CONFIDENT AS EVER.

City Officials Once More Show Their Belief in the Efficacy of Curative Legislation.

CLAIM THEY WILL COLLECT MONEY

On All Unpaid Street Improvement Assessments for Two Years Back.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THIS YEAR.

Special Meeting of Councils To-Day to Consider the Report of the Finance Committee.

Curative legislation was the chief subject of consideration yesterday, with the attorneys who have the street improvement matter in hand. To all appearances these gentlemen are still firm in their conviction that such an act will pass muster before the eyes of the legislators and run the gauntlet of the supreme justices. This opinion yet prevails in spite of the discouraging reports from Chester as to the effects of the court decision there. The attorneys are working hard at the new bills and unless something unforeseen turns up Senator Flinn will carry them to Harrisburg on Sunday. One of the important points brought up yesterday was whether the proposed curative legislation should go back to cover all the assessments yet unpaid, or be limited to a certain time. It was decided that the latter plan would be the only feasible one.

Just What the Bill Will Cover.

The bill will provide for the collection of the money due on street improvements made within the past two years. The attorneys were very reticent about conversing publicly on the subject. Chief Bigelow, when asked about it said:

"Yes, it has been decided to make the bill cover a period of two years back. This will cover the greater part of the improvements affected by the recent decision, and will leave only about $30,000, which cannot be collected."

Although the city authorities are decidedly averse to talking on the probable outcome of the present difficulty, the meeting of the Finance Committee yesterday afternoon, and the passage of the appropriation ordinance without an increase in millage, demonstrates very plainly that they are confident of securing the passage of a curative act.

The committee met in the City Attorney's private office at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon, and heard the report of the sub-committee with closed doors. After two hours' discussion, which at times grew very animated, the ordinance as presented by the sub-committee was adopted with a few slight changes. It is as follows:

Text of the Appropriation Ordinance.

An ordinance levying taxes, assessing water rents and making appropriations for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 1891, for the purpose of providing sufficient revenue to meet the ordinary expenses of the city, to pay the interest on outstanding bonds, and to discharge all other liabilities now due or which may become payable during the said year 1891, taxes shall be, and are hereby levied and assessed upon all property and other objects of taxation, as follows:

City Tax—Upon all property taxable for State or county purposes 15 mills upon each dollar of valuation, except the property of said city designated as rural, upon which the tax shall be assessed at two-thirds of said rate, and upon all property designated as agricultural the tax shall be assessed at one-half of said rate.

Old City Special Tax—Upon all property for State or county purposes within the limits of the city of Pittsburg as it existed prior to the consolidation under the act of April, 1867, 4-10 mills upon each dollar of valuation as a special tax for the separate indebtedness of said district.

Southside Special Tax—Upon all property taxable for State or county purposes within the limits of the former borough of East Birmingham, 1½ mills; Mt. Washington, 3-10 mills; Temperanceville, 1 mill, to pay annual installments on bonds issued since consolidation for grading and paving Main street in said borough.

Upon all goods, wares and merchandise and upon all articles of trade and commerce sold in said city in any manner and upon the gross receipts accruing from the hire or use of any personal property in said city not herein otherwise provided for, 1 mill upon each dollar of said sales or hire.

Tax on Those Who Sell Liquor.

Upon the actual yearly sales of each and every person or firm engaged in the trade, business or occupation of retailing for his, her or their benefit vinous, fermented or distilled liquors, 10 mills on each dollar of said sales.

Upon the actual yearly sales of each and every person or firm engaged in the business or occupation of an auctioneer, 2 mills on each dollar of said sales.

Upon the gross commission or brokerage of all merchandise brokers, forwarding and commission merchants, 10 mills upon each dollar of said commission or brokerage.

Upon the average line of discounts of brokers, bank and banking institutions, 1 mill on each dollar

Upon the gross receipts of express companies, electric light, conduit, gas fuel, telegraph and telephone companies, 1 mill upon each dollar of said receipts.

Upon the gross receipts of persons engaged in the business of keeping pool tables, billiard tables, tenpin alleys, bagatelle tables, for public use 20 mills upon each dollar of said receipts.

That for the purpose of defraying the interest on bonds and for sinking funds and miscellaneous purposes of the sub-school districts in the several wards of the city of Pittsburg, there shall be levied upon all property taxable for State or county purposes upon each dollar of valuation in said several wards the tax rate affixed to each designated sub-school district named in the estimate of receipts of this ordinance, except the property in said wards designated "rural," upon which the tax shall be assessed at two-thirds of said rate, and upon all property designated in said wards as "agricultural," the tax shall be assessed at one-half of said rate.

In the Hands of the City Treasurer.

Section 2—And at the above rates the Board of Assessors shall assess said taxes, and the City Treasurer shall have no power to divide any items of tax as reported by the assessors.

Section 3—The Department of Public Works shall assess water rents by the schedule of water rents adopted for the year 1888, and hospitals and dispensaries and such other charities as are supported by public and private contribution shall be assessed the sum of $1 each.

Section 4—That the amount necessary to pay the interest on the separate indebtedness of the old city and Southside boroughs shall be taken from the receipts from the special taxes of the district aforesaid, and placed in appropriation No. 1, on which warrants shall be drawn for all interest accruing or accrued on the debts of said districts, respectively.

Section 5—That the balance of said receipts from special taxes (after payment of interest) shall be paid into a sinking fund for the district from which it is collected, and shall be used for the payment of the special debt of said district.

Section 6—All officers and employes of the Department of Public Safety and Public Works shall be paid out of the appropriate appropriation made for those departments, and the assistant city assessors shall be paid from appropriation No. 2—salaries of city officers.

Section 7—All balances lawfully remaining to the credit of appropriations made for the year 1890 on the books of the City Controller, including those remaining to meet payments on contracts already made, shall be transferred to the appropriate appropriations made in this ordinance.

Whence Some Money Is to Come.

Section 8—The cost of advertising ordinances for opening, grading, paving, macadamizing and curbing of streets, highways, lanes and alleys and construction of sewers, and all viewers' reports as to damages and benefits and costs for opening, grading, paving, macadamizing and curbing of streets, highways, lanes and alleys and sewers, shall be paid from appropriation No. 11—highways and sewers.

Section 9—That the revenue of the said city for the year 1891 arising from the taxes, loans and all other sources, together with any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, are hereby appropriated for the purposes hereinafter set forth.

Section 10—That all money received or to be received from the sale of the City Poor Farm, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for the purchase of a new poor farm and the erection of the necessary buildings thereon.

The appropriations for this year and the comparative figures for the year previous are as follows:

This Year Compared With Last.

Department of Public Safety—	1891.	1890.
Interest and tax on city loans	$ 746,000 00	$745,000 00
Salaries	74,100 00	74,100 00
General expense	$ 10,100 00	
Fire Bureau	260,310 00	
P'lice B'reau	339,690 00	
Elec'ty Bureau	40,000 00	
H'lth Bureau	46,887 00	
Build'g and Pl'm'g Inspector	6,770 00—	703,968 00 710,000 00
Department of Public Works—		
General expense	$ 10,500 00	
Eng'r. and Survey Bureau	30,300 00	
High'ways and Sewers Bureau	263,300 00	
City P'perty Bureau	44,266 00	
Water Supply and Dis. D'ver'n Bureau	220,000 00	
Water Ass't Bureau	9,700 00	
Public lighting	175,000 00	
Viewers	11,605 00—	777,191 60 793,700 00
Department of Charities—		90,000 00 85,000 00
Printing		26,000 00 17,500 00
Contingent fund		20,000 00 30,000 00
City elections		1,200 00 1,200 00
Outstanding warrants and excess of expenditures over receipts		192,181 11 297,829 32
Finance fund		20,000 00 27,670 68
Judgments		22,200 00 12,900 00
Advertising delinquent tax lists		13,000 00 13,000 00
Board of Assessors		18,000 00 16,000 00
Water loan sink'g fund	$ 90,000 00	
Funded street imp'v't fund	49,500 00	
Sinking fund	2,000 00	
Water loan sinking fund No. 2	10,000 00	
Refunded City Hall bonds, sink'g fund and Fifth Av. Market House sinking fund	7,000 00	
Fire Departm't loan sinking fund	10,000 00	
Improved bond sinking fund	124,500 00	
Municipal consol'd'd sinking fund	7,000 00—	300,000 00 299,000 00
Education		415,000 00 309,475 00
Street repairing		322,078 50 292,800 00
Bridges		350,000 00 .....
Distributing main from Highland reservoir		..... 100,000 00
Assessment against city for street improvements		87,171 00 55,500 00
Public parks		326,891 40 200,000 00
*Commution paving contracts		120,000 00 .....
*Grading and paving streets, Supreme Court decisions		30,000 00 .....
Total		$4,464,989 61 $4,045,475 00

*New.

Money Expected to Come in This Year.

The estimated receipts for 1891 are shown below, with the estimates for 1890. In 1890 the valuation of the city was placed at $174,000,000 net, in 1891 it is placed at $180,000,000 net, an increase of $6,000,000.

	1891.	1890
City tax, 15 mills	$2,700,000 00	$2,610,000 00
Business tax	238,000 00	225,000 00
Water rent	600,000 00	540,000 00
Wharves	15,000 00	15,000 00
Mayor's office	72,000 00	50,000 00
Markets	53,000 00	50,000 00
City Gauger	2,000 00	2,000 00
Vehicle license	45,000 00	40,000 00
Street railways	1,000 00	7,282 00
Building Inspector	15,000 00	14,000 00
Engineering	10,000 00	10,000 00
Warrant from State for schools	77,703 00	51,801 75
Advertising delinquent taxes	13,000 00	13,000 00
City Attorney	50,000 00	52,000 00
Outstanding taxes	310,000 00	297,829 32
Liquor license	80,000 00	62,000 00
Miscellaneous	181,286 61	34,551 93
Total	$4,464,989 61	$4,464,989 61

The figures show conclusively that the committee is confident of securing curative legislation. For that reason only $30,000 is named in the item of "grading and paving streets, Supreme Court decision." It is just the amount Chief Bigelow says cannot be collected it the two-year limit is placed. This also explains the item of $310,000 estimated as receipts from "outstanding taxes." The large proportion of this is expected to come from the property owners who have not yet paid their street assessments. Owing to the prospects of such a settlement of affairs Chief Bigelow gets a big appropriation for parks and $150,000 is set aside for free bridges.

Some Comparisons Easily Deduced.

In the appropriations the Department of Public Safety is $6,034 lower than a year ago; $2,290 is cut off the Fire Bureau and $7,113 off the Health Bureau. The Police Bureau is increased $3,889.

The Department of Public Works increases over last year to the extent of $76,490 60. The Bureau of Highways and Sewers gets $20,800 of this; City Property Bureau, $9,826 60; Water Supply and Distribution Bureau, $15,000, and Public Lighting, $35,000. There are some minor decreases which reduce the net increase to $76,490 60.

A call has been issued for a special meeting of Councils this afternoon, to take immediate action on the appropriation. Some spirited discussions are anticipated, particularly on the question of park appropriations, which the Southside members are said to be preparing to fight.

SPOTTED FEVER SPREADING.

Six Deaths From It in the Last Week—It Is Not Believed to Be Contagious, but May Become Epidemic—Cases From All Over the County.

The spread of spotted fever, or "epidemic cerebro spinal meningitis," is beginning to assume alarming proportions in Pittsburg and the surrounding county. The Bureau of Health, however, believes it will be able to check the malady, and says that the disease is not contagious, but simply results from peculiar atmospheric conditions. The disease is terrible in its execution. Patients attacked by it seldom live more than 48 hours. During the past week six deaths have been reported from this malady in Pittsburg alone. Two more cases were reported yesterday from Pittsburg, one on Clark street and the other on Butler. A case has been reported in Allegheny and several more from Colfax, where three members of the family of James Ramsely have succumbed to the malady. In Springdale Dr. Orr and Dr. Mahaffey have reported that Mrs. Jacob Watler is a victim of the disease. There are still several cases at Chesswich and Dr. Thompson, the State officer, went there yesterday to investigate them.

Dr. Shaw says "spotted fever" is more to be feared than smallpox, yellow fever or cholera. The patients are taken with convulsions and vomiting, and in about 48 hours brown spots appear on the body and death ensues in 80 cases out of 100. Some linger a little longer, but the end is the same. It is an epidemic disease, and many eminent doctors say it is contagious. To say the least it is considered a terrible disease, and all doctors dread the prospect of an epidemic in Pittsburg, where it spreads by communication from person to person or by the unexplained channels which make any disease epidemic. As precautions, all refuse, garbage and decayed matter of all kinds should be disposed of at once. Houses and cellars should be thoroughly renovated, kept clean and ventilated.

A Young Stone Thrower Locked Up.

A number of little Allegheny boys amused themselves last night by throwing stones at the houses on O'Hara street. The police were called in, and Joseph Kline, who wears only 15 years of care on his shoulders, was locked up. The other boys will be arrested to-day.

PEOPLE WHO COME AND GO.

—J. L. Barclay, Chicago representative of the Westinghouse Electric Company; Nelson S. Williams, of Chicago; Mrs. G. McKee, of Chillicothe, and A. B. Billingsby, of New Lisbon, are names of prominence on the Duquesne register.

—Prof. Henri Rollin Parker was receiving congratulations yesterday on his formal appointment as French and Spanish teacher at the Western University.

—Mrs. H. W. Fulton, of the East End, arrived home yesterday from a month's sojourn in Florida.

—President Weihe, of the Amalgamated Association, went East last night.

—Dr. Frank McDonald is reported as being seriously ill with the grip.

—Dr. John Ferson has returned from Florida.

—James B. Scott went to Harrisburg yesterday.

REAL ESTATE. INSURANCE.

Myer Gallinger,

Yoder law building, corner Fifth and Wylie avenues. Telephone, 1707. Take elevator.

USE O'Keefe's "O. K." Shoe Blacking.

ANXIOUS TO ANNEX.

Petitions for Consolidation of the Twin Cities Well Signed.

ONE-RULE GOVERNMENT NEEDED.

Business Men of Allegheny Don't Give Their City Good Credit.

IT'S A MATTER OF DOLLARS AND CENTS

Annexation petitions were again industriously circulated in Allegheny yesterday, and, although there are many signers, there is still a large conservative party that holds aloof. The basis of the last cry is on the increased taxes. Now that the city government is the same as in Pittsburg, and the millage has been increased over five points, the people who back the annexation idea say they see no reason for keeping the river as a boundary of municipal rule. Most of them wear unwillingly the yoke of a second-class city, but since they must have it they think it is not necessary to have two city governments. Others view the matter in a business light, and think that both cities would be benefited, while still others believe Pittsburg would overshadow her sister city, and Allegheny would be lost sight of.

The plea of increased taxation as reason for annexation is met by its enemies with the fact that although the Allegheny millage is 13, the assessments over the river are for only one-half the valuation, while Pittsburg property is assessed at its full value. Hence it would require a tax levy of 30 mills in Allegheny to equal the burden of taxes in Pittsburg. The opposition also claims that Allegheny's increased millage is due, not to her aseendancy to a city of the second class, but because the new government will have to pay the debts contracted while Allegheny was still in the third class.

A Mystery Yet to Be Unfolded.

In 1874 there was an act of Assembly passed providing for submitting the question to the people again. No vote was taken, and just why appears to be buried with the misty past.

George Shiras III. was not anxious to be quoted upon the question of annexation. He thought that there was a deep seated feeling across the river that, all things being considered, the joining of Allegheny to Pittsburg would unquestionably be a mutual benefit. "Under the old charter," said Mr. Shiras, "the people of Allegheny were well satisfied with their city government. There was then no particular reason why they should wish consolidation with Pittsburg. Taxes were lower, and the government was fairly administered. There was a ring, of course, but then its powers did not allow it any great opportunity for doing those things it should not do. Now that Allegheny has become a second-class city matters have changed. While there are two cities in government, in all other respects they are one. Allegheny now, as a second-class city, has just the same officers as Pittsburg. Instead of having there is more likelihood of two. Consolidation might help both cities. We people who live in Allegheny want good streets, good water works, and lots of other things. Could we get them under consolidation?

"As the two cities now stand, both are taxed to support separate systems, whereas, under consolidation, it would only be necessary to have one government. Two Mayors, two systems of street improvement, two systems of water works and two systems of police could be done away with by annexation. Personally, I don't believe that Allegheny has its proper position as a mercantile city. My experience goes to show that people who live in Allegheny and trade almost entirely across the river, Pittsburg business men know little or nothing about Allegheny. Youngstown is better known in the markets of the country.

Pittsburg Even a Greater Pittsburg.

"There is another point to be looked at. All the cities of this country have been building up their population by annexing surrounding towns, so that they may show up well in the census. Pittsburg would be a greater Pittsburg by adding to it, first of all, Allegheny. I believe that consolidation will do a great deal to build up the reputation of Pittsburg, and, as a consequence, help Allegheny."

Mr. Shiras said that while at the moment he could not recall the act of Assembly, still he was satisfied that there was one, under the provisions of which the city of Allegheny was bound to submit the question of annexation to a vote of the people. Under that act there had been one vote taken by the people of Allegheny, and they had defeated consolidation. That was years ago. Such a vote taken to-day, he thought, might give a different result.

Both Messrs. Boggs and Buhl expressed themselves in favor of consolidation, provided that there would follow better streets and better water works. Good city government was what was wanted, and in order to have that business men would not get in the way of annexation.

Daniel Welty, the carpet man, said that if annexation would help business he was in favor of it. As a matter of fact he thought it would. He had always taken a pride in Allegheny, and when he could have his goods delivered there in preference to Pittsburg he had always done so. Annexation was a matter that should be carefully considered on both sides.

Away back in 1867 the question of consolidation of Allegheny with Pittsburg was submitted to a vote of the people. It was defeated, the vote being 1,677 in its favor, and 4,232 against the proposition. That was the first and last vote taken.

THE HORSE STEALING FAD.

It Has Become Quite a Leading Fashion Over in Allegheny.

Horse stealing in Allegheny seems to have been the craze on Wednesday night, and two cases of that kind are reported. About 1 o'clock yesterday morning a stranger entered the livery stable of Mr. Smith on Beaver avenue and selecting a horse from one of the stalls proceeded to hitch it up to a buggy he had pulled down street. The hostler offered some objections to this proceeding and the stranger after some words decamped leaving the horse and buggy to the hostler.

Shortly before 12 o'clock on Wednesday night a pair of boys entered the stable of the long line street cars and finding no one to interrupt them proceeded to unhitch a horse and start off with it. The boys mounted the animal and took a ride as far as Federal street, when a pedestrian halted them and the boys dismounted and started off leaving the horse on the man's hands. The animal was placed in Boyd's livery stable and turned over to its rightful owners yesterday.

HIS WIFE IN THE WAY.

Queer Excuse of a Colored Man for an Assault on His White Wife.

A prepossessing young white woman entered Alderman Kerr's office yesterday afternoon, and in an agitated manner said her husband, a colored man 40 years old, was going to kill her. She asked the protection of the Alderman, and a warrant for the arrest of the husband was made out. Her name is Minnie Christy, that of her husband James H. Christy, and both live in a neat little house on Forty-first street. She alleged that last Sunday the defendant drew a razor and threatened to kill her. She fled from the house, and yesterday deemed it necessary to have him arrested.

Christy was brought to the office by Constable McWhorter, last night. He said he was "an artist and a whitewasher by profession," and his excuse for his action was "that his wife was not right." A hearing will be held Monday afternoon.

PICKED UP BY THE POLICE.

CON RYAN and Philip Kress are confined in the Twenty-eighth ward station on a charge of assault and battery preferred by Charles Stebner, who says that they, together with two others, attacked him and severely beat him on Twenty-fourth street yesterday afternoon.

MRS. GILBRAITH and John Stern, charged with stealing a lot of household goods from John Jordon, were discharged at the hearing yesterday. Mrs. Gilbraith entered suit against Jordon, charging him with assault. He will be given a hearing on Monday.

JOHN ZIMMER, one of the boys charged with the larceny of some beer and whisky from the house of Jacob Gauss, Sixteenth ward, was arrested last night by Officer Logan and sent to the Seventeenth ward police station.

MRS. MARY BATZ accuses Mrs. Elizabeth McCraner with assault and battery before Alderman Ling. Mrs. Batz says the defendant struck her in the face with a bucket.

WILLIAM BURNS was yesterday sent to jail by Justice McMillan, of Chartiers borough, on a charge of larceny from the person made against him by Robert Meeks.

USE O'Keefe's "O. K." Shoe Blacking.

WHERE FATE'S HAND RESTED.

The Lives of Three People Blotted Out Yesterday—Engines That Were Juggernaut Cars—One Death Caused by a Fall—Two Minor Accidents.

Three violent deaths darkened the records of Pittsburg and vicinity yesterday. The railroads were the cause of two. Two others suffer from broken limbs. This is the list:

LAMARA—Nora Lamara, a domestic living with a family at the Copper Works station, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Fourteenth ward, was struck by the McKeesport accommodation and instantly killed yesterday afternoon. The body was taken to the morgue. She had been thrown over the stone wall onto Second avenue and her neck broken. She was 28 years of age and single.

BROSI—Frank Brosi, an Italian living at Stoop's Ferry, on the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Railroad, while crossing the track at that place yesterday afternoon, was struck by a train. The wheels passed over him and both legs were cut off above the knee. He was taken to the Homeopathic Hospital, where he died at 7 o'clock in the evening.

GORMAN—James Gorman, aged 45, fell off a ladder on a new house on Boggs avenue yesterday. Although the distance was only ten feet, both legs, his arm and a rib were broken. He also received internal injuries. He was taken to the Southside Hospital and died soon after his arrival there. He lived at 73 Third avenue.

HANLON—Martin Hanlon, aged 9 years, was knocked down and run over by a wagon on Soho street yesterday morning. The hind wheel passed over his right ankle, crushing it. He was removed to the Mercy Hospital for treatment.

WELSH—William Welsh, a laborer employed at the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, was brought to the Mercy Hospital yesterday suffering from a fracture of the right leg, which he received by a large casting falling on it.

SEVERAL SMALL FIRES.

Flames Break Out Again in the Ruins of the Weldin Building.

Shortly before 9 o'clock last night fire was discovered in the ruins of the Weldin building on Wood street. It had evidently been smoldering ever since the fire of a week ago, among the debris in the cellar. For a short time the flames presented a serious aspect, but the hose carriage of No. 2 Company was called out and a stream of water soon extinguished the blaze. The mass of rubbish composed of wood, paper, etc., in the cellar is believed to be still smoldering, and it is thought that it will be some time before it is totally extinguished.

Two alarms were sent in from box 43 yesterday afternoon. The first alarm was sent in at 2:20, caused by the burning of a pair of lace curtains in the house of John Callahans, at No. 88 Locust street. The fire was caused by one of the children playing with matches. Damage slight. The second alarm was for a small fire in the bake shop of F. Sanguigin, in the rear of 379 Fifth avenue, caused by an overheated flue. It damaged the house to the extent of $300.

An alarm of fire from station 212 was sent in at 4:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It was occasioned by a small fire on the roof of a house occupied by Mr. Reilly on Mayerland street, Lawrenceville.

EVA WANTS $75,000.

She Will Not Settle With the Ray Hamilton Heirs for Less.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

SCRANTON, March 19.—Eva Mann, who is stopping in this county, passed through the city to-day en route to New York. She was approached by a reporter on the train and at first threatened to annihilate him, subjecting him to several severe and reflecting remarks. She finally became quite amiable and said she had been summoned to New York by her attorney. "He tells me," said she, "that he expects that my relations with the heirs of my dead husband will be soon satisfactorily settled. My husband's estate has an income of $18,000, and by right one-third of that is mine, however inconsistent it may seem with their denial of my claim.

"My husband's relatives have offered me $60,000 to settle with them. Acting upon the advice of my attorney, I shall not think of a settlement for less than $75,000."

GREW TIRED OF LIFE.

Benjamin Bell Attempts to Commit Suicide With a Razor.

Benjamin Bell, aged 28 years, attempted to commit suicide at 9 o'clock last night by cutting his windpipe with a razor. He boarded at the house of Joseph McIntyre, Shakespeare street, East End. At 9 o'clock last evening Miss McIntyre heard groaning in Bell's room and entered it. She found him lying on the bed, his throat cut and a razor on the floor near the bed. Patrol wagon No. 6 took him to the Mercy Hospital, where the physicians state that recovery is very probable.

Bell is a plasterer of the East End, and until a short time ago was employed by Robert Snowden, contractor and plasterer. Sickness compelled him to abandon work, and it is presumed a fit of despondency over this prompted him to attempt suicide.

THE CHECKS RETURNED.

W. T. Richardson Charged With Obtaining Money by False Pretense.

W. T. Richardson, a Homewood colored man, had a hearing before Alderman Means, of the Twenty-first ward, yesterday, on a charge of false pretense preferred by Edward Wind, a Lincoln avenue baker. The false pretense consisted of the giving of three checks on the Fifth avenue bank, signed by Robert Stratton, and calling for about $40 in all, which had been returned as being no good.

The case was continued for one week, and an effort will be made to find Stratton, who is said to live on Poplar street, Allegheny. It is thought the checks were forgeries.

Criticism, Don't You Know?

East Liverpool Crisis.]

With all of Pittsburg's blowing of its wonderful fire department, the actual facts are not so rosy. The other night while a party of gentlemen from this city were passing the Weldin block, in Pittsburg, they saw the alarm for the fire turned in. One of the party pulled out his watch and timed the appearance of the engine. It was fully 20 minutes before the firemen were on hand, notwithstanding the fact that the Duquesne engine house is only a short distance from the fire. If this is the best Pittsburg can do with its supposed-to-be perfect department, they had better send down to East Liverpool and get a few pointers.

Hunting the Walkins Family.

Yesterday Postmaster McKean received a letter addressed to the "Postmaster General of Pittsburg." It came from William Davis, of Monkweymouth, Lunderburg, County Durham, England. Mr. Davis is in search of his sister, Mrs. Margaret Walkins, and her husband, Philip Walkins, who left Wales in 1862. When last heard from they were located at Harrisburg, where Mr. Walkins was employed at the Lochiel Iron Works. Mr. Davis wants to hear from any member of the family if the parents are dead.

Held for a Hearing.

On information made by Inspector McAleese, Magistrate Gripp yesterday held Josh Barnett, Shirley Robinson, Julia Reemer and Lizzie Moss for assault on Mary Goodall, the colored woman at the Homeopathic Hospital, who claims to have been hurt by falling on a stove. The wound resembles a cut with a razor, and the parties mentioned are held for a hearing, as the Inspector believes they were engaged in a row when the woman was cut.

Second Victim of the Fire.

The Coroner yesterday held an inquest on the death of Mrs. Kupperman, one of the victims of the Forty-third street fire. The jury will return a verdict to-day. Yesterday morning Simon Kupperman, aged 17 years, a brother of Mr. Kupperman, died at the West Penn Hospital from injuries received at the same fire. An inquest will be held to-day.

Speakeasy Cases Disposed Of.

Mrs. Mary Green, Mrs. Ellen Monohan and Arthur Holland, who were arrested by Special Officer Kelly, of the Southside, a few days ago, for keeping speakeasies, were given a hearing before Alderman Succop yesterday. Mrs. Monohan and Holland were held for trial at court and the hearing on Mrs. Green's case was continued.

Youthful Disciples of Nero.

Several boys at West Bellevue on Tuesday tied a stray dog on the Ft. Wayne tracks and then watched an express train crush the life out of it. Not satisfied with this they tied the hindquarters of the dog on the track again and the next train crushed the dog to a pulp. Officers are looking for the boys.

SMALL SCRAPS OF LOCAL NEWS.

DESPITE the fact that many physicians insist there is no grip in the city, many establishments are crippled in their clerical forces by the absence of employes who have severe colds, tonsilitis, or something else quite as disagreeable as the grip.

FOURTEEN new convicts were received at the Western Penitentiary on Wednesday. Six are from Pittsburg and the remainder came from Blair, Potter and Beaver counties.

WITHDREW HIS BILL.

Representative Davis Favors the Bituminous Coal Operators.

A BIG SAVING TO MINE OWNERS.

Manufacturers Think the Liability Bill Will Be Defeated.

CORKWORKERS' FIGHT FOR UNIONISM

The present Legislature will not pass Representative Davis' bill, providing for a tax on the tonnage of coal mined in the State. Several Pittsburg operators went to Harrisburg and appeared before the Senate Finance and Corporations Committee, to which the bill had been referred after passing the House. The bill, as originally presented, provided that every individual firm or corporation owning "anthracite coal lands in this Commonwealth shall, semi-annually upon the 1st day of July and January of each year, make report under oath or affirmation to the Auditor General of the number of tons of coal mined upon the land of the said owners of anthracite coal lands, whether by lease, contract or otherwise, during the six months preceding the 1st day of January and July, and shall pay into the Treasury of the Commonwealth at the rate of 1 cent upon each and every ton of 2,240 pounds of coal mined."

What Was to Be Done With the Money.

The money collected was to be paid to the county treasuries in the counties in which coal is mined, and paid out to injured miners at the rate of $1 a day for every day that the injury incurred incapacitated the beneficiary from pursuing his occupation; $60 is allowed for the loss of a limb, $60 in case of death with an allotment of $8 a month for the widow as long as she remained a widow and $2 a month for each child under 14 years of age.

Mr. Davis had the bill amended, extending its provisions to the bituminous districts. This meant an expense of about $800,000 to the Pittsburg operators and they set about to defeat the bill.

James Walton, one of a committee sent to Harrisburg in the interest of the operators, stated before the Corporations Committee the effects its passage would have on the operators. His objection was not based so much on the amount of money it would take from the operators, although this would be large, as upon the fact that a large and constantly increasing fund would go into irresponsible hands, with no systematic plan provided for the judicious distribution of it to those most deserving.

He asserted that while there are large disasters occasionally, the fatalities are not of alarming frequency. During the 25 years which he has been a mine owner four persons have lost their lives in his mines, and each loss was sustained through the sheer carelessness of the miner.

Alex. Dempster was also there, and presented a strong argument against the bill. Mr. Davis was so impressed with the statements made by the Pittsburgers that he immediately asked the committee for the privilege of withdrawing the amendment relating to the bituminous district, which was granted.

Well Pleased With the Prospects.

Local operators are therefore pleased with the prospects of seeing the bill "sleeping to death," as one of them put it yesterday. On the other hand the labor officials feel they have done a great deal of fruitless work. When the Mammoth mine horror occurred they set about to have some legislation passed for the relief of miners. The Davis bill was the result of their work.

Master Workman Evans, of D. A. 3, K. of L., said last night he was surprised that the amendment should be withdrawn entirely. "I think," said he, "it could have been altered to suit the operators. If 1 cent was too high a tax they could have made it one-half or even one-quarter of a cent. And if the bill did not provide the proper channels through which the fund should be handled, it all could have been changed to suit everybody."

Master Workman Britton, of District 95, K. of L., of Connecticut, who is in the city, said he was pleased when he heard of the bill being presented in the Pennsylvania Legislature, because he thought the old Keystone State was taking another of her customary progressive steps. He thinks, however, that if the bituminous amendment is excluded that the one relating to anthracite coal ought to be withdrawn also.

STATE THEIR POSITION.

Corkworkers Prepare a Circular for Their Late Employers.

Lafayette Hall was scarcely large enough to hold the locked-out corkworkers of Armstrong Bros. & Co., who met for the purpose of discussing their position. The new Master Workman and the Secretary of District Assembly 3, H. E. Speidel, made speeches to the workers, stating that no idle corkworkers could be brought here from any other city, and that the firm's statement about a resumption of work next Monday is simply an idle threat, made in the hope that all the hands would make a rush back for their old places. A vote was then taken, and it was unanimously decided, amid tumultuous cheering, not to return to work if the shop was to be classed as "non-union."

A statement was then prepared to present to the firm to-day, setting forth the employes' side of the case, in which the men blame and severely criticise the new Superintendent, A. M. Gow, for causing all the trouble, by preventing conferences between the men and the firm. The firm claims in their circular to the employes that they have the sympathy of the oldest employes. The committee that arranged the employes' circular is composed entirely of persons who have been employed by the firm from 12 to 22 years. The employes disclaim having encouraged dishonesty among the girls.

A vigilance committee was appointed to visit all the doubtful employes to strengthen and encourage them to stay away from the works. The firm will pay off all their hands to-day, but no new developments in the difficulty are expected until next Monday.

THE NEW CLUB FORMED.

Electricians Meet and Organize for Social and Scientific Advancement.

A number of gentlemen interested in electrical construction and application assembled last night and formed the "Pittsburg Electric Club." The meeting was held in the offices of the Fort Wayne Company, Standard building, and about 40 electricians were present. The following Board of Directors and officers were elected: President, Morris W. Mead; Directors, H. McL. Harding, Westinghouse Electric Company; D. W. Dunn, Thomson-Houston interests; I. H. Silverman, Edison general interests; E. B. Kittle, Edison general interests; H. E. Dillon, Allegheny Bureau; Eugene Ingold, Fort Wayne, and E. B. Gowthron, of Hughes & Gowthrop. James E. Rutherford, of the Westinghouse Electric, was elected as Treasurer, and J. E. Hall, of the Fort Wayne, as Secretary.

It was decided to perfect the organization at once, and Lawyer A. M. Neeper was retained to obtain the necessary charter, etc. To Mr. Ingold is due, to a large extent, the successful establishment of the club, and a resolution of recognition of his services was adopted by the meeting. The organization will be social as well as scientific, and convenient quarters will be obtained for the clubrooms.

WILL TRY ONCE MORE.

The Deposed Painters to Fight Again for Recognition.

Painters' Council No. 195 held an exciting meeting last night. About three hours' time was consumed in discussing the advisability of fighting for representation in the Building Trades' Council, which resulted in the election of two new delegates to that body and the passage of a resolution providing that in case they are refused again they will also withdraw from the Painters' Council.

If this action should come about it is likely that all four Pittsburg unions would leave the District Council and form a council of their own, leaving 15, of Allegheny, to run the old council by themselves.

NO FURTHER ACTION NOW.

The Hard Iron Difficulty at Painters' Mill Temporarily at Rest.

A conference was held yesterday by a committee from Valley Lodge No. 2, A. A. of I. and S. W., with J. Painters' Sons & Co., about the hard iron. The firm stated it had other iron on the way, and the committee postponed further action until to-morrow.

President Sullivan said that if the new iron was not on hand by Monday the men would not go to work. He is satisfied the firm is trying to do what is right and the men will not act hastily in the matter. The difficulty has not yet been reported to Amalgamated headquarters, and will not be, unless the mill committee fails to settle it.

GAVE IT A BLACK EYE.

L. W. Hall's Opinion of the Employers' Liability Bill—Local Manufacturers Do Not Think It Will Pass—The Relations of a Foreman.

Local manufacturers are somewhat elated over the prospects of defeat for the employers' liability bill now pending in the Legislature. A number of them were in Harrisburg on Wednesday and attended the session of the General Judiciary Committee, before which Attorney L. W. Hall, of Harrisburg, appeared in the interest of Pittsburg and Philadelphia manufacturers. Mr. R. W. Carroll, of the American Tube and Iron Company, who returned from the East yesterday, said:

"Mr. Hall made a masterly presentation of the case. He has given great study to the legal aspect of the bill and is thoroughly satisfied, as are the manufacturers, that if enacted into a law, it would bring about a complete change of the law of the Commonwealth as settled half a century ago, and uniformly sustained not only by current but by a torrent of decisions from the highest court of the State from that day to this.

"Mr. Hall cited the first case ever decided by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which was Ryan vs the Cumberland Railway Company, in which the Court distinctly held that when several persons are employed as workmen in the same general service, and one of them is injured through the carelessness of another, the employer is not responsible. He quoted from the language of the Court showing that the rule was one of justice as well as policy—that it was in the interest of employe as well as employer. He claimed that the master could not be held responsible for the injury of his servants occurring through the negligence of a fellow servant in the same common employment, a fact which had been settled in thousands of cases covering the books of reports in every State in the Union. No one has ever been permitted to recover damages for an injury to the commission of which he contributed, and it matters not whether that contribution consisted in his participation in the direct cause of the injury, or in his omission of duties which, if performed, would have prevented it."

The labor officials, who were largely instrumental in having the bill introduced, think very differently from the manufacturers in the matter of regarding a foreman a co-employer. In the Amalgamated Association, as soon as a man is promoted to the position of foreman or boss he loses his membership in the association, and is considered a co-employer.

THREATENED WITH DISCHARGE.

A Southside Steelworker Wanted to Sue His Mill Committee.

Last night Thomas McKenna, a member of McGann Lodge, No. 93, A. A. of I. and S. W., called on Alderman Beinhauer and wanted to enter a charge of conspiracy against the mill committee of nine men at Oliver Bros. & Phillips' South Fourteenth street steelworks. McKenna's story was that he was behind in his dues and the mill committee threatened to have him discharged if he did not pay up. The alternative would be the closing of the mill.

Alderman Beinhauer discouraged the entering of the suit and said that the easiest way for McKenna was to pay the lodge dues. Mr. McKenna was seen about the matter last night. He would not admit that he contempl