more and more every day. A large shipment of glassware from Jeannette was sent to New Orleans on Monday by the Keystone steamer, and it is thought that the mounting trade growing up from among the glass men. The disposition to ship by river, he added, was daily finding expression in the fact that could always reckon on having goods shipped by river delivered by a certain time. It was not so by rail, where accidents and the rush of traffic might keep goods sidetracked for days at a time. With an open river, there would be more boats, of quicker speed, put on, with the result of getting still more of the railroad business.

A SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S VISIT.

Harisburg People Inspect Pittsburgh and Allegheny Buildings. City Superintendent L. O. Foose, A. E. Steiner, Peter Blumstein and Dr. Charles B. Farnham were a Harisburg School Committee who inspected some of the buildings in Pittsburgh and Allegheny yesterday. They left for Cleveland last evening and will visit other cities before they return. The Harisburg Central Board has decided to erect a new five-story Allegheny building. Superintendent Foose expressed himself as well pleased with all they saw, but he spoke freely of the Allegheny High School in particular. He extolled the school system in use here as the best good word to say for the schools in general.

FOR THE BLIND SCHOOL.

The State Superintendent of Indiana Will Take Charge—His Record as a Blind Instructor and Manager—Directors Still Waiting on Mrs. Schenley.

COL. STONE'S VICTORY COMPLETE.

Shiras Delegates Succeed in Holding a Meeting at a Later Hour.

BUT HE WILL NOT RUN INDEPENDENTLY.

Yesterday's convention in the Twenty-third Congressional district was one of those that leave a bad taste in the people's mouths, for some, like County Commissioner George Y. McKee, say that even a delegate to a political convention has a right to leave the hall if he wishes to and no one has a right to even attempt to prevent him, as people cannot be imprisoned without due process of law. This led Harry Rowley to remark that Mr. Shiras ought to take into consideration, however, that even if he had the popular vote and the other man the delegates, he, Shiras, was no worse off than the Democracy, who had the popular vote of the country, but didn't have the President. Proceedings began about one o'clock, prefaced by a blast from Chief of Police Murphy, announcing that no one but delegates would be allowed in Allegheny Common Council Chamber. He explained what he meant by suing the action to the declaration, and clearing the hall. The crowd overflowed into the yard and onto the pavement, and it was evident even to a casual observer that the feeling was very deep. The discussion mainly related to the Shiras nominees and voters, the Stone following claiming that the delegates were irregular in not having been perfected in time, and that over 20 men's names were used without authority. Shiras' adherents quietly held, but with strong feeling, that their case had been understated rather than overstated.

CLOSED THE DOORS.

At 10:30 o'clock W. D. Porter, Chairman of the County Committee, rapped for order, and the doors were closed. Tax Collector Grier announced Theodore Myler and S. L. Dunlap as Colonel Stone's secretaries. For Shiras, George J. Shaw and James M. McNeill were named, and all were elected. Myler scanning credentials as chairman, Porter called the districts. Grier exhorted Myler to call the roll and to call the names of delegates, and the matter was apparently referred to the committee. Myler and McNeill were not in the prescribed form, but the Chairman ruled them correct. As no one called the roll for the second district, the Chairman designated Joseph Scott as delegate, but the name was not called. The roll was read through somewhat, and A. J. Pentecost, for Stone, nominated for permanent Chairman, A. D. Armstrong and W. K. Shields for Secretaries. Mr. Porter announced that the winner would be Chairman and the losers would be Secretaries. He proceeded until the name of Lawrence, from the First district, was called. The roll then stopped for a moment when Secretary Myler shouted in terms unfit for publication. In an instant the convention was in an uproar which almost drowned the sound of the gavel.

THE TEST VOTE.

The vote was announced—Armstrong, 8,032; Shields, 6,932; Myler, 6,572; Dunlap, 5,022, and Shiras' adherents rejoiced with exceeding great joy while Messrs. Armstrong and Shields were escorted to their rooms. Mr. Armstrong's experience as President of the Allegheny Electric Road, which has been furthered by a brief speech, enjoining harmony, quieted the excitement. Mr. Armstrong, on Colonel Stone's announcement, Mr. Gerwig rose to a point of order that under the rules, the roll must be called and the names of delegates read. Mr. Armstrong stated that one of the contests had been in compliance with the published charges of fraud he read to the convention, but was ruled out. Mr. Stone cheered again distinctly. John Kenna now started a stamped by shouting, "That man tried to buy my vote yesterday."

NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

"Leave the hall!" roared the Shiras delegates, and they started in a body for the door, but Chief of Police Murphy slammed it in their faces, and they found themselves in a room when the bolt clicked in the rear of a squad of blue policemen. Subsequently a stairway was opened, and an ardent Shiras devotee, who looked as though he might have competed with the other men for the honor of being the first to kick the door open.

TURNING PEOPLE AWAY.

The Shiras men made the best of it, and C. W. Gerwig's motion to proceed to business was decided carried, amid great noise and confusion. John Henricks said: "On the 3rd of June I had the honor of nominating William A. Stone for Congress, and I'm doubly proud to do the same name." Kennedy seconded the motion. A. K. Shiras nominated George Shiras, and said: "I hope every delegate in the hall will vote, and vote for George Shiras." The proposition was loudly cheered by the Shiras followers. A motion was made to open the door, but the Chair put an attention. Murphy at length allowed them to get out, and give the voters, they are recorded as voting for Shiras, their names, and the proposition passed without opposition.

Dr. De Lester Says He Was Told His Business Was All Right.

Dr. and Mrs. De Lester, the fortune-tellers, were in the city last evening, and were told by Mayor Gorrie or Chief Brown and was told to go out of the city. When the police wanted him to stop he was told he would be notified.

Lost His Sparkler.

W. F. Pierce, a traveling salesman for a New York jewelry store, lost diamond rings at the Hotel Anderson in a mysterious manner yesterday. Mr. Pierce thinks it was taken from his room.

Can't Get Away, Just Yet.

William Ford, the man who was stabbed by John Thompson Monday evening in an Allegheny saloon, was slightly injured yesterday. Thompson will be held until an information is lodged against him. F. W. Fatig made an inspection yesterday before Alderman McMaisters, charging Thompson with misdemeanor in the possession of a concealed weapon. The Allegheny officials will not give him a pass, however, until the cutting case is disposed of.

STILL WANT SHIRAS.

His Delegates Met Yesterday Afternoon and Offer to Support Him as an Independent Candidate, But He Refused the Honor—A Talk With Him.

STILL WANT SHIRAS.

A DISPATCH reporter called upon Mr. George Shiras last evening, and made an inquiry regarding a meeting of delegates to be held in support of his nomination. Mr. Shiras said: "It is true that such a meeting was held shortly after the adjournment of the convention at which William A. Stone was nominated. The meeting was held at a private law office on Diamond street, Pittsburgh, where I was unexpectedly called by the first subject of a great deal of bitterness was afterwards taken with the delegates present. I discovered that the purpose of the meeting was to enter into a formal protest against the election of Stone on the 19th of the convention, and also to talk over the advisability of nominating an independent candidate against Mr. Stone. On the subject of a great deal of bitterness was afterwards taken with the delegates present. 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