

WILL SUE THE STATE

Because of the Killing of One Insane Patient by Another Unfortunate.

A PECULIAR DAMAGE CASE.

Relatives of J. J. McFee Will Take the Dixmont Tragedy to Court.

ENTERING A CLAIM FOR \$50,000.

Attorney Charles F. McKenna Says There is Good Ground for Action.

A SIMILAR SUIT NOW ON IN NEW YORK.

An interesting suit will be instituted shortly against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to recover \$50,000 damages for the killing of John Johnson McFee, an insane patient at Dixmont, by O. A. Williams, another insane patient. The killing occurred two weeks ago. McFee was sent to Dixmont from Allegheny about a year ago. He was a harmless invalid who talked incessantly. Williams was committed to the institution two days before the killing. He was brought to the asylum by the Sheriff of Washington county. He, too, was considered harmless.

THE RELATIVES WANT DAMAGES.

Williams had struck the mouth full of cloth, and with a strop of the bed sheet tied the mouth shut and death resulted from strangulation. Williams admitted the killing. He said he wanted to sleep and was unable to do so on account of McFee's chattering. "He's not dead. He'll be all right in the morning," Williams said when charged with the murder. He was at once confined in a ward with other violent patients. McFee was buried at Williamsburg, where some of his relatives live. Other of his relatives in Ohio were notified and retained Charles F. McKenna to look after the case for them. The coroner held an inquest on the dead McFee. The authorities were excruciated as the witnesses showed that they were not responsible for the crime.

THE RELATIVES WANT DAMAGES.

Attorney McKenna says the State is responsible for its actions and he believes there is good cause for action. He has been looking into the history of Williams and he is confident he can establish that Williams was known to be violent before he was committed to the asylum. Since the killing it has been reported that Williams was at one time sent to the penitentiary for attempted murder and that he was released from there in the institution. This report could not be verified last night.

A Precedent for the Action.

The suit when brought will likely attract widespread attention. It will be contested earnestly on both sides. McKenna said last night that a similar suit was recently brought against Kings county, N. Y., where a man had been dangerously hurt by a lunatic who had been released from the Kings County Insane Asylum because he had been cured and while the authorities knew he was insane. The New York case has not yet been decided.

THE LAW IN THIS JUDGMENT IS CLEAR IN SUCH CASES.

"Mr. McKenna said, 'The persons, parties or corporation responsible for the management of the institution should be held responsible for McFee's death. The law bearing on the subject will stand testing any way. If the case should be decided against the hospital it will bring about new conditions. It will prevent the overcrowding of the institutions and will also prevent dangerous lunatics from being discharged from the institutions when they are unsafe to be at large.'

A SAD AND SUDDEN DEATH.

Miss Katherine Shaw Expresses While Attending a Pittsburg Club Reception—Premises of Assistant Postmaster to Be of No Avail—Many Mourners Present.

Miss Katherine Shaw, daughter of Dr. Thomas W. Shaw, died suddenly early yesterday morning of heart failure at the Pittsburg Club, where she had been attending a reception. The last walk of the evening's entertainment was being danced by the guests when Miss Shaw complained of illness, and without warning sank to the floor and soon expired. She was carried into the dressing room and the usual restoratives were applied by friends, who were not aware of the seriousness of the case. They finally became alarmed, and Dr. Hutchinson, who was present, was called. Drs. Mercer and Tyndall were also hastily summoned. Their treatment was of no avail, but the physicians worked with her for two hours without avail. The relatives of Miss Shaw were sent for. Her father, Dr. Shaw, George E. and Dr. Charles S. Shaw, her brothers, who had been at the reception but had retired earlier in the evening, soon arrived, but they were too late. She was beyond all earthly assistance.

MISS SHAW WAS IN HER 28th YEAR AND WAS WELL KNOWN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED IN THE SOCIAL CIRCLE IN WHICH SHE MOVED.

The stricken family have the deepest sympathy of a host of friends. The body was removed to her father's residence on Ridge avenue, Allegheny, yesterday morning, where the funeral services will be held to-morrow morning at 10:30 o'clock. A member of the club in speaking of the sudden and sad ending of the evening's entertainment said that Miss Shaw had seemed particularly bright and happy all evening but had not danced much. He was very near when she sank to the floor and thought that life was extinct then, she probably to heart failure and apoplexy. The sudden end was the general topic of conversation yesterday.

THE CORONER WILL INVESTIGATE.

Coroner McDowell was notified yesterday of the sudden death of a man named Frank Beatty at a boarding house at 43 Fourth avenue. So far but little has been learned of him. He is a stranger in the city and has been here but a few days. He became sick, and called at the drug dispensary on Sixth avenue and was taken to the morgue, and his death will be inquired into to-day.

THE ORGANIZATION PERMANENTLY.

The Pittsburgh Association composed of American Mechanics, met in Sellers hall last night and admitted twenty new members. It was decided to organize permanently on Saturday, February 20. After April 1 the headquarters of the association will be at 641 Smithfield street. They will have the use of the entire second and third floors, and will keep the rooms open during the day and evening.

A PECULIAR PRIZE FIGHT.

Iron Workers Settle a Quarrel According to London Rules. With Their Wives Acting as Seconds—The Principals Are Now Occupying Prison Cells.

A prize fight out of the ordinary occurred out Second avenue about noon yesterday in which two iron workers were the principals. Martin Carlin and William Griffiths, more familiarly known as William Williams and George, were unable to agree in a neighborly manner. Frequent quarrels occurred between them, which finally came to an end by their agreeing to settle who was the best man in the prize ring. London rules were adopted and a regular ring formed back of the old car station. The wives of the men acted as seconds and the fight started. After the first blow was struck all rules were abandoned, the men hammering one another without any attempt at science. When a knock down occurred time was called. The mill was finally declared off, as the men became exhausted and were unable to face each other. When the police went out at 2 o'clock the affair was reported to them. Detectives Fitzgerald and Sterk were detailed to investigate the case. Carlin and Williams were arrested and taken to the Fourteenth ward station. Both men were able to walk and beyond a beautiful pair of black eyes and a badly smashed nose, seemed none the worse for their encounter. An effort was made to find some of the witnesses, but no one would acknowledge having seen the fight, evidently being afraid of arrest.

ONCE MORE TO THE FRONT.

The B. & O. Will Straighten the F. & W. and Cut Down the Heaviest Grades.

About a week ago a committee of foreign bankers and the leading officials of the B. & O. road paid a visit to Pittsburgh. They went over the Pittsburgh and Western and the Junction roads, spending very little time in the city. Within the last few days the syndicate has finally agreed to take the \$3,000,000 issued by the company in common stock. One of the London bankers, Mr. Fleming, while here, told a prominent Pittsburgher that in a short time he would hear good news to the effect that the road gets out of the hands of the syndicate and is turned over to the company. He said that the syndicate had decided to enter proceedings to recover his assignment on the ground that he has fairly earned it.

REAL ESTATE AGENT BURCHFIELD WAS WIDE AWAKE WHEN HE READ THE APPEAL IN FRIDAY'S DISPATCH.

He knew the property was desirable at that figure, and going to William Mowley, the railroad contractor, and John Steel, of the East End, pointed out to them the opportunity. Inside of an hour they had the deed to the property and the appeal was properly made. Yesterday Agent Burchfield offered Mr. Phelps a check for \$30,000, it is said, but he declined to close the deal. It is further stated that Mr. Burchfield has decided to enter proceedings to recover his assignment on the ground that he has fairly earned it.

MAYOR COURLEY TALKS AGAIN.

Although Mayor Courley has ceased writing letters he is still giving the assessment question considerable thought, and he expressed his views about it in his characteristic manner whenever there is occasion. In conversation with a couple of gentlemen yesterday, he said: "I have heard dozens of men say within the past week that they intend to sell every foot of ground in this city at the lowest possible price. Some of them are holders of considerable valuable real estate. Their determination is the result of the heavy taxation in prospect as a result of the increase in valuations all over the city. This puts a serious phase on the matter that few people have considered. Suppose a number of large tracts of valuable ground in various sections of the city are thrown on the market by men determined to sell. What will be the result? Why, there will be a general depression in values all over the city that the most conservative management municipal affairs possible would not counteract in 15 years. The action of a few would cause a panic, and everyone would be anxious to sell, and values would take a downward course, the end of which could only be conjectured.

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CITY.

"Now there is no reason in the world why this should be the case. It is a bad policy to encourage men to own their own homes. The greater number who own their own homes, large or small, the greater number will be interested in the city and its government and the better city you will have. But men won't buy property if they are threatened with high taxes on a valuation of their property to its utmost penny. I believe that unless the Board of Assessors make a very radical change in their plans before completing this assessment they will have practically paralyzed the growth of the city and the real estate business. Any real estate dealer will tell you that his business has dropped off within the past few weeks. The high valuations have driven it away."

IT SEEMED YESTERDAY THAT EVERY OWNER OF PROPERTY IN THE EIGHTEENTH WARD, AND THEY ARE MANY, HAD DETERMINED HIS ASSESSMENT TO BE AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE.

The only way the men can account for their removal is that they joined the union in secret for the purpose of striking. The organization has made application for admission to the Federation of Tailors' Employees, and it is now pending before that body in New York. Most of the men said they joined the union in secret for the purpose of striking. The organization has made application for admission to the Federation of Tailors' Employees, and it is now pending before that body in New York. Most of the men said they joined the union in secret for the purpose of striking.

THE MASON ASKS A BIG CUT.

Charles C. Best, as President of the Trustees of the Masonic Fund Society, appeals for a reduction of Masonic Hall, on Fifth avenue. It is assessed at \$22,000 on a 100-foot lot and \$100,000 on the six-story stone building. No objection is made to the latter, but a cut to \$100,000 is asked on the lot. Mr. Best says that the lot is worth \$47,400 on \$33,000. The lot is on Wood street, between Fifth and Grant streets. The lot is worth \$47,400 on \$33,000. The lot is on Wood street, between Fifth and Grant streets. The lot is worth \$47,400 on \$33,000.

MILLVILLE FIREMEN INJURED.

A Church Blaze Which Came Very Near Producing Some Fatal Results, on Lincoln avenue, Millvale borough, was damaged by fire yesterday afternoon, and three firemen were severely injured. The fire started from an overheated fire in a boiler in the rear of the building. It burned for some time before it was discovered and an alarm sent in. The Citizens' Fire Company were soon at work, however, and through retard by the large crowd, succeeded in subduing the flames. During the progress of the fire a chimney crack fell from the roof and struck on the head of Foreman John Huebner and Fireman P. A. Madden and W. H. Dixon, who were standing adjacent together. All three were knocked insensible and taken to the hospital. They were at once taken to their homes and physicians summoned, who dressed their injuries. Huebner was the most severely hurt, but last night he was resting easily, and it is thought is out of danger. Madden and Dixon, while badly cut, are recovering rapidly. The damage to the church is estimated at \$800, covered by insurance.

THE BUTTER WAS STOLEN.

Officer Cole, of the Penn avenue district, arrested a man named Wm. Earlight last night who was trying to dispose of a firkin of butter at a very low price, and about which he could give no good account. After the prisoner had been locked up in the Fifteenth ward station, it was found that the butter had been stolen from Mr. Kelly who keeps a grocery store on Penn avenue.

ARRESTED FOR LAYING A TRICK.

Three men were arrested yesterday morning at Millvale for trying to lay a switch on Bridge street for the Millvale Street Railway Company. Since the session of Council Tuesday night, when no satisfactory arrangement was made with the street railway company, the burgess had had the men out day and night. Burgess Reed threatens to bring legal action.

DR. D. M. HANNA, EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES EXCLUSIVELY. OFFICE, 720 PENN STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA.

THE ALLEGHENY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DISPATCH AT 107 FEDERAL ST.

Is open every day except Sunday until 9 P. M. Advertisements will be received up to 10:30 P. M. for insertion the next morning at regular rates.

DECLINED THE CASH.

Land Offered to Assessors Below Their Figures Finds a Market, BUT THE DEAL IS NOT CLOSED.

Major Gourley Again Expresses Declined Views on the Valuations.

ANOTHER LENGTHY LIST OF APPEALS.

As predicted by THE DISPATCH ten days ago, an appellant who on his appeal offered to sell his property at a low figure has been taken at his word and a number of others will probably receive a call before long. Thomas Phelps, ex-Delinquent Collector, on Thursday filed an appeal on his assessment. The assessor's offer valued a value of \$57,300 on his 27 acres of Fordward avenue, and \$6,025 on his residence and outbuildings. In his appeal Mr. Phelps declared this way too high and offered to give a commission of 3 per cent to the assessors if they would sell the whole property for \$33,000.

TO BE SETTLED TO-DAY.

The Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Manchester Streets Will Probably End With To-Day—Many Old Men Coming Back—A Striker Tells How It Was Lost.

Yesterday, in all probability, was the last day of the strike on the lines of the Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Manchester Traction Company, as it was stated the K. of L. would officially declare it off at a meeting this morning. The strikers returned to work yesterday morning. All day yesterday the old men were coming and applying for reinstatement. The 12 men who went to work yesterday morning were all given daylight passes. It was thought that was done for a drawing of money. The strikers returned to work yesterday afternoon. A DISPATCH reporter was in the company's office when several of the old men came in search of employment. They were all penniless and expressed great sorrow over having left the company. The first of the nine men who applied for reinstatement during the strike was Mr. Hill. He had been with the company for several months and secured a position with the company. He had never belonged to any labor organization and knew nothing about them, and was told I would have to join. It has been clearly demonstrated to me that the union was more of a harm than a benefit to me."

THE SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER THE TROUBLE STARTED WE, AT ONE POINT, HAD THE STRIKE WON SAVE FOR THE THICK-HEADEDNESS OF SOME OF THE MEN.

When District Assessor Erskine Dempsey and the committee were all present and expressed their views on the matter. Mr. Hill said that he had never belonged to any labor organization and knew nothing about them, and was told I would have to join. It has been clearly demonstrated to me that the union was more of a harm than a benefit to me."

NINTH WARD DEMOCRATS.

Hold a Lively Meeting for the Nomination of Local Candidates.

The Democratic suggestion meeting in the Ninth ward was decidedly interesting, inasmuch as there were two contests. The meeting was held in the exhibition hall of the National Hotel. A series of resolutions were adopted which was full to overflowing with about as an enthusiastic set of political howlers as a one would wish to find. The meeting was presided over by Select Councilman Martin Brophy, John Rowan acting as secretary. The first contest was on the nomination for the position of District Director between McGuire, the present incumbent, and Andrew Winstler, an ex-police man. The ballot resulted in a victory for Mr. McGuire. A check was given to 69 in favor of the present incumbent.

REPUBLICANS AT WORK.

They Arrange for National Delegates in the Twenty-Fourth District.

The Republican County Committees of Fayette and Greene, yesterday appointed three members each of the Congressional Committee of the Twenty-fourth district to arrange the primaries to select two delegates to the National Republican Convention, and to nominate a member of Congress. The Greene county committee called its primaries for March 5, and its convention for March 7. Captain J. B. Donohue, the middle of the Greene county committee, called its primaries for March 5, and its convention for March 7. Captain J. B. Donohue, the middle of the Greene county committee, called its primaries for March 5, and its convention for March 7.

MORE MEN DISCHARGED.

Twenty-two Adams Express Messengers Removed During the Week.

The wholesale discharge of Adams express messengers continues, and it certainly looks like a hardship. The men are not saying much, but behind their railroad employes is sure to follow. It is claimed that a tie-up has already been ordered. Yesterday the entire force of Adams Express messengers on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh road, eight in all, were discharged. The men are not saying much, but behind their railroad employes is sure to follow. It is claimed that a tie-up has already been ordered.

ONLY EIGHTEEN LEFT.

The forty-seventh signature to the job printers' petition for a strike received in the person of John S. Borland, the Water street printer. This leaves only 18 non-union officers in this district. Several of these have expressed an intention to sign.

TUBE MEN STILL STRIKING.

The striking employes of the Continental Tube Works are still out, but their places are being filled with other men. They were asked to work by the piece, but refused to do so, as they think it impossible to make as much money as by the day.

THE CHARLIER GLASS COMPANY'S ADDITIONS.

Twenty new jobs will be fired in the Charlier Plate Glass Factory to-day. This will make a total of 80 jobs, with a monthly capacity of 100,000. The jobs were started during the week have been run successfully.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

The CENT-A-WORD rate has been in force for five months now. Actual count, made February 1, gives the following results: Adlets for 5 months ending January 30, 731. Similar period the year previous, 50,163. Increase due to cent-a-word, 10,568.

FOR LUCKEY'S PLACE.

Principal S. A. Andrews, of the Howard School, an Open Candidate.

THE REASONS FOR HIS AMBITION.

WARD MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

The latest sensation in educational as well as political circles, is the information obtained yesterday by a DISPATCH reporter that Principal S. A. Andrews, of the Howard school, Sixteenth ward, and who resides in the Thirty-sixth ward, is a candidate for the position of Superintendent of city schools against the present incumbent, George J. Luckey. This is the first time Mr. Luckey has had opposition and at the expiration of his present term will have completed his 20th year as Superintendent of the schools of Pittsburgh.

The gist of the details of the contest will be found in the following interviews with the two contestants. Principal Andrews said: "Yes, I am a candidate. Mr. Luckey and I are personally the best of friends. I have been principal in the Pittsburgh schools for 20 years, and I consider the superintendent the height of my ambition in the profession. I consider this the opportunity time for me to try for the position. Mr. Luckey has been superintendent for many years and if I should wait many more years before being a candidate the chance would be better for a man younger than either of us. I wish to reiterate that, personally, Mr. Luckey and I are as well as the best of friends."

THE CONTEST NO DOUBT WILL BE EXTREMELY POPULAR, AND IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE WARD SCHOOLS WHO ELECT THE SUPERINTENDENT WILL BE ELECTED.

The contest no doubt will be extremely popular, and it is to be expected that the ward schools who elect the superintendent will be elected. It is the 222 directors of the ward schools who elect the superintendent. The position is worth \$3,500 a year.

SOUTHIDE TAXPAYERS ENTER ANOTHER PROTEST AGAINST SENELEY PARK.

The Republicans of the Twenty-sixth ward held their suggestion and primary meeting last night in the Humboldt schoolhouse. It was the largest meeting of its kind, it was stated, ever held on the Southside. John Bradley, president, and Alderman McGuire acted as secretary. The following were nominated: Select Council, Daniel Brann; Common Council, Henry Franz and William Bradley; School Directors, Charles B. Dietz and Fred Eggleston; Assessor, Charles Miller.

TWELVE MILLS IS THE LIMIT.

Southside Taxpayers Enter Another Protest Against Seneley Park.

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THIRTY-SECOND WARD INDIGNANTS.

A lively meeting of citizens of the Thirty-second ward was held at the ward school house last night. The attendance was large and several fiery speeches were made against the property assessment. A resolution was adopted condemning the assessors and the request that the Chief of the Safety and Public Works Departments are asking for unnecessarily large amounts. A protest is made against the amount of money to be contributed by the Thirty-second ward, and the representatives were instructed not to vote for a tax levy of over 12 mills. A check was given to 69 in favor of the present incumbent.

HARMONY IN THE SECOND WARD.

The citizens of the Second ward at a well-attended meeting last night adopted a resolution endorsing James W. Platt for Common Council. Mr. Platt, it is said, will not likely have opposition for the place.

CHURCHES.

Third U. P. Church, Allegheny, Union M. E. Church, Allegheny, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Wylie avenue, Homestead Catholic Church, two organs, Presbyterian Church, Butler, Pa., Presbyterian Church, Oakdale, Pa., Indian Catholic Church, Indiana, Pa., Lutheran Church, Kittanning, Pa., Lutheran Church, Greenville, Pa., Presbyterian Church, Meadville, Pa., Baptist Church, Shady avenue, city, Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, Pa., Baptist Church, Uniontown, Pa., Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, Pa., Baptist Church, Duquesne; presented by Mr. Carnegie.

ANNOUNCE THIS WEEK THE OPENING OF NEW SPRING DRESS GOODS.

SCOTCH, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN FABRICS in a myriad of rich and effective designs. GREAT VARIETY OF exquisite new spring colorings \$2.50 to \$4 per yard.

SCOTCH CHEVIOTS, NOVELTIES IN STURPE, DIAGONALS, WAVE AND DAPPLED EFFECTS.

An elegant assortment of the new CREPON, PLISSE and JACQUARD weaves in all the new colorings.

FRENCH SERGE, 50 inches wide, a very choice quality, full line of colors, \$2.50 a yard.

BLACK GOODS.

OF STAPLE and NOVELTY weaves show the most extensive lines in this market.

MEDIUM and LIGHT-WEIGHT SPECIALTIES.

Camel's Hair Cloths, Clairette, Bedford Cord, Convent Cloths, Cheviots, Nun's Veilings, Crepons, Tamise, Drap de Almas, Challi, Melrose, Carmelite, All Wool and Silk-Warp Henriettes.

HEMSTITCHED and PLAIN BORDERED Nun's Veilings in all qualities.

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