

KNOCKED OUT AGAIN.

The Supreme Court Once More Decides Against the City of Pittsburgh and Its Street Laws.

AN OPINION BY JUDGE WILLIAMS.

He Sustains the Lower Court, and the Injunctions Issued Thereby, in Each of the Three Cases.

THE UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME DEPLORED

One Way Out of the Dilemma, and the Legislature Must Furnish That.

Justice Williams, of the State Supreme Court, yesterday handed down the long expected and anxiously awaited opinions of the court in the three Pittsburgh street cases.

The court decides the cases against the city, and sustains the injunction in each case, affirming the appeals of the lower court, and dismissing the appeals at the costs of the appellants.

The court in its opinion deprecates the unfortunate predicament into which the city of Pittsburgh has been placed by the street laws and suggests that the only method out of it is the Legislature.

The opinion of Judge Williams in the case of the appeals of the City of Pittsburgh from the decree of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny county No. 1, reads as follows:

"These appeals are a part in order to determine the extent to which the city of Pittsburgh is affected by the decision in the appeal of Wilbert, Engel, et al made in January last.

The two questions that were raised. "The court below enjoined the city against the making of awards in favor of those damaged by the improvements in progress, and the assessment of such damages upon the costs against property benefited, and also against the collection of liens entered upon such assessments already made.

"The first of these questions was not seriously pressed in the argument; two of our brethren did not concur in all the reasons for the judgment in the appeals of Wilbert et al, but they concurred in the judgment entered. We think it stands on solid ground, and shall not enter into a re-examination of it.

"It will be seen upon looking into these acts, of which we will speak as the 'Street Acts,' that they were intended to establish a system to be made use of by the city for opening and grading streets and making other municipal improvements at the expense of property in their immediate neighborhood, which would be increased in value because of them.

"A somewhat different system had prevailed previously. The foot-front rule was in use in some portions of the territory embraced within the city limits; in other portions this was not applicable, because the property in the street was not in character to be made use of by the city for opening and grading streets and making other municipal improvements at the expense of property in their immediate neighborhood, which would be increased in value because of them.

"The Board of Viewers is thus made an indispensable part of the system. Without its agency no improvement can be made under the act except by the city, and at its own cost. An assessment of damages cannot be had except through the action of the Board of Viewers—the assessment of benefits must be made by it. The report of the board is the basis on which liens for the sums assessed or benefits must rest when the work of the Board of Viewers is taken on the system. All that depends upon that work goes with it and the system itself is literally vitiated.

"The new detached and unrelated sections that might remain are without significance or value, and ought not to survive the system to which they belonged. The system provided by the street acts must fall as a whole. The way will thus be clear for the enactment of a street law for cities of the second class.

"As nothing remains of the system provided by the acts of 1887 and 1889, it is hardly necessary to say that its authority cannot survive for any purpose. All the preliminary reports made by it, and all the improvements that have been made under them, all the assessments of damages and benefits paid, and all the uncollected liens entered upon these assessments go with the system. As work done or to be done upon these improvements, as the law now stands, must be paid for by the city; all the damages inflicted upon lot holders must be recovered from the city.

"There is no possible escape from the dilemma in which the city is placed by the unfortunate legislation of 1887 and 1889, except through the Legislature, and we have made haste to dispose of these cases in order that there might be time for that body to give proper consideration to the subjects.

BLAINE KNEW HIM.

He Remembers the Name of a Colored Man Whom He Hadn't Seen for Years.

Uncle Jerry McKinnin, of the Anderson, relates an incident which shows Secretary Blaine's wonderful ability to remember names and faces.

"I was at the Anderson, and I remember the name of a colored man who attended to the ladies' entrance. When the Secretary came in the old man was there to see him with a cravat and a top hat on his face. 'How are you, Mr. Blaine?' he said. 'And how are you, Zach,' the statesman answered.

"Poor old Zach was dumfounded. He expected no such recognition and greeting. 'Why, Mr. Blaine,' he replied nervously, 'I would know you if I had never seen you from your picture, but how did you know my name was Zach?'

"Well, that is easy," said Mr. Blaine, laughing. 'Don't you remember, Zach, when I went to school at the Washington and Jefferson College 30 years ago? I lived with my uncle and you worked for him. I have not seen you for years since, but forget your face and name Zach, I never could.'

"The aged colored man was delighted that so great a man should remember him, and he loves to tell how the Secretary of State and he met on that memorable occasion, to him, at least.

AN ASIATIC VISITOR.

Visit of a Distinguished Syrian Priest—His Work, and How the Church Assists Him—Rev. Father Maroon Farah's Pilgrimage Through America.

A very distinguished priest, and the only one of the kind ever known in this part of the world, has been in the city several days, but leaves to-day. The distinguished visitor, who is known in his country as a Maronite, is the Rev. Father Maroon Farah. He is from a diocese in Syria, in Southern Asia, and is making a tour for the interest and spiritual welfare of Syrians in the United States.

"The Forest Grove Presbyterians are spending their oil dividends, derived from the lease of the parsonage property, on improvements, and Dr. Bacon and his family will soon move into a new parsonage house. The Building Committee met yesterday to examine plans submitted by architects.

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Beware of inferior, worthless, and sometimes deleterious imitations, Intending purchasers of HE-NO TEA, often have such forced upon them, because the trash pays a larger profit.

No respectable grocer is ever guilty of such practices. If you want HE-NO, insist on getting it. See that the name HE-NO is plainly printed on each package.

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MARTIN GILLET & CO., (Established 1841.) Exchange Place, Baltimore, Md.

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Takes place THURSDAY and FRIDAY of this week. We feel justified in saying that it will be the largest, finest and most meritorious display of Millinery Novelties ever shown in this city.

We trust you will favor us with your presence on the Opening Days. Please consider this a special invitation to come and bring your friends.

The designs are the handsomest and most original you ever saw. They represent the latest and best efforts of many of the leading modistes. Our own work-rooms have contributed hundreds of exquisite things which every lady should see who cares for absolute perfection in the milliner's art.

On THURSDAY and FRIDAY of this week we will also have our OPENING OF SPRING JACKETS, SUITS and PARASOLS.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Magnificent exhibition of new styles, new fashions, new lines in Boys' Confirmation Suits. Don't purchase until you have investigated our stock and prices.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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For household and mechanical purposes. Prices on application. DARRAGH PURE WATER CO., 107 First St., Pittsburgh.

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Portable and Stationary ENGINES AND BOILERS. Works at Oil City, Pa.

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