

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1890.

NOT IN GOOD SHAPE.

Boroughs in Allegheny County Having a Hard Time to Make Both Ends Meet.

THE DESIRE FOR A CHANGE

Leads to an Appeal to the Legislature for Revision of the Laws.

SOME OF THE REMEDIES WANTED.

Cases Cited Wherein Townships Now Fare Much Better.

A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST TO MANY

In some respects most Allegheny county boroughs, as far as can be learned, most boroughs in this State, are in some respects in bad shape.

They are like a man doing an ordinarily profitable business on borrowed capital. He is put to straits to make enough above interest to support himself and family.

The autonomy of most every borough is beyond its taxable power. It is not sufficient to procure the results attained by expenditure in cities, and it is forced to expend a dollar to get a return of 25 cents in the way of benefit.

Henry Meyer, Esq., thought it somewhat difficult to balance advantages and disadvantages of city government.

W. W. Shafer, Esq., is strongly in favor of something that will take the place of the existing boroughs, as he says it is generally better by consent of people whose ruling passion is a desire to get possession of as much of the tax levied as possible, and give no return therefor. He is in favor of something like township government, and largely because it would give the courts a veto on any objectionable measures that are difficult to reach under borough government.

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MILES OF DEAD WIRE

That Are Not Removed From Telegraph Poles and House-tops.

GREAT DANGER ARISES FROM THEM

After They Have Outlived Their Usefulness It Costs Too Much to

CUT THEM DOWN AND CART THEM AWAY

Manager T. H. Hughes, of the Postal Telegraph Company, who is an electrician of well-known ability, had a few remarks to make on the subject of overhead and dead wires, during a long conversation, last night.

"Are you aware of the fact that there are thousands of miles of dead wires in this city?" he began. "Well, sir, it is a fact, and, I might add, a lamentable one, at that. Ask all the companies in this city how many wires they are using, add them up, and then make a count of the wires actually strung throughout the town, and you will find that my assertion is correct.

"They are to be found everywhere, and, as a rule, they make all the mischief. Live wires seldom ever do any damage. This is owing to the fact that they are constantly in use, and in consequence, must be watched with care all the time. The dead ones are the mischief-makers. Take the case of that fire in the Dickson block recently, where two persons lost their lives. The hook and ladder companies were unable to get their ladders up owing to the mass of wires about the corner. Now, two-thirds of them are as dead as a door nail. Had they been swept out, the firemen would not have had any trouble at all. The same thing is largely true of every big fire down town."

"How do the wires get left?" "That is very easily done. You know the business of a city like this is constantly changing. Brokers and various trades people string wires here, there, and in every direction. They may use them one month or five years, but one by one they are abandoned, and that settles it. They are never taken down, because it costs more to do that than to put them up, and the old wire is practically worth nothing. In most instances the wire used is of an inferior quality, and much more liable to break than that that is put in its place. The testimony developed the fact that the prospector had been the aggressor, and the row was the result of an old grudge. After hearing some witnesses for the defense, Judge Stowe ordered Mr. Harrison, the prospector, to give bond in the sum of \$500 to keep the peace, sentence meanwhile being suspended on the defendant. Sandy Taylor, a colored man, pleaded guilty to the aggravated assault and battery on John Williams and was sent to the workhouse for 30 days.

James McGord, charged by J. C. Bergman, of the Humane Society, with cruelty to animals, was found not guilty. This is the case wherein the horse was to have appeared in "A Straight Tip" at the Bijou Theater, and was alleged to be too weak to walk.

James Sibleben, a boy, pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny and was sent to the Huntingdon Reformatory. Frank Sibleben, a brother of James Sibleben, was charged with larceny and was sent to the same institution.

W. J. and Harry King, charged with malicious mischief in tearing down a fence, were found not guilty.

John Page entered a plea of guilty to a charge of larceny and was sentenced by Elizabeth Martin. He will be sentenced to the rack.

LEGAL LINES FROM THE COURTS

The suit of James McKay against Jacob Goussinsky and J. W. Barker, an action on a landlord's warrant, is still on trial.

The will of the late Robert Martin, of Allegheny, was filed yesterday for probate.

After giving legacies to relatives, he devises \$500 to the Second U. P. Church, of Allegheny.

The jury is out in the suit of F. Fisher against the Monongahela Connecting Railway Company for damages for injuries received by being run over by a car at Jones & Laughlin's mill on the Scheldt.

In the suits of Winifred and E. P. Doyle against A. A. Heiner, constable, E. W. Wittich, agent, and the heirs of L. Woodson, verdicts were given yesterday for the plaintiffs.

Winifred Doyle received a verdict for \$75 and E. P. Doyle a verdict for \$25. The actions were tried by Judge Stowe.

A REMONSTRANCE against the transfer of a retail liquor license from John H. Schmidt to John Hohman, which was petitioned for, was filed yesterday. The objections are by M. Gallinger, who claims that Schmidt only wants to defraud his creditors and that Hohman is an unfit person to have a license. Schmidt is located at 1120 Penn avenue.

TWENTY-FOUR pages, 192 columns, will be issued by THE DISPATCH to-morrow. It will give all the news.

BUY your kid gloves at Rosenbaum & Co.'s. Largest stock, prices low.

GIVES stimulation to the overworked. Iron City Brewing Co.'s lager. Tel. 1186.

35 CENTS A BARREL.

Mr. Hartwell Knows of Petroleum Being Produced for That.

VIEWS ON THE FIELD AND MARKET.

Considerable Expected From the New Territory to the South.

NO ABSOLUTE SHUTDOWN PROBABLE

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. New York, Dec. 19.—C. H. Hartwell, of Oil City, has been in town some days on business. Hartwell has large coal interests around Brady's Bend, and is also in close touch with the oil producers. He was one of the men from the oil regions who met the Standard people at Long Branch and fixed up the details of the big shutdown movement. I met him on the Consolidated Exchange to-day, and asked him if there would be another shutdown.

"I do not think that there will ever be one like the last one," he said, "for the reason that there will not likely be another emergency such as called that one into being. There may be a shutdown to the extent of restricting the drill, but not to the shutting-in of producing wells."

In regard to the present production, Mr. Hartwell said: "It is upward of 90,000 barrels a day, the largest steady production we have ever had. There was one month—the days of Bradford, when the output of the wells averaged 100,000 barrels a day, but I do not know a time when the production held up so long at such a high figure. It is something unprecedented, and I do not see any end to it. It is that tremendous field to the southwest that is doing the business. It is wide in extent and prolific to an unusual degree, and

THE PRODUCER IS WORKING energetically, as he always does. It is a pity the producer cannot curb his ambition somewhat and husband his resources a little better. He works his gold mine too fast."

"What figure is the Standard cutting in the field since it has bought out large producing interests?" "In the northern fields the Standard, I am told, is doing practically nothing. In the more important fields in the southwest the company is drilling under the pressure which always exists in a prolific field where one man drills because his neighbor does. If he would not drill they would get badly left and somebody else would get the oil from under their high-priced territory."

In reply to a question as to how producers regarded oil in the sixties, Mr. Hartwell said: "They hadn't had it in the sixties yet when we consider the premium of 13 and 15 cents. Bradford is to be sure, gets no premium, but oil is produced cheaply up there.

FRENCH SPY SYSTEM.

One of the Features of the Wickedest Capital in the World.

THE ESPIONAGE OF STRANGERS.

Every Single Action of the Dwellers of Paris Registered.

ALL PORTIONS OF SOCIETY AFFECTED

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH) PARIS, Dec. 6.—The great peculiarity of Paris is this—it is at once the most charming city in the world on the surface and the most corrupt beneath. To prove that one great capital is wickeder than another is of course no easy matter. Anybody who comes to look into the thing for himself will very quickly discover that in every one of the great cities—London, New York, Madrid or Berlin—so much inquiry exists as apparently could not be overstepped elsewhere. A French wit has put this in rather an amusing way. He says: "Each of the great capitals is called 'the wickedest city in the world.' It is."

Perhaps the best way of ascertaining the comparative degree of immorality in the different modern Babylons is by making some study of their respective spy systems. The only reason d'etre of spies is, naturally, to keep a constant watch on the sin and evil of every kind done from day to day, and especially from night to night, in the centers of the world's "civilization." The less there is of the devil's work in any big city, the less there will be for spies and detectives to do there, and consequently the fewer in number and the less active in their movements will these gentry be. Judged by this standard, there is every reason to conclude that to the capital of France belongs the proud distinction of being the wickedest city in the world. For in the matter of its police spies, in every variety and of every degree, Paris stands paramount. Neither London, New York nor Berlin can in this respect compete with it.

The public, even the Parisian public, has little knowledge of the extent and completion of the French spy system. It is a tremendous machine applying itself to things both great and small, like the Napoleon's hammer, which can be made to flatten out an iron bar or delicately crack a nut.

ORIGIN OF THE MOUCHARD. The spy has always played a prominent, though subterranean, role in Paris life. Several centuries ago the Medici brought the institution with them into France from Italy, and it has ever since flourished in Gallic soil. Louis XV. made great use of it. One of his pleasures—and, as everybody knows, he was a gentleman who sought

STILL MAKING MONEY.

"No, that is true. But so far as I can see producers as a class are making money, and not growing gray at it, either, like the men on the floor of this Exchange."

"Oil seems cheap," he said, "but I can see nothing in the immediate future to put it up. Indeed, if the information is correct which I have from the field, it would not surprise me to see oil selling at 50 cents. I don't say it will go there. I hope it won't, but the field is certainly bearish at this time."

Mr. Hartwell had some letters from a well-informed man, who had been through the new territory south of the Ohio. Two of the letters he had just received and had not yet opened. He handed them to me to see what they were. I hope it won't be an exceptionally well informed oil territory, a resident of Oil City, and an operator for 25 years. The letters were based on personal inspection of the field south of Pittsburgh, and I could find nothing in them to encourage the hope of better prices. They told of amazing activity among oil men and men who hoped to become oil men in an endeavor to get hold of territory and drill on that which they already had.

R. W. CHISWELL.

FIGHTING FOR INCORPORATION.

The Struggle Being Made by Many McKee's Rocks Residents.

No bills were returned by the grand jury yesterday, the day being put on a hearing in the matter of the incorporation of McKee's Rocks into a borough. The case is before the grand jury for a presentation. The petition for the incorporation has a large number of signers, as has also the remonstrance against it.

One side claims that it is necessary that the place become a borough in order to have police protection and have a council to enact ordinances to prevent manufacturing concerns from polluting the rights of the citizens. The other side maintains that it will increase taxes, and is an unnecessary measure. A large number of witnesses were examined.

J. ARMORY KNOX writes a humorous letter to THE DISPATCH about his experience in the music halls of London. See to-morrow's 24-page issue. Best paper in the State.

LADIES' long wraps, ulsters, newmarkets, etc., unprecedented bargains; \$20 and \$25 gowns reduced to \$5 during this month.

TSSSA HUGUS & HACKE.

THE PEOPLE'S STORE, FIFTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, LARGEST AND FINEST STORE IN THE CITY IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE. The place to buy your Christmas Presents. Acceptable and appropriate Gifts for Everybody here, Useful and Ornamental. Every Lady and Gentleman, Girl and Boy, is invited to come and see our Christmas Display. The colossal display of goods of every description, all offered at Lowest Cash Prices, will interest you. The best values to be found in any store can be had here, and a greater variety than in any other single store in the city. To help aid you in your choice, we have made out a list of every DESIRABLE PRESENTS. Plenty others in this big store. Call in and look around.

Christmas Presents. LADIES. The following in full dress patterns: Black Silk Dress Patterns, 18 yards, \$13 to \$45. Colored Silk Dress Patterns, 18 yards, \$9 to \$40. Imported High Class (Paris) Novelty Silk Dress Patterns, \$12 to \$90. All-Wool French Cashmeres and Henriettes, all colors, \$4 to \$12. Silk and Wool Cashmeres, \$10 to \$12.50. All-Wool Plaids, \$4 to \$10. Novelty Robes, \$7 to \$10. Cashmeres, Plaids and Stripes, \$2 to \$5. Black Dress Goods in Full Pattern Lengths. All-Wool Cashmere and Henriettes from \$4 to \$15. Silk and Wool Cashmeres from \$10 to \$25. Fancy Weaves from \$5 to \$20. Black Paris Robes from \$10 to \$25. Black and White Plaids and Stripes from \$5 to \$15. Gray and Second Mourning from \$2 to \$12. Full Dress Pattern Lengths of Calicoes, Gingham and Satines, from 70c to \$5. JACKETS AND WRAPS Fur-Trimmed Jackets from \$15 to \$35. Fine Mattelasse Jackets from \$20 to \$35. Astrakhan-Trimmed Jackets from \$8 to \$12. Chevrot, Diagonal and Cloth Jackets from \$5 up. Stockinette Jackets from \$2 to \$12.50. Seal Plush Jackets, \$10 to \$35. Seal Plush Sackies, \$14 to \$45. Seal Plush Newmarkets, \$35 to \$50. Wraps in Cloth and Diagonal, \$8 to \$45. Plush Wraps, \$14 to \$35. Newmarkets in Cloth from \$5 to \$25. Alaska Sealskin Jackets, \$125 to \$225. Fur Capes from \$5 to \$50. Astrakhan Capes, \$3 to \$10. Fur Mitts from \$5 to \$10. Fur Socks from \$3 to \$5. Ladies' Made-up Suits, \$6 to \$25. Ladies' Gossamers and Mackintoshes, \$1 to \$16.

Campbell & Dick. Store open till 9 P. M. on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 20, 22, 23 and 24. Closed All Day Both Christmas and New Year's Day.