UNDER CAR WHEELS.

Fourteen People Have Been Killed on the Traction Roads of Pittsburg Within a Year.

STREET RAILWAY JUGGERNAUT.

Every Death Was Caused by the Car Mounting the Body of Its Victim and Crushing Out Life.

A REMEDY HAS AT LAST BEEN FOUND.

Luther Leber Invents a Life-Saving Pilot for Rapid Transit Coaches.

The inquest on the body of John Kocher, who was killed by a cable car at Fifth avenue and Grant street, Wednesday, will be held this morning.

By this death the awful danger resulting from rapid transit cars in the central part of the city has again been pronouncedly shown. His death makes the fourteenth of the kind during the present year. In every instance the car has mounted the victim, and life has been crushed out by the wheels.

The year's record has clearly proven that the various life-saving devices now used on the cars are not sufficient to throw off any obstruction. This almost wholesale slaughter has caused considerable investigation by Coroner McDowell and others before whom these violent deaths have been prominently presented. Luther H. Leber, of Allegheny, has, however, been the first to solve the problem, and has already secured a patent for a device which promises to prevent any more additions to the list of street railway fatalities of this nature.

Description of a New Device.

This invention is a pilot or fender fastened to the front of the car in a manner very similar to the ones now in use. It differs from the old ones, however, in that it extends from the bed of the car to the track, and reaches back a sufficient distance to cover the wheels. The inside is a mass of springs which work automatically. The pilot is so balanced as to yield when coming in contact with a person or other obstruction. Provision is also made for its yielding upward on an incline, and also lengthwise of the car when a heavier object is struck.

The operation simply is that when a light object is struck the fender or pilot will yield upward, but if a person or other heavy object is struck, the pilot will drop to the rails, and the obstruction will be thrown out clear of the wheels.

The fender has but a slight movement, in an inclined direction, and when it comes in contact with an object, either heavy or light, the fender will rise upward and on an incline upon the frame at one side, only that side which is struck, and at an angle corresponding with the angle to which the rods and springs are disposed, and the movement of the frame to which the fender is attached, being in a horizontal direction and lengthwise, all strain upon the rods carrying the spring is removed and will therefore yield and not strike a solid blow.

The list of deaths from local rapid transit cars for the last year shows that each person was killed, as already stated, by being mounted by the cars, and the following are the fatalities that have been so caused:

A Long List for One Year.

December 27, 1889—John Wagner, aged 55 years, crushed by Pittsburg Traction car 4, at Fifth avenue and Grant street.

March 15, 1890—Neil Laird, 3 years and 8 months, killed by Citizens' Traction car 212, near Nineteenth street and Penn avenue.

March 21—Patrick Madigan, 11 years, skull fractured by car 3, on the Fifth avenue line, near Boston street.

March 29—W. R. McKee, 72 years, struck by Citizens' traction car 125, at Penn avenue and Twenty-first street.

May 3—Charles F. Grasskopf, 11 years, killed by a Pleasant Valley electric car on Erie street, near Federal, Allegheny.

April 13—Margaret Lalley, 60 years, by car 35 of the Pittsburg Traction company, at Fifth avenue and Vine street.

April 25—John Bapiste Leo Geodic, 32 years, killed by Central Traction car 54, at Sixth street and Denny alley.

June 14—William Montgomery, 4 years and 6 months, struck by Pittsburg Traction car 29, at foot of Dinwiddie street.

July 19—Arthur Wilhelm, 4 years and 10 months, crushed by car 201 of the Citizens' Traction line on Penn avenue, near Seventeenth street.

July 18—Harry Schurr, 5 years and 3 months, run over by car 237 of Citizens' Traction line at Seventeenth street.

October 10—Edward Gaeyitski, 8 years, killed at Twenty-fifth street by Citizens' Traction car 208.

November 21—Winfield Scott Smith, 46 years, fell under Central Traction car 37 on Wylie avenue.

December 24—John Kocher, 55 years, both legs crushed by car 48 of Pittsburg Traction line at Fifth avenue and Grant street. Kocher was a watchmaker employed at 50 Fifth avenue and he boarded with Paul Nicolat at 68 Wylie avenue. He was a Frenchman and was 50 years old.

In speaking of the Leber patent, Coroner McDowell said yesterday that he believed it was practicable, and had such a device been used before not one of the above deaths would have occurred. The new pilot is to be tried to-morrow on car 19 of the Pittsburg Traction Company, and if it is successful the Coroner thinks these protectors should be placed on every rapid transit car in the city.

STREET CARS COLLIDE.

A Pleasant Valley Coach Telescopes a Penn Avenue Car—Many Passengers Slightly Injured—One Man Receives Several Gashes in the Face From Broken Glass.

Shortly before 1 o'clock yesterday a Pleasant Valley electric car almost telescoped a Citizens' Traction coach at Penn avenue and Seventh street. Both cars were full of passengers, but, for a wonder, no one was killed, although a number received slight injuries, and a colored man was badly cut.

Where the blame belongs is not known. Car No. 121, of the Pleasant Valley line, was coming up Seventh street at a high rate of speed and struck Citizens' Traction car No. 201 at the Penn avenue crossing. Passengers in both coaches were thrown into a promiscuous heap, and the air was filled with the screams of women and children. Nearly everyone received some slight scratches and bruises. Broken glass flew everywhere and one colored man received several deep gashes on his face. He was hurried out of the car and taken to a doctor's office before his name could be learned. The other passengers were then taken out, more frightened than hurt.

The whole side of the traction car was knocked in, and there was hardly a pane of glass left on the other side. The Pleasant Valley car was finally hauled back, and it was found that the front of the car had been stove in by the force of the collision. The motorman's cabin was a wreck.

A crowd of at least 1,000 people collected almost instantly, and as usual the crowd retarded the work of clearing up the wreck. Travel was delayed on both lines for about an hour, and almost every car on the Citizens' Traction line was piled up in one long procession, extending up from Seventh street. While the men worked on the wreck the crowd swore, for most of them were people anxious to reach home and a Christmas dinner.

STRUCK BY A CABLE CAR.

A Police Patrol Wagon Disabled and one Officer Painfully Injured.

No. 2 Patrol wagon of the Eleventh ward station was struck by a cable car on the Fifth avenue line last evening and wrecked. About 7:30 o'clock the wagon was on its way to Gist street in response to a call. As it was turning off Dinwiddie street onto Fifth avenue it collided with car No. 3 coming to town. The wagon was shattered and its occupants thrown out. Patrolman Madison was badly bruised and had to be relieved from duty. The driver and the horses escaped injury, the car having struck the rear of the wagon. The car was not damaged much.

Captain Silvus investigated the case and said that the gripman of the car, as far as he could learn, was responsible for the accident, having made no effort to check the car.

CHRISTMAS IN A SHROUD.

A Rather Green Day Closed by the Fall of Several Inches of Snow—Quiet at the Hotels—Scenes at the Depots—A Pathetic Incident.

"What a quiet day it has been!" exclaimed a guest as he arose and stretched himself, and then, lighting a fresh cigar, resumed his paper.

This was at the Seventh Avenue Hotel. So it was elsewhere; in the Anderson, Schlosser, Monongahela and Duquesne, where the tide of travel is mostly felt. Everybody agreed that the day was the quietest and most uneventful experienced in many years. The lobbies of the hotels were deserted by all but a few chance travelers, who either had no particular home to spend Christmas at or else were too far from it to reach it in time. As usual, there were many private parties at the various hotels, given mostly by those whose domestic accommodations were not on a par with their hospitality. Most of the Schlosser's private rooms were so occupied.

Just as the shades of evening fell, a fleecy mantle of snow descended upon the city, and enveloped everything in a soft and silent grasp. Merry maidens going or returning from a Christmas party unprepared for the sudden fall of snow, obtained a complexion of healthy hue such as no cosmetic yet manufactured could produce, and the clinging snowflakes resting on improvised head covering only made prettier frames, by contrast, for the pink cheeks and laughing eyes within.

And as the night came on apace, the Christmas of 1890 was fittingly laid away to rest in a pure white shroud.

The street cars on the Pittsburg and Birmingham line were more or less delayed last night on account of the snow. The horses were unable to pull the cars up the hill from South First street to South Fifth street on account of slipping.

The various lines running out of the city carried the usual contingents of the unrest who, unthinking of holiday or festival, pursued the routine of business life. Observant officials were of the opinion that there were more travelers afloat than usual on Christmas Day. The Pennsy trains carried full quotas, and the Baltimore and Ohio and Lake Erie were busy, as usual.

At 9:30 o'clock last night a merry throng of young people, intersprinkled here and there by more sober, middle-aged people, passed through the barriers at the Union depot to board an accommodation train. Jests and joyous laughter were rife; the day had been one of festivity and rejoicing, and the out-of-city residents who had been spending the holiday with their city friends were returning home with hearts that were gay and spirits that indicated a close hold on life and an appreciation of how good it was to live. And then, after a moment, voices were hushed, as two men bearing something on a stretcher made a lane through the crowd and passed along to the baggage room with their burden. It was the stiff form of a man who had been cut down by a passing train near Braddock and brought to town for conveyance to the morgue. No clew could be obtained as to his name. He was a young man of dark complexion, with a slight black mustache, about five feet eight inches in height and weighing probably 160 pounds.

LIGHTING OF RAILWAYS.

Discussion of a Proposition to Illuminate Dangerous Crossings—Some of the Advantages Thought Possible — Quite a Number of Doubting Thomases.

It is reported that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will try the experiment of lighting seven miles of its tracks at a locality where accidents have been frequent at grade crossings, and that should the experiment result favorably, in lessening the number of accidents, a considerable part, or considerable parts, of the roads will be thus lighted.

Train Dispatcher Pitcairn said yesterday he had not heard anything of the proposition, and did not believe there was much in it, but he said similar matters were often discussed, and some important localities were lighted by electricity, just as the Union station yard is, but not for the purpose named, but for convenience in the transaction of business. He did not think the lighting would tend to the lessening of accidents.

Train Dispatcher J. B. Yohe, of the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Railway, was asked what he thought of the proposition. He objected to discussion, and at first moved the previous question, but finally remarked that he could not see how any improvement could be made on the present signal system, anything that would save life.

Captain Irvin, station master of the same line, said that a flag system might be devised that would lessen the dangers at grade crossings, but he didn't think the lighting of them made any special difference, as people were killed as often in the full blaze of sunlight as in the dark on such crossings.

W. D. Vincent, Division Chief Operator of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, remarked that he could see no life saving object to be accomplished, and asked if it was not notorious that more people were killed on crossings in daylight than at night.

A railroader present suggested that electric lighting would be a good thing in a fog, but was otherwise of no consequence except to make working more comfortable.

It seems more than likely that the subject has been discussed, as there would be manifest advantages in such a move, providing the cost were not too great. A man who believes the matter is contemplated states that the mortality at night is certainly greater than in daylight at crossings, considering the relative number of people abroad night and day. There is one thing in favor, viz.: That after the lines were run enough of the immense motive power employed on railways could be spared to produce the electricity, and the subsequent cost of lighting up a vast scope of territory would be small.

GOOD FUEL GOING TO WASTE.

A Natural Gas Well That is Doing Naught for Anyone.

The immense gas well on the Wilson farm, back of Coraopolis, is still blowing off its wealth into the air—at least, the greater part of it, some little being used by the drillers and at the pumping wells in the vicinity. The roar can still be heard four miles, and while thousands are shivering over a scant supply, here is fuel enough wasting to supply a small city.

It is said the Fort Pitt Glass Company has offered $12,000 for the well, and though it is admitted that the owner has some rights in the premises, there are many people who doubt the righteousness of the waste.

Mrs. Nelson's Poor Support.

William Nelson was committed to jail for a trial at court yesterday morning by Magistrate Hyndman on a charge of desertion preferred by his wife, Margaret, who testified at the hearing that her husband refused to give her any money. She also said that about three months ago he left their home at Oakland with another woman and located in Chicago. He returned last Monday, when Officer Kenny arrested him.

A Pointer.

Go to Gallinger's jewelry store, 1200 Penn avenue, and see his stock before purchasing your holiday gifts elsewhere.

Remember the address, 1200 Penn avenue. Finest line of music-boxes in the city.

ALDRICH A FREE MAN.

He Has an Affecting Meeting With His Devoted Wife, at Riverside.

MANY PROOFS OF HIS INNOCENCE.

Among Other Evidences Are Some From the Chicago Pinkerton Agency.

HE WILL START IN BUSINESS AGAIN

Christmas, with all its glad tidings of peace and love, probably never witnessed a more joyous meeting than that between Frank B. Aldrich and his wife at Riverside Penitentiary yesterday.

THE DISPATCH of yesterday morning contained a story of the pardon of Aldrich, who was sent to Riverside last November for eight years, on the charge of having "bunkoed" old man Lemon out of $10,000. It also stated how Mrs. Aldrich, thoroughly convinced of the innocence of her husband, had worked night and day for his release, and at last found her efforts crowned with success.

It is seldom that newspapers have an opportunity of chronicling the events connected with a devotion of the kind displayed by Mrs. Aldrich, and unless all evidences fail, she was working in the interests of an innocent man. Early yesterday morning she received the following letter from Lieutenant Governor Davies:

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SYMPATHY.

TOWANDA, Dec. 24, 1890.

DEAR MRS. ALDRICH—I find the rules of the Executive Department require them to send the pardon direct to the warden of the prison. It will go to-day and your husband will be released to-morrow. Hoping you will hereafter enjoy a happy life as you richly deserve for your faithfulness to your husband, I remain, yours truly,

W. T. DAVIES.

Assured by the statements of this letter, Mrs. Aldrich started for Riverside yesterday morning bright and early. She was about half way up the long stone steps leading to the warden's office when she noticed a gentleman coming toward her, with head bowed down. At first she did not recognize him, but a moment later he raised his head, and then followed a meeting that would make all efforts at description unavailing.

The woman who for two years had devoted every energy to the vindication of her husband rushed to his embrace in a manner that only novelists could properly portray, and unseen by mortals, they renewed the faith and affection that had been so rudely broken off by the decree of the local courts. After the first meeting they at once returned to the city and took up quarters at a private boarding house.

THE HAPPY REUNITED COUPLE.

A DISPATCH reporter called on the reunited couple last night, and added something to the good cheer, as the expression goes, of the occasion, by listening to the statements of Mr. Aldrich and his wife. Mr. Aldrich is a man probably 45 years of age, of medium height, with a full dark beard. He is lacking somewhat in hair, but still has enough to make a very respectable bluff. He is a thorough gentleman in manner, and shows at once by his conversation that he has had quite an experience with men and events of the world.

On the broad and comprehensive ground that it is indelicate to even guess at the age of a lady, this point in the remarks about Mrs. Aldrich will be omitted. It may be stated, however, that she is still young and good-looking, but above all is sincere and devoted to the man whom she rescued from a prison cell.

It would require more space than could be devoted to a newspaper item to publish all the evidence which Mrs. Aldrich has brought together in establishing the innocence of her husband. For nearly two years she has been tireless in her efforts to show that a great injustice had been done in the conviction of Aldrich and she has built up a defense that is almost invincible. The pardon was only secured after Senators Ingalls and Quay, Warden Wright, of the Penitentiary; Chief of Police Murphy, of Allegheny; Detective Roger O'Mara, the Pinkertons and many more reliable people had interested themselves enough in the case to thoroughly investigate it.

MISTAKEN FOR A BUNKOIST.

The facts as they appear in the case, go to show that Aldrich was mistaken for a famous bunko man named Ludlow. There is quite a strong resemblance between the men, and the arrest was made by an alleged detective of Chicago, named Matt Pinkerton, who has since been turned up as a professional blackmailer by the papers of that city. He claimed to be a relative of the late Allen Pinkerton, and in company with a man named Quinn was after $1,200 reward offered by Mr. Lemon for the arrest of the party who trimmed him for $10,000.

Aldrich and his wife make no attempt to conceal any of the facts connected with the case, and he only wishes that the evidence which went before the Pardon Board could be published in full. During the two years Mrs. Aldrich was in communication with all of the leading detectives of the country, and here is one of the letters which she received from W. A. Pinkerton, of Chicago, while trying to bring the guilty parties to justice:

PINKERTON IN THE WORK.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8, 1889.

Mrs. Mertie C. Aldrich, Box 290, Windsor, Ont.:

MADAME—Your letter of the 5th at hand and contents noted. I had already heard from your friend at Windsor who first wrote me in your behalf, the result of the case of your husband's. Just previous to that one of the detectives at Allegheny wrote me concerning the man who caused your husband's arrest and wanted to know what I knew in regard to him. I took the liberty on that occasion to write fully just what I knew in regard to that man and told them that I was positive that Aldrich had nothing whatever to do with the thing which was done in Allegheny, and that he was arrested for a squeeze and attempt to blackmail; that if Aldrich was extradited he would probably fight his case and gain his liberty, and that they could not take him to any other point in the United States, but would have to return him to Canada.

I am glad that Aldrich has taken the stand he has in this matter, as I do not approve of any one being swindled or black-mailed. I do not think you can find any one who can say they ever heard of me being mixed up in a thing of this kind. The people who got this money in Allegheny I have been making inquiries about and am reliably informed that they have gone to Europe and are there now. Aldrich probably knows who they are, as the boys around the street corners in New York know who done the trick.

AN OLD STORY TOLD AGAIN.

I told the officers at Allegheny that this was the work of ——, who claims to be a reformed thief, now a detective in the employ of ——. There are a number of people here who know of his proceedings there, and his life will not be a very pleasant one. It is the old story repeated over again, "Birds of a feather flock together. He is as good as ——, and —— is as good as ——, and I club myself to-day when I think that it was partly through me that he was pardoned from the penitentiary in Indiana; this was done without my ever seeing the man, but because I knew he was innocent of the charge. Poor old blind Charley, they have been roasting him on account of this thing; these people have been writing all over the country to see if they cannot find some place to send him to; this is probably on account of his interference in your husband's case. They cannot get blood money out of him, for the old fellow is poorer than the poorest.

I will be pleased to see you and consult with you when you come to the city. I understand when at Aldrich's home, in Kansas, this fellow represented himself as being an employe of mine. I wish you would get all the facts concerning this when you go to Kansas; the Postmaster can probably give you the particulars.

Yours truly, W. A. P.

GONE ABROAD WITH THE SPOILS.

In another letter, dated February 26, 1889, W. A. Pinkerton says, among other things:

The people who got this money are either in Paris or Nice or at some point where public gambling is carried on in Europe; they sailed on the steamer Larne three or four weeks ago. I do not think they have acted right toward your husband, and told a friend of theirs some time ago that trouble might result from the thing, as it was pretty hard for a man who was innocent to bear the burden of people who were guilty. I should like to see justice done in this case and the guilty suffer and the innocent turned loose, but the matter has come to me at such a late day that I do not think I could be of much use to you. I always tell a client plainly what I think of his case, and in this case I do not see where I can be of any more benefit to you than to spend your money uselessly, at least until such time as these people come back to this country, when I shall not object to take hold of the matter.

AN ALIBI AT THE TRIAL.

During the trial of Aldrich the testimony of 35 witnesses was submitted to the court showing that the prisoner was a reputable citizen of Stafford, Kan., and that he was in the town on the day the bunko game was worked on Mr. Lemon, September 25, 1889. In fact, he took part in a political demonstration on that day.

The mass of evidence which Mrs. Aldrich has secured in defense of her husband would fill a volume, and, according to it, his innocence seems certain.

When asked last night what he proposed to do, Aldrich said: "I will likely stay here a week or more and then return to Stafford. Friends of mine there have offered me money to start in business again, and I think I will accept their kindness. Before leaving Mrs. Aldrich and myself will visit the penitentiary and inspect the same. Warden Wright has shown himself to be a thoroughly capable and upright man, and I shall never forget him."

STABBED BY AN ITALIAN.

Patrick McGann Probably Fatally Wounded—Result of a Dispute Over Fifty Cents—Detective Shore's Difficult Search for the Assailant—He is Positively Identified.

Patrick McGann is spending the holidays in the Homeopathic Hospital with a cut in the groin which may prove fatal.

Yesterday afternoon McGann was in No. 24 Old avenue, which is kept by Mary Sheets, now in jail awaiting a hearing on a charge of assault and battery. During her absence Minnie Palmer has been running the house. While McGann was in the place Alice Daniels and Emma Day dropped in, and were followed a little later by two Italians, one named Cardi Fertino.

Fertino and Mrs. Daniels got into a dispute over a half dollar. McGann, as a friend of the mistress, ordered Fertino out of the house, holding the door open for him to pass. Fertino for a moment hesitated whether to pass McGann or not. Suddenly the Italian drew a large two-bladed knife from his pocket and, opening it with his teeth, started for the door on a run. As he dashed past McGann he made a slash with the knife, striking McGann in the left groin.

Fertino ran up Old avenue toward Ross street, followed by a crowd of men and boys with sticks and stones in their hands. The crowd gained on Fertino, and as he reached the corner of Ross street, opposite the jail, he stopped and drew a revolver and fired. The ball passed through the crowd of men, striking the corner of the jail, about four feet from the ground. Fertino took to his heels as soon as he fired, running down Ross street, but before he had gone far he turned and fired two more shots at his pursuers, which missed their mark. Fertino ran down Fourth avenue to Grant street and thence to Splane's court, in rear of No. 8 Grant street, where he entered a house.

Detective Shore heard of the affair a few moments after it occurred and started after the Italian, but as he could find no one who knew him it was a dificult matter to locate the fellow. The detective, assisted by several officers, searched every house in Splane's court, in which nearly 500 Italians live, and finally Shore found Fertino lying in bed with his coat and shoes off, but his hat was lying on the pillow. His scared appearance was the best evidence the detective had that Fertino was the man wanted, and he placed him under arrest. Another man named Carmini Furantine, was pointed out as the man wanted, and he was taken in also. Both men asserted their innocence, but the three women at No. 24 Old avenue positively identified Fertino.

Late last night the hospital physicians stated that McGann's condition was very serious, but his recovery was not impossible. McGann has a bad record in police circles. He is only a short time out of the workhouse, where he served a year, six months of which was the result of an attempted escape from that institution.

ROBBING HIS OWN STORE.

Strange Predicament of a Dry Goods Merchant and Two Detectives.

Detectives Ted Johnson and Fred Zimmerman were coming down Federal street last night when they found the door of Thornton Bros.' store open. Thinking the store was being robbed, they started to make a search and heard a noise upstairs. Drawing their revolvers they proceeded to investigate. On reaching the second floor a man was observed at the front window with the window out and a revolver in his hand. The officers presented their revolvers and ordered the man to throw up his hands, an order that was promptly obeyed.

The officers then discovered that the supposed burglar was one of the proprietors of the store, who had gone into the store to see that everything was right and forgot to lock the door. The funny part of the affair was that while the two detectives thought Mr. Thornton was a burglar, that gentleman thought the officers were burglars and was preparing to make his escape through the window.

A MAN WHO LOVES WORK.

He Digs on a Hillside All Night Looking for Gold.

Edward Rayn, of Four Mile Run, Twenty-second ward, was locked up in the Fourteenth ward station yesterday, by Officer Crehan. He is slightly demented and at times becomes violent. One of his peculiarities, his wife alleges, is that he will take a pick and shovel about dark, every evening, and slip up on the hillside, near the house, and dig and shovel all night.

As soon as daylight comes he will return to the house with a paper of dirt, which he claims is gold dust. He will be sent to the insane department at the City Farm.

TWO RAIDS AT HOMEWOOD.

Thirty-Five Prisoners Behind the Bars at the Nineteenth Ward Station.

At 11 o'clock last night the Nineteenth ward police station had 35 prisoners behind the bars. Two raids were made by Lieutenants Cramer and Snyder and a posse of officers at Homewood last night. The first disorderly house visited was that of Samuel Burns, on Tigo street, where eleven men besides the proprietor were arrested. The other was the house of Anthony Raigo, an Italian, on Fairfax street, where six men and one woman were captured.

The balance of the prisoners arrested were common disorderlies and drunks.

THE UNKNOWN NOW KNOWN.

Two Bodies Identified by Friends at the Morgue Yesterday.

The body of the man killed by a Panhandle freight train at Noblestown Wednesday night, was identified at the morgue as that of Benson B. Smith, aged 21, a coal miner who has been in this country but a short time, and who has been boarding at McDonald Station. The young man had no relatives in this country.

The man struck by a Pennsylvania Railroad train at Wilmerding on Wednesday night was identified yesterday as Samuel Ganison, aged 42, a Westinghouse employe who resided at Wilmerding.

CROUP, whooping cough and bronchitis immediately relieved by Shiloh's Cure. Sold by Jos. Fleming & Son, 412 Market st.

COSTLY WAREHOUSE.

Big Improvements Being Made on the Iron City Brewing Plant.

RANKS THIRD IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Secretary Watchorn Surprises the Miners by Resigning.

LOCAL VIEWS ON STORAGE WARRANTS

Improvements to cost $180,000 are to be made on the Iron City Brewing Company's establishment.

Contracts have been placed for the erection of a storehouse, to be built adjoining the present plant on Liberty avenue and Thirty-fourth street. The foundation has already been commenced, and it is proposed to push the work so that the building will be ready for use by July 1, 1891.

The building will be 125 feet long and 80 feet wide; four stories high, and will have a capacity for 30,000 barrels. In connection with that an ice machine with a capacity of 75 tons per day will be put in the building. The whole improvement will bring the establishment into third place in point of size and capacity in the State, and will enable the firm to handle their large and rapidly increasing trade more promptly and with greater satisfaction.

The new addition to the plant will be constructed of iron and brick. Otto C. Wolfe, of Philadelphia designed the building, while William Hiller has the general contract for its erection. The steam beams to be used are now being made at Carnegie, Phipps & Co.'s Homestead works; John A. Hoffman has the contract for the stone work and Steel & Hall furnish the brick. It will require 50,000,000 of the latter to fill the contract.

WINTER WORK TO GO ON.

A novel apparatus is to be used to prevent any stoppage in the work during the winter months. As soon as the stone work is completed, it will be covered with a large canvas, which has already been secured. This will be raised high to permit the building of the first story. Then the curtain will be raised again so that the work on the second may be completed, and so on until the top is reached, the sides being temporarily closed in with boards. This is a plan frequently pursued with large buildings in the East, and the work can be pushed with almost as great rapidity as in the summer time.

During the past few days it was reported that a new concern was about to purchase the Iron City Brewing Company's plant. On Saturday, January 10, five well-known business men will apply for a charter for an intended corporation, to be known as the Pittsburg Brewing Company.

The stockholders are William H. DeWald, agent for Darlington & Co.; Howard M. Bowman, a traveling agent; Thomas B. Booth, the real estate agent; J. P. Fleeger, a bookkeeper, and Frank Joyce. It is understood that negotiations have been in progress for several days looking toward the purchase of a plant, as the new concern is anxious to begin operations without the delays incident to the erection of a new plant.

When spoken to in regard to the matter, Mr. DeWald refused to give any details as to the intentions of his company. "It is too soon for us to talk. Our plans have not taken any definite shape, and we cannot say anything for the present. I will say, however, that we do not want to build a plant if we can buy one."

NOT IN THE MARKET.

August A. Frauenheim, of the Iron City Brewing Company, was seen at his office, at Thirty-fourth street. He said: "I know of no proposition having been made for our plant, and I know further that it is not for sale. The only proposition that was ever made for the purchase of our brewery was made by the English syndicate, and it was rejected. Our company was incorporated about a year ago, with a capital of $1,200,000, and I do not think it would be an easy matter to buy us out.

"In the first place we could have no object in selling out. The investment is a good one. We have a capacity of 150,000 barrels per year, and are running up to the limit all the time. Our business this year will be fully 40,000 barrels in excess of what it was the previous year, and with about the same number of saloons next year, we will have fully as great an increase."

Mr. Frauenheim said further that as soon as the new building now contemplated has been finished, the present storehouses will be remodeled and renovated. He thinks the Brooks law is all right, and believes more licenses will be granted next year than were given out last May.

ROBERT WATCHORN RESIGNS.

Secretary of the United Miners Compelled by Ill Health to Retire.

Secretary Robert Watchorn, of the United Mine Workers of America, has surprised the membership of his organization by resigning his position. In a lengthy letter to President Rae, which the latter received on Wednesday, Mr. Watchorn states as a reason for resigning that his health will not permit him to fill the position longer, and he desires to be relieved. Continuing, Mr. Watchorn says:

In severing my official connection with our craft's organization I am naturally pained, and not less so in officially leaving you. You were unexpectedly called to the helm in the crisis of a struggle which threatened to terminate only in the complete overthrow of the very citadel of every safeguard connected with the union. Your advent into official life was unostentatious and manly. Your every act, so far as I know, has been firm and equitable, and I need scarcely say that I have found my co-operations with you most congenial, happy, and in no small degree successful. The rivalry of past years has been rooted out, and to-day we stand as a trades union, stronger and greater in every sense of the word than at any time in the history of the craft's organized movement. With the gathering of this strength, and its careful husbanding, many evils of which we as miners complained have disappeared, and that which we at one time considered a boon or a privilege we now properly regard as ours by right, and the "fields are already white unto harvest" for further gains and greater achievements.

President Rae wrote yesterday to Secretary Watchorn, asking him not to insist upon giving up the office now. The annual convention will be held on the second Tuesday in February, and a special election could not be held to fill the vacancy, and if Watchorn should be relieved now the office would fall on the President. The latter desires him to hold the Secretaryship until the term expires and then if his health compels him to give up the work he can do so.

Mr. Watchorn desired to be released from official duty not later than January, and it is not known what his answer to President Rae's letter will be. His retirement will be a matter of regret, not only to the other officers with whom he has worked for the past two years, but to the entire order. He was a faithful officer and made many friends among the large number with whom he was brought into contact. Patrick McBride, of Pennsylvania, or H. F. Warren, of Ohio, are likely to be candidates for the position now made vacant by his resignation.

PRICES MAY GO UP.

Something for the American Window Glass Company to Do Next Week.

It is now thought the price of window glass will be raised at the meeting of the American Company, to be held in Chicago next Monday.

The increased price of chemicals and of fuel here have naturally caused an increased cost of production. At the last meeting the matter was left in the hands of the Executive Committee, and it is understood this committee will recommend to the stockholders that prices be raised to correspond.

A MAJORITY AGAINST IT.

Local Manufacturers Do Not Like the Storage Warrant System.

There has been considerable discussion lately over the proposed introduction of the pig iron storage warrant system into this country. A Cleveland trade paper undertook to collect the views of the leading manufacturers of the country, and the current issue contains the result. The following are the opinions expressed by the local manufacturers:

Charlotte Furnace Co., Limited—It will not benefit the iron trade, because it is not generally entered into by large firms, and does not directly furnish capital to assist small furnaces to carry on operations.

McCormick & Co., Harrisburg—It tends to secure stability in market prices. The system should enable producers (in case of sudden decrease in consumption) to sustain prices by storage of iron, and keeping out of a glutted market until prepared to take it.

A. M. Byers, of A. M. Byers & Co.—Cannot see any benefit to come out of it. The warrant system in my opinion is unnecessary to the legitimate business of manufacturing and selling pig iron.

John C. Porter, Secretary Spang Steel and Iron Company, Limited—In my judgment, I do not believe that it would be to the interest of either the maker or consumer of pig iron.

Columbia Iron and Steel Company, E. M. Butz, Manager—The business is not legitimate, and affords irresponsible parties opportunities to buy and sell that which they don't own, and the whole fabric of such system assuredly favors commercial demoralization.

GOING AFTER MORE GAS.

The Exposition Well to be Shot With Thirty Quarts of Nitro-Glycerine—A Dangerous Load to Carry—Natural Gas on the Bluff.

The Exposition gas well is to be shot at noon to-day with 30 quarts of nitro-glycerine. This, it is hoped, will increase the pressure of gas.

An application was made to Mayor Gourley yesterday for a permit to convey the dangerous explosive through the city. He referred the applicants to Chief Brown, but they failed to find the latter. The Chief, in talking about the matter, said he would have to look up the law, but thought that permission would be given to transport the stuff through the city at night.

The men who will shoot the well would have transported the nitro-glycerine to the Exposition wharf by water, but the river is so full of floating ice that a collision would be inevitable, and would probably result unpleasantly.

Rea & Co. are discussing the advisability of boring their artesian well deeper, in order to get a supply of natural gas for their pork packing establishment at Second avenue and Try street. Many people will recollect that well on toward a quarter of a century ago Anderson & Co. bored a well for some purpose, some people say in hope of getting oil, on the bluff above Second avenue. They did not get oil, but they did get a nice little flow of gas. It seems, however, it never entered into their minds to utilize it for fuel. Though considerably obstructed, the flow continued for many years and burned most of the time. During the years when the tramp fraternity abounded exceedingly the guild made it a loafing place, keeping themselves warm during the winter by the flame. Finally it became so much of a nuisance that during Mayor Lyons' administration the well was plugged and the flow stopped.

It is now suggested that it would pay the owner of the property to have the well cleaned out and bored deeper, as in the light of late experience the gas might be made the source of large revenue.

THIRTY DAYS ALL AROUND.

Sort of a Similarity About Judge Gripp's Sentences Yesterday.

Magistrate Gripp had 28 cases before him at Central station yesterday morning, 20 of which were Christmas drunks. Seven persons were given workhouse sentences. Thomas McGarvey had been very drunk and disorderly on Smithfield street and broke a large plate glass window in the Hotel Duquesne. He got 30 days. James Reryard, also drunk and disorderly, pulled a revolver and attempted to shoot Officer James O'Hara when the latter arrested him, and he got 30 days. John Coleman, of Altoona, who was arrested Wednesday night by Detective Coulson while trying to sneak into a Liberty street dwelling, got 30 days also. T. Baden, David Deluth and Herbert Juley each got 30 days for acting very disorderly and raising a fight with some women.

John McCarthy had gone to the house of his brother-in-law, M. Flaherty, early yesterday morning, and being drunk was ejected. He forced his way back into the house and beat Flaherty over the head with a poker, beside terrorizing the other inmates of the house. He was sent up for 30 days.

THE BOATMEN'S HOLIDAYS.

A Rise Always Precedes Christmas or Thanksgiving, and Boats Go Out.

There is a fate in holidays, say the river pilots, and one avers that he has not spent Christmas at home for years. While little was going on the river front yesterday those who were on the wharf got up a talk about how the pilots and boatmen spend their Christmas. As was the case this year the rise in the river usually comes just before the holidays and thus compels all the rivermen to get to work. Of course their duties take them away from home and their Chrismas or Thanksgiving turkey is slaughtered on board the boat.

There is one pilot who says there is one joy in his adversities, and he's the man who stood at the wheel of the W. W. O'Neill. The other day he had his leg broken by the wheel slipping, but that allows him to spend his Christmas at home, and he thinks he has the best of his friends with sound limbs, and who are compelled to stand by their boats.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH TO BE HEARD.

The Mozart Club to Give It at Old City Hall Next Week.

Handel's "Messiah" will be rendered by the Mozart Club at Old City Hall Tuesday evening. The soloists will be Mrs. Ginevra Johnstone-Bishop, of Chicago, soprano; Miss Margaret Fraser, contralto; H. B. Brockett, tenor, and John A. Strouss, bass. Mrs. Bishop is recognized throughout the country as one of the best oratorio artists, and her coming will be hailed with delight by the numerous friends she made by her one or two appearances in our city.

The lovers of this great work will doubtless avail themselves of the opportunity to hear it. The box office opens this morning at Mellor & Hoene's.

MAYOR WYMAN LENIENT.

He Distributed a Few Light Sentences as Christmas Gifts.

Mayor Wyman's morning hearing in Allegheny was made up of about 30 cases yesterday, but His Honor, feeling at peace with all mankind, discharged the most of them.

G. W. Wells for behaving rudely on a Ft. Wayne train was fined $10 and costs. Ida Smith, who stole $3 from her employer, Mr. Sloan, was sent to jail for 10 days.

Byron W. Brown, who victimized storekeepers by purchasing goods and giving them bogus checks, was sent to the Workhouse for 90 days as a vagrant.

B. & B.

Handkerchiefs—A large pile, mussed and soiled in the crush of last few days, on counter this morning at half-price and less.

BOGGS & BUHL.

KRAUSE'S Headache Capsules are more pleasant and convenient to take than powders, wafers, elixirs, etc. KOD

CHEVRONS CUT OFF.

Sergeants in the N. G. P. Being Right Rapidly Reduced to the Ranks.

GREAT GOSSIP AMONG THE GUARDS.

Lieutenant Watson Slated for a Place on Gov. Pattison's Staff,

IN RETURN FOR HIS CAMPAIGN WORK

There is enough gossip floating around in N. G. P. circles at the present time to keep not only the members, but also their friends, supplied with any amount of material for conversation.

The latest theme of discussion is the decapitation of First Sergeant Ed Gordon, of Company D, Eighteenth Regiment, by Captain William U. Harvey. It is alleged that Gordon offered a squad of the company, two weeks ago last night, to Captain Hunt, for the purpose of holding a guard mount at the Battery B fair, now in progress at the Fifth Avenue Market House. The services offered were not accepted, however, for reasons not made public, but considerable feeling grew out of the affair. According to the laws governing the N. G. P., Gordon had no right whatever to act in the manner he did.

The trouble culminated at the last drill night of the company, when Captain Harvey ordered Sergeant Gordon to form the command. This the latter refused to do, and in consequence, he was reduced to the ranks.

SERGEANTS CATCH IT ALL AROUND.

This affair, taken in connection with other acts of the kind, has kicked up quite a feeling in the Guard. Another story afloat is to the effect that Captain Schmidt, of the Fourteenth Regiment, had his temper aroused during the last encampment, and on his return reduced every Sergeant in his company to the ranks. Sergeants, as a rule, are merely instruments in the hands of the Captain, and he has the power to reduce them at any time, but the events of the last few weeks have not been regarded with much favor by the men.

Another matter that is causing quite a discussion is the revival of the old feud between Lieutenant John D. Watson and Colonel Hunter. It will be remembered that the former gent