The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

TWELVE PAGES

THE LESSON OF THE ELECTION.

It was assumed on all sides from the first that the City Hall administration people would carry a majority of Councilmen yesterday—this because of their organization, their determination and their command of the ward workers, including, of course, a great many of the city employes. It always has been and always will be the case that unless organization begins before agitation mere pre-election ardor, however well based and justified, will not win extensive victories. But, notwithstanding the superior resources of the city administration people, it is gratifying to know that a popular sentiment succeeded in securing the return of Mr. O'Donnell in the Sixteenth, Mr. Wainwright in the Fifteenth, Mr. Ferguson in the Seventeenth and Messrs. Baum and Stewart in the Twentieth wards. The independent course of at least one of the above and the independence sure to be shown by the others make their presence in Councils desirable. It would have been to the interests of the city, as heretofore pointed out, if the minority had been increased a great deal more.

However, it will be a tremendous mistake to assume that the agitation, even if it had not borne fruit in the election of Councilmen, is lost. On the contrary, it must have a good effect. None recognize better than skilled politicians that dissatisfaction when widely diffused among the taxpayers is capable of being organized and made effective. Among the Councilmen elected yesterday there must be some who, even if they ran under City Hall auspices, are by no means so far committed to any policy there as to be unable to recognize the timeliness and force of the criticisms which have been called forth by the extravagant estimates of the Chiefs for the present year. The local leaders of the party will be foolish indeed if they take no account of this. They have seen that the citizens are willing to pay for efficient but not extravagant service, and if they are to maintain their hold they must give a proper regard to criticisms supported by the facts and offered in good faith. They know that persistent dissatisfaction would eventually lead to permanent and successful organization against them.

THE DISPATCH judges, therefore, that notwithstanding the usual victory in point of numbers for the regulars, attention will be paid to the demands for stricter economy. It expects that the obnoxious estimates will be reduced, and that a good many, if not indeed a majority, of the men who were yesterday chosen, with the help of the City Hall administration, will be found voting when the ordinance comes up for appropriations more closely based upon actual needs, and not exceeding the total of last year's expenditures. In fact we should think that, considering the light which has been thrown on the question during the canvass, the interruptions to business in Pittsburg by building trades strikes, financial difficulties during the year, and the necessity for calling a halt in expenses which have increased so rapidly, the Chiefs themselves will see the wisdom of cutting the city coat according to the amount of cloth the taxpayers can furnish without a sense of oppression. This is at least the spirit which the public would like to see among City Hall officials, who, if they want to make the most of their opportunity, will gracefully recognize it.

VIGOROUS MEASURES NEEDED.

The warnings as to the possibility of typhus in Pittsburg prove not to have been misplaced. A case from the plague-importing steamer that recently landed its load of infected immigrants at New York is reported which yesterday gave strong indications that the disease is in the city.

This will call for urgent and radical measures of prevention and isolation on the part of the health authorities. No effort should be spared to limit the disease to those who brought it here. Citizens can aid the work and use the most efficient means for their own protection by establishing cleanliness and thorough sanitation as the order of the day.

It is pertinent to state that the effective isolation of the disease does not consist of leaving a case in a crowded quarter of the city. It was exactly such isolation that caused the smallpox epidemic of a dozen years ago.

CONFUSED INSTRUCTION.

It is more than probable that our esteemed cotemporary, the Philadelphia *Times*, is right in asserting that no legislation against business gambling will change or check a popular disposition to that evil. But it is to be regretted that it supports that argument by such assertions as the following:

> A man gambles on the future when he decides between business and a college education. He gambles on the future in the choice of his profession or trade. He gambles on the future in his selection of a wife. He stakes his prosperity and his comfort on a part of them, on every transaction into which his strife for fortune forces him or which opportunity offers him.

The darkening of the subject by such erroneous assertion is especially unfortunate in view of the fact that any reform of the gambling tendencies of the time must be secured by an improved public opinion. No such public judgment can be obtained through instructions which so utterly fail to draw the vital distinction between gambling and accepting the necessary chances of life. For the sake of insisting on a better understanding of the subject it is worth while to point out to our cotemporary that in the assertions quoted it commits itself to statements essentially untrue.

Without quarreling about the terms involved in a definition of gambling, it is important that the evil of it consists in the fact that the money gained by it is some other person's loss, and the money lost by it gives no return. Its characteristic is that it is an attempt to gain money without giving an honest consideration, while the true criterion of legitimate business is that in its transactions there is always a mutual benefit. When a staid Philadelphian starts down town to buy food for his family he takes the chances of being struck by lightning or run over by the cable cars; but he does not seek to make a gain by the loss of some other person, which is the vital characteristic of gambling. He simply accepts the chances which may surround acts necessary to the maintenance of life and the welfare of society. The same rule applies to all the illustrations quoted above. To say that marriage is a lottery is a poetic metaphor, and not a social truth.

It is true that gambling is to be lessened, as the *Times* intimates, only by convincing people of its folly and dishonesty. But there is little hope of doing that while public journals are unable to enforce the vital fact that the evil of gambling lies in the effort to get other people's wealth without giving a fair return for it.

THE CHAMPION BLUNDER.

There is necessity for an investigation either by the minority of the House Coinage Committee or the lunacy authorities of the District of Columbia as to what freak of inspired blundering inserted in the minority report against the Bland free-coinage bill the following unique statement of the enactment and effect of the bill:

> That the mints of this country shall receive all the silver which may be sent from any quarter for coinage into dollars, 16 of which shall be convertible into one gold dollar. It is perfectly clear that at the very moment the Treasury of the United States shall refuse to pay gold coin upon demand no one else will receive 16 silver dollars in lieu of one gold dollar.

THE DISPATCH has already placed itself clearly in opposition to the Bland proposition for silver monometallism. But the extraordinary genius for blundering which is displayed by the succession of assertions, first, that the bill contemplates the exchange at the Treasury of 16 silver dollars for one gold dollar, which it does not; second, that for the Treasury to give one gold dollar for 16 silver dollars would be to its disadvantage; and, third, that no one else will receive 16 silver dollars in lieu of one gold dollar, is so stunning that it will be a public service to inquire whether Mr. Williams, of Massachusetts, the clerk of this committee, or some exotic genius perpetrated it.

Every one with even a superficial knowledge of the coinage issue knows that the proposal is that one silver dollar, containing 16 times as much metal in weight shall be exchangeable for one gold dollar. As to the unique transaction set forth in the official document quoted from, a very little figuring will show what it amounts to. The person who gives a gold dollar for 16 silvers will thus buy 13¾ ounces of silver for a dollar. At 90 cents per ounce—the bottom rock price for silver—the metal he would thus get for a dollar would be worth $12 15 for use in the arts, giving him the very neat little profit of $11 15 on an investment of a dollar.

We can find hundreds of thousands of people who will engage in that transaction if Mr. Williams will find the people who will furnish the silver dollars.

AN UNACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* inquires with regard to Senator Stanford's great scheme for furnishing the holders of agricultural land with funds at cheap interest: "Why does not Senator Stanford organize an association of millionaires who will lend the farmers money at two per cent? Aren't the millionaires better able to lend it at that rate than the taxpayers?"

Our esteemed free trade cotemporary should be informed that this arrangement would not suit at all. It would not suit the millionaires who are in Senator Stanford's position, because it would fail to furnish them with loans on their millions of acres at two per cent, which they could reinvest to yield ten percent. It would not suit the taxpayers either because, if the Stanford brand of millionaires should loan their fortunes out at two per cent it would be necessary for them to get up some scheme for getting the money back, either by direct means like the Pacific railway grabs or the slightly more indirect ones of trusts and pools. Whatever was loaned so much below the market rate for money the public would have to make good to them.

No, esteemed organ of the star-eyed goddess, your substitute will not do. Even supposing that Senator Stanford could be persuaded to accept it, it would cost the people too much money.

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Public opinion has been stirred up in Philadelphia on the question of summary arrests by the police. The exercise of the raiding practice in rather extraordinary manner has given a good deal of point to the protests. It is doubtless due to this warm discussion that Judge Gordon, in giving an opinion on a case involving the power of arrest on view, to state the law as follows:

> The right to arrest a citizen by any policeman without a warrant is one which it is well to define both for the benefit of police officers and the Commonwealth. A policeman has the right to arrest for an offense committed in his presence without a warrant, but he has no right to arrest any citizen without a warrant for an offense which he did not see committed.

Judge Gordon's high standing does not permit us to question the accuracy of his judicial statement of the law. We can therefore only say that if this is the law, it is in dire need of being amended in the light of practical common sense. The rule strictly adhered to will defeat justice in many cases by the escape of the criminal.

Under this rule an officer who is informed that a robbery or murder has been committed, and is following hot on the trail of the criminal, cannot arrest him until he has gone and sworn out a warrant, which will afford time for the criminal to clear out. By this rule if an officer had seen Fitzsimmons, and recognized him, after his escape, he could not have arrested him, because the officer did not see him commit burglary or kill Gilkinson.

With Judge Gordon's assurance that this is law, there is an obvious necessity for its thorough revision to conform to the needs of modern society.

THE climate of Pittsburg is certainly such as to rejoice all interested in the prosperity of laundries. But there are many who believe that there never were such destructive people as the washers of this city, although they have such a volume of business that they ought to make a point of tender handling.

ALBANY has been so demoralized with wire-pulling that a wire message to the effect that the Prince of Wales is expected there in May, on his way to Ottawa, meets with little or no belief. The actions of the heir to the English throne are generally so much public property that there is no doubt but that a visit to Canada would have been heard of from England long before Albany got wind of it. We shall probably hear next that Senator Hill's absence from Washington has been due to his preparations for the reception of the royal visitor. But the presence of royalty and Hill at the same time would insure the ruin of any city. Albany must beware.

PITTSBURGERS will be very foolish if they do not devote their energies to insure the success of the movement to establish a university extension here. There are few communities better fitted to profit by courses of lectures than this city, and the establishment would be an incalculable boon.

THE New York *World* makes a plea for the Indians that they should appear at the World's Fair under more dignified surroundings and with greater independence than will be the case if they appear only under the auspices of the Wild West show. The National Government is urged to see to it that the aborigines of our country have a fair representation. Theoretically this idea is a good one, but in practice it is doubtful whether it would do more than change the exploiters to profit by the savage from Buffalo Bill to the Indian Bureau. And to judge from past experience it is doubtful whether the alteration would be beneficial to the Red Man.

NEW YORK began the enumeration for its State census yesterday. The severest criticism which Superintendent Porter has yet received is the willingness to abide by a Tammany enumeration in preference to the one he made.

THE Industrial Conference to be held at St. Louis on Washington's Birthday promises to mark an important step in national politics. The interest of party leaders is naturally attracted, and there is promise that a movement will be set on foot which will exceed in magnitude any organization that has hitherto been formed for representation outside regular party lines. Such a movement, in the existing discreditable conditions of partisan machinery, will enlist the sympathies of all who have the welfare and dignity of the country at heart, if for no other reason than that it will lessen the power of bossism and its attendant evils.

NOTHING can bring greater discredit on the law than the employment of unscrupulous men for its vindication. There is no penalty too severe for crimes committed in the name of the law or in order to obtain a conviction.

THERE is much about the circumstances brought to light in connection with the fire at the Dallmeyer building which makes it of prime importance that the actions arising from the evidence at the inquest be carried out thoroughly so that the matter may be probed to the roots. Arson is a serious crime, in the prevention of which the public is especially concerned. Then, too, a law-abiding community cannot afford to allow witnesses to be threatened with impunity, and no effort should be spared to bring the intimidators to the severe punishment they deserve.

THERE never was a bill whose supporters sent out such a specious set of arguments as do those of the Bland Free Coinage Bill. And no measure was ever in such need of the special pleader's misleading art.

THE supporters of the Reading coal deal are either interested parties, or they are gifted with memories which enable them to forget that no large corporation has been organized in the past which has been for the benefit of the public. Precedent is a good thing upon which to base argument in the absence of evidence that the monopolists are seeking to do anything but fill their own pockets at the expense of the people.

THE Canadian reciprocity commissioners had to go home with nothing to show for their journey, but cablegrams assure us that it is none the less a cold day for England just now.

IT is difficult to analyze the political outlook when a leading Democratic paper declares that Cleveland "is the choice of an overwhelming majority of the Democrats of the United States," and goes on to say that someone else had better be selected for nomination because of the split in New York. It really looks as though Tammany had some claim to omnipotence with regard to the Democratic party.

APROPOS of the importation of music for next season's Exposition, there can be no doubt that it would be a good thing to encourage Pittsburg to blow its own trumpet.

THE weakness of the Tory Government in England was clearly shown by its difficulty in securing the defeat of Mr. Sexton's amendment by a majority of only 21 votes from a total of 387. This close voting points to a very early dissolution and an overwhelming majority for the Liberal party, pledged to home rule, at the general election.

CHILE'S good sense is evidenced by Minister Montt's inquiries into the educational system of Pennsylvania.

NOW that Mayor Gourley has issued his appeal for the famine-stricken sufferers of Russia, Pittsburgers should lose no time in proving that their humanity is not less generous than that of other neighborhoods. Take Johnstown as an example and see to it that we contribute as largely in proportion to our wealth and population.

SOME dire calamity may be expected in this State if both our Senators continue their absence from Washington.

THE passage of the bill introduced in the Ohio Legislature to make mileage tickets transferable would be a great convenience to travelers. Furthermore, it should be supported because dishonesty is encouraged by and constantly practiced for the evasion of the present rule, which forbids the transference of such tickets.

FAVORITES OF FAME.

THE Queen's favorite wine is pale sherry.

M. DE LESSEPS is critically ill, but his physicians deny that his condition is hopeless.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NETTLETON left Washington yesterday morning for Chicago on business connected with the World's Fair.

VICTORIEN SARDOU, the famous dramatist, is writing a novel, the subject of which will be the scenes portrayed in his dramatic work "Thermidor."

MRS. BALLINGTON BOOTH, wife of the Commander of the Salvation Army, was given a reception at Chicago Monday night by Mr. and Mrs. William Borden.

MR. G. P. A. HEALY, the veteran American portrait painter, will leave Paris in a few days with his wife and daughter for a brief sojourn in the United States.

MISS KATE MINER, one of the women managers of the Columbian Exposition, is planning to exhibit a Creole kitchen at the Fair. She and her brother own and manage a sugar plantation of 5,000 acres.

HERBERT GLADSTONE has returned to London from Nice. He says that his father who is still sojourning on the Riviera is in the habit of taking regular six-mile walks, and that his pedestrian exercise, seemingly excessive for one of his advanced age, does not seem to tire him in the least.

Patent Suits on Polling Booths.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 16.—[*Special.*]—D. Barnard & Co., of St. Louis, to-day issued a circular to all the County Commissioners in Pennsylvania, stating that the voting booth adopted by the State Board is an infringement upon their patent and threatening suits for damages if they are purchased from any manufacturer not licensed by them. Two firms, one in Salisbury and the other in Marietta, have secured the right to construct the booths, and it is stated that they will have to work to their full capacity to supply all the counties in time for the November elections.

LIVE WASHINGTON WAIFS.

The Three Democratic Tariff Bills Ready to Report—Chairman Springer Not Antagonizing the Silver Men—The World's Fair Investigation—The Anti-Option Bill's Great Grind.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—The meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was short and decisive this morning, but final action was taken in this very brief time on three important bills. By a strict party vote the Springer free wool bill, the Bryan free binding twine bill, and the Turner bill placing cotton ties, cotton bagging and machinery for manufacturing the same on the free list, were all ordered to be favorably reported. These measures have already been published at length. The committee adjourned until to-morrow morning, when it is understood that Representative Cockran will call up for favorable report the bill reducing the duty on barley to the original rate in effect before the passage of the McKinley bill. There have been frequent reports within the past few days that a rivalry exists between the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Coinage as to the matter of precedence in the House. The Committee on Coinage has already reported a free silver bill and demanded a date for its consideration, and the Committee on Ways and Means has ordered favorable reports on three tariff bills. Chairman Springer, of the Ways and Means Committee, does not think it is a matter of any importance which particular bills receive first consideration. "So far as I am concerned," said he, "the idea of antagonizing the Coinage Committee with the business of the Ways and Means Committee has never entered my mind. The Committee on Ways and Means has proceeded as expeditiously as possible to prepare the legislation which it would submit to the House, and whenever the House is ready to take up this legislation the motion for that purpose will be made. But there is no desire to interfere with other business of the House, and there will be no rivalry on my part between the business of the Ways and Means Committee and that of other committees of the House, and I am sure there is no necessity for apprehension or jealousy. Everything, I am sure, will work harmoniously, and I hope the result will be satisfactory to all concerned. Certainly I shall not antagonize the business of any other committee in any petty rivalry for precedence, as I think all committees should have a hearing. Neither do I think it a matter of particular concern whether one measure or the other should first be considered, as ample time will be given to consider all measures of importance before adjournment, and, therefore, before the Presidental election."

THE Appropriations Committee of the House to-day provided for the conduct of the investigation authorized by the House into the expenditures made from the money appropriated by the Government in aid of the World's Fair project at Chicago. Chairman Holman was authorized to designate a sub-committee to make the investigation. He said that in looking over the ground he had come to the conclusion it would be better to select the standing sub-committee, whose business would be least interfered with by giving it charge of the work of investigation than to interfere with the work of all the sub-committees by the selection of a special sub-committee. He named the sub-committee having in charge the District of Columbia appropriation bill as the one to make the investigation. The members are Messrs. Dockery, of Missouri; Compton, of Maryland; Breckinridge, of Arkansas; Henderson, of Iowa, and Cogswell, of Massachusetts. The sub-committee was instructed to prosecute its inquiry in Washington, and not to visit Chicago unless subsequently authorized to do so by the full committee. It was also instructed to inquire into and report to the full committee all the facts it ascertains, omitting any recommendations. In other words, the sub-committee is to sift the facts for the full committee.

REPRESENTATIVE DURBORROW, of Illinois, to-day introduced in the House four joint resolutions bearing on matters connected with the World's Fair. The first authorizes the President to request of the Government of Spain, of the municipal Government of Genoa, of the Duke of Veragua, the descendant of Columbus, and of such other persons or corporations as may be thought proper, the loan of the articles, papers, books, maps, documents and other relics of Columbus and the persons associated with him, or with the discovery and early settlement of America, for exhibition at the World's Fair. The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to detail one or more vessels for the transportation of the articles, books, etc., referred to, and the Secretary of War is to detail whatever military guard that may be necessary for their care and protection. The other resolutions propose to authorize the President to extend to Alfonzo XIII, to the Queen Regent of Spain and to the living descendants of Columbus an invitation to attend the opening ceremonies of the Fair as the guests of the Government and the people of the United States; also, to authorize the President to extend an invitation to the Presidents of the other American republics and to the Governors of American colonies to participate in the ceremonies attending the dedication of the World's Fair buildings on the 11th, 12th and 13th of October next and the ceremonies attending the opening of the Exposition on the 1st of May, 1893; finally, to authorize the Librarian of Congress to exhibit at the World's Fair such books, papers, documents and other articles from the Library of Congress as may relate to Christopher Columbus and the discovery and early history of America.

THE papers in the case of Major Lewis C. Overman, the engineer officer recently tried by court martial in Cleveland, O., have been received at the War Department, and are being reviewed by Acting Judge Advocate General Lieber. They will also be reviewed by General Schofield and the Secretary of War, in the order named, before being submitted to the President for action. The impression prevails that a decision has been reached adverse to the Major.

A LARGE number of gentlemen, principally representing the New York Produce Exchange and the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, assembled in the room of the Senate Judiciary Committee this morning to present their views relative to the Washburne anti-option bill. J. W. LaBoulsse, representing the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, was the first gentleman to address the committee in opposition to the bill. Charles W. Ide, President of the New York Cotton Exchange, said he considered the situation critical. If either of the bills introduced in the Senate and House were passed the business of the exchange, he said, would be utterly destroyed. Mr. Ide believed that Mr. Hatch, author of the bill in the House, failed to realize the widespread use of the present system in dealing in future deliveries, and that he did not realize the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of framing a law which will kill speculation and still allow legitimate business to exist.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MILLER has instructed Examiner Dougall to make a thorough investigation of the charges against United States Marshal Paul Fricke and his deputy marshals for lack of vigilance in the matter of the pursuit of Garza and his band. It has been broadly intimated that the Marshal failed in his duty in the prosecution of this case, otherwise the Mexican revolutionist would not have been able to have eluded the United States troops when they were close on his heels. Nothing had been received at the War Department for several days indicating any material change in the situation of affairs along the Rio Grande. Army officers are of the opinion that the revolutionists are still concealed in the chaparral on the American side of the river, and that many of the residents are responsible for Garza's concealment and knowledge of the actions of the military authorities.

A RESOLUTION to-day introduced in the House by Mr. Fithian, gave warning that the gentleman from Illinois is preparing to resume his fight against all mail steamship subsidies and appropriations. Immediately after the reading of the journal, Mr. Fithian presented a resolution calling for information as to all contracts under the ocean subsidy law. "I ask that the resolution be considered at once," said Mr. Fithian. "I object," promptly interrupted Mr. Dolliver, of Colorado. A single objection being fatal, the resolution was referred to a committee. To the Associated Press Mr. Fithian said: "Yes, it is my intention as a member of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to continue the fight against the steamship subsidies. I requested all this information personally from the Postoffice Department, but I was unable to get what I wanted, so I determined to call for it in this way." The House Committee on Postoffices and Postroads to-day adopted Mr. Enloe's resolution with an amendment calling on the Postmaster General for all information concerning contracts made under the mail subsidy act.

THE House Committee on Military Affairs has adopted a resolution providing for the reappointment of General J. L. Mitchell, of Wisconsin; General W. J. Sewell, of New Jersey, and General A. T. McMahon, of New York, at the expiration of their terms as members of the Board of Managers of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

THE Bering Sea negotiations seem to be progressing a trifle more vigorously now that the matter of Canadian reciprocity has been disposed of and Secretary Blaine and Sir Julian Pauncefote are able to devote more attention to the question. The joint commission had an hour's conference with Secretary Blaine and the British Minister at the State Department this morning, and at its conclusion the commission resumed its sessions. It is surmised that an effort is being made to complete the work of the commission by the time Lord Salisbury is ready to act in the matter of the treaty of arbitration now before him, in order that there may be no unnecessary delay in reaching an agreement as to a renewal of the modus vivendi.

TWO LITTLE COMEDIES

That Were Played Very Prettily by the Tuesday Night Club.

The Tuesday Night Club gave a couple of pretty comediettas at the Pittsburg Club Theater last night. The first was "Orange Blossoms," by J. P. Wooler, a farcical trifle, in which the cast was as follows:

Colonel Clarence.....Mr. Faber
Mr. Falcon Hope.....Mr. Brown
Mr. Septimus Symmetry.....Mr. Howe
Isabella Clarence (wife to the Colonel).....Miss Reymer
Violet Hope (wife to Hope).....Miss Harding
Louisa.....Miss Morgan

Mr. Howe had the largest share of the work in "Orange Blossoms," and he made a very amusing misogynist, who is captured at last by the charming but willful misanthropist, *Louisa*, charmingly played by Miss Morgan. Miss Harding was as clever as usual, and indeed the whole performance was nicely finished.

In the second play, "Woman's Rights," by T. A. Palmer, the cast was as follows:

Major Brown Fitzgerald (unattached).....Mr. McKnight
Horace Temple (a young barrister).....Mr. Phillips
Bellingham Whyte (a "gentleman lock").....Mr. Scott
Constantia Semper (a mature maiden).....Mrs. Gormly
Annie Loveleigh (her niece, in love with Horace).....Miss Haworth

Miss Haworth, whose *Miss Hardcastle* was the most notable amateur performance of last season in Allegheny, had no difficulty in making *Miss Loveleigh* a most graceful and bewitching little heroine. The audience fell in love with her almost as quickly as *Horace Temple*, and she received the unusual compliment of a double recall in the middle of a scene. Mrs. Gormley made the old-maidish foibles of *Constantia Semper* extremely humorous, and Messrs. McKnight, Phillips and Scott assisted in acting the laughable story with much spirit. Mr. McKnight's make-up as a dyed and padded old beau was highly artistic. Both plays were very prettily mounted.

Between the plays the election of the club's officers for the year took place, and by unanimous consent these gentlemen were elected: W. R. Sewall, President; A. H. Childs, Vice President; Oliver Page, Secretary, and J. D. Lyons, Treasurer. The standing committee for the year were also announced.

THE READING COMBINE.

THAT coal combination has not got things exactly where it wants them yet—not by an anthracite.—*Chicago Tribune.*

IT would be some protection against the anthracite coal monopoly if the taxes on all other kinds of coal and fuel were repealed.—*New York World.*

THE combine is essentially a trust, though that word is very carefully avoided in the announcement made. What trusts are for the people know very well.—*Providence Telegram.*

THE Reading Railroad's big deal is an attempt to control the entire anthracite coal output of Pennsylvania. The magnitude of this monopoly is now 40,000,000 tons per annum, valued at $150,000,000.—*Toledo Blade.*

THERE is a clause in the Pennsylvania Constitution forbidding railroad companies from consolidating with or gaining control over competing lines, but it is calculated that the latest combine can ride through it or over it.—*Boston Herald.*

THE formation of the monster coal and carrying trust in the Pennsylvania district is a move on the financial chess board that will vitally interest every householder in the country. Although the men who are at the head of this trust allege that it is not formed to control prices, history fails to tell of a trust that did not do so.—*Kansas City Times.*

A BOTTLED MITTEN.

A Young Woman's Action That Is Puzzling Wisconsin People.

RACINE, WIS., Feb. 16.—A well-dressed woman walked up to the Court House steps this afternoon and deposited a bottle upon them. Two officers saw the act. They thought it was a plot to blow up the building and kill the officials, and got out of the way. After warning the people to be careful, one of the officers plucked up courage and carried the bottle into the Sheriff's office.

The big Sheriff turned a little pale, but he opened it. Attached to the cork was a string, and at the end of the string was a little red mitten and a note, which read: "Will cure love in one hour." The scared crowd made a break for the street, and the officers are looking for the woman. They want to know what officer she left the bottle for.

WALES MAY NOT COME.

The Prince Has Not Yet Notified His Ma's Servants Here to That Effect.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—[*Special.*]—A dispatch from Albany printed to-day, said that a private citizen in that city had received a cablegram which stated the Prince of Wales attended by a retinue of 25 persons expected to land in New York on May 25, and go hence to Niagara Falls and Canada. William Lane Booker, the British Consul General, said to-day: "The Prince of Wales has not told me that he is not coming, but I do not believe he intends to visit this country or Canada."

DEATHS HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

Rev. George E. Hare, Educator.

Rev. George Emler Hare, D. D., S. T. D., LL. D., one of the best-known Protestant Episcopal clergymen in the country, died at his residence, in Philadelphia, Monday after an illness of several months. Dr. Hare was born in that city in 1808. For a time he was assistant rector of Old Trinity Church, New York, and while living in the metropolis married Miss Hobart, daughter of the Bishop of that diocese. After filling a charge at Princeton, N. J., for several years, he, in 1844-45, was assistant professor of Latin and Greek at the University of Pennsylvania. For a number of years subsequently, Dr. Hare was head master of the Protestant Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, resigning in 1853 to assume the professorship of Biblical learning at the Philadelphia Divinity School. This chair, together with that of professor of New Testament literature, he occupied for 25 years.

Obituary Notes.

PRINCESS DARINKA, widow of Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, uncle of Prince Nicholas, the ruler of Montenegro, is dead in Venice.

COLONEL MCCARTHY, editor of the Nicholasville, (Ky.) *Journal*, died Monday. He was Assistant Secretary of State under Governor Knott, and was at one time an editor of the Louisville *Courier*.

HORACE LEEMAN EMERY died in Cleveland Monday. Mr. Emery formerly lived in Albany, where he owned a large manufactory. He was an inventor of some prominence. His body will be taken to Albany for burial.

EARL CLICKINGER, a commission merchant of Columbus, who for the past two weeks has been buying and shipping apples from Bedford, died yesterday at the Hotel Arlington of pneumonia, after an illness of a few days.

JOB C. CRESTMAN died at Choconut, Pa., Friday, aged 97 years. He was at the battle of New Orleans, participated in all the important engagements of the Mexican War, and was in 47 battles of the Rebellion. He was never wounded.

HENRY WARDLE, M. P. for South Derbyshire, England, died yesterday. He was born in 1832, and was senior partner of the firm of Salt & Co., brewers, of Burton-on-Trent. Mr. Wardle was a Liberal, a Home Ruler, and in favor of the affirmation bill.

SOLOMON FLEEGER, one of the oldest residents of Butler county, died in Chicora yesterday, at an advanced age, of general debility. He was born there and always lived in Butler county, being among the first to locate in the town, and was made its second postmaster.

MISS A. D. DOOLITTLE died Monday at the residence of ex-Senator James R. Doolittle, in Racine, of pneumonia, after an illness of three weeks. Miss Doolittle, who was a cousin of the ex-Senator, was for many years the principal of the Fitchugh Street Seminary for young ladies at Rochester, N. Y.

JACOB CRONE, a resident of Donaldson, Pa., for over 50 years, died Monday night, aged 73. He was a pioneer of the Western Schuylkill coal field and opened the railroad between Tremont and Pine Grove, becoming its first President. When he located in the district there was but one house in Tremont and none in Donaldson.

OUR MAIL POUCH.

Professor Totten and the Aurora.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

Evidently the prophetic Professor of Yale College has hit on the short-hand and handy method of jumping to his conclusions first and afterward arranging factors to sustain them. He refers to the auroral display of the night of February 13 as due to the big sunspot, which is directly due to the perihelion of the planets.

Well, let us do a little, just a little, reasoning in a mild, easy way, on this proposition, with a view of seeing how it sustains itself. The sunspot is a fixed fact. It is there, has been there for some time and will remain there for some time to come. Presumably, its potency was not restricted and limited to last Saturday evening. Now, if the display on the evening mentioned was "due to the sunspot," will this distinguished Professor be kind enough to rise up and explain why we have not an auroral phenomenon every clear night so long as the sunspot maintains its potency?

Another point. If Prof. Totten were living some distance northward of the Arctic circle, where auroral displays of indescribable grandeur almost constantly illuminate the heavens during the long Polar nights, and which, while unseen by intelligent human beings, have nevertheless been going on for thousands, yea, tens of thousands of years, would he then jump, in such an off-hand manner, to the conclusion that an unoffending spot on the sun was the direct factor in the case? How does he father such displays, when he has run short of a stock of sunspots?

He quotes Dr. Halley and the late lamented Prof. Proctor in support of the declaration that we have no authoritative data on auroras back of 1567. Very well. There are many other facts of that and earlier periods, of which we have no "authoritative data," but this is only testifying to the superstitious ignorance of the time and the lack of scientific light. There were 12 centuries of sunless, starlight night, but Nature did not suspend operations. A decimal fraction is a terror to a Digger Indian, and his mental machinery is knocked silly in the endeavor to grasp an understanding of the precession of the equinoxes, but this does not disprove the convenient utility of decimals, nor does it militate an iota against the motion of the equinoctial points along the plane of the ecliptic.

Magnetic storms, with and without a visable auroral accompaniment, have occured in all the ages and will occur so long as the earth has an atmosphere, preserves her daily rotation on her axis and pursues her orbital journey around the sun.

It seems incredible when great facts stand forth in unmistakable significance, when they are even written in plain view across the heavens, that any one professing to be conversant with the operations of nature and stands forth as a "Professor" to impart knowledge to others, should so disclose his lack of understanding of the integrity and consistency of common physics and should so wallow in the shallows.

Not a few, only, of the dismal ideas that have fallen on ignorant mental soil, to trouble and perplex humanity, came from a bad liver or an impared digestion, and if some of the prognostications that are just now emanating from the Connecticut Professor be not of this order, there is every indication of a close kinship. N.

WAMPUM, PA., February 15.

A Card From Mr. Marshall.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

In an afternoon paper of Monday, 15th inst., I am represented as reflecting upon Mr. Bennett, one of my associate counsel in the defense of Mayor Wyman. It has been a rule of my life not to notice newspaper misstatements. However, justice to Mr. Bennett demands a reply. I have never uttered a word in disparagement of Mr. Benfett. His labors in the preparation of the defense were skillful, intelligent and exhaustive, both as to the law and the facts. In no instance did his work fail to elicit my warm approval. He had my entire confidence and we were harmonious in consultation and trial of the case. It affords me pleasure to say that Mr. Bennett did more to prepare both the law and the facts for the trial than any of the legal gentlemen employed, and all his work was performed with skill, intelligence and courage.

THOS. M. MARSHALL.

PITTSBURG, February 16.

PHONOGRAPHS FOR DEAFNESS.

Sounds Transmitted by Vibrations to the Brain.

BALTIMORE, MD., Feb. 16.—At the Southern Homeopathic Medical College a public demonstration was given yesterday of the uses of the phonograph for the cure of deafness, a discovery made by Dr. H. F. Gary, a professor in the eye and ear division of the college. An exposition of the principles of the treatment was given. It is the massage of those parts of the ear which transmit sound into the brain. The phonograph produces this result by giving continuous and successive vibrations at regular intervals. This it does with certain degrees of intensity and frequency according to the exigencies of the case under treatment.

In bad cases a series of intensified shocks, at the rate of one to the second, is produced against the membraneous tympanum or drum. In cases of not over five years' standing the vibrations are given with more frequency and less intensity. The noises or thumps so made are given by means of depressions made with a stylus at regular intervals in the wax surface of the phonographic cylinders. Thus they may be varied and they originate in the phonograph itself, and are not introduced from any exterior source. Every depression causes the little transmitting needle in the instrument to strike the diaphrame connected with the phonograph and to reproduce the same distressing noises which a deaf person continually hears within his brain.

SPOTS ON THE SUN.

THE appearance of a big spot on the face of the sun affords opportunity for the formation of a new political party.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

IT is calculated that the spot on the sun is 18,600 miles in diameter. That makes it almost as imposing as a spot on one's character.—*Boston Herald.*

IF the sunspot is responsible for the existing weather there will be a general and heartfelt wish that the sun would quit the spot business.—*Detroit Free Press.*

ASTRONOMERS are interested in that big spot on the sun. The astrologers are certain also that something is going to happen. It generally does.—*Toledo Commercial.*

PREACHES UPSIDE DOWN.

A Salvationist Who Will Exhort While Standing on His Head.

EAU CLAIRE, WIS., Feb. 16.—The Captain of the Salvation Army contingent in this city has hit upon a new scheme of soul saving and penny catching. The brave officer advertises that, on Sunday evening, he will preach the gospel standing on his head.

He will be supported in this painful position by two of the female soldiers of his command, each of whom will hold one of his legs just below the knee.

KILLED BY A JOKE.

It Was So Funny That It Gave a Girl Incurable Hiccoughs.

SEA ISLE CITY, N. J., Feb. 16.—Miss Flora Springer, the daughter of Jesse Springer, of Goshen, is hiccoughing herself to death. About three weeks ago she laughed violently at a joke cracked by a friend in the dry-goods store of Partridge & Richardson, in Philadelphia, where she was employed.

The laughing brought on an attack of hiccoughs, which has continued ever since. She was brought home Saturday in a critical condition. Her physicians have used every remedy known to medical science, but have been unable to relieve her. They despair of saving her life.

A Strong Point Illustrated.

Boston Herald.]

There is at least one strong point about Mr. Carnegie's gospel of wealth. He demonstrates that it can be practiced as well as preached. This is illustrated in his latest gift of $100,000 on top of his $1,000,000 donation to Pittsburg's library.

Theological Seminaries in Council.

GETTYSBURG, Feb. 16.—Forty delegates from the theological seminaries of the Middle and New England States, representing the Middle district of the Inter-State Missionary Alliance, convene here to-morrow for a two days' session.

Indulged Too Freely.

Chicago Tribune.]

The Mayor of Allegheny, Pa., has been found guilty of malfeasance in office and will be thrown out. Perhaps he has been indulging too freely in Monongahela.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

—Thunderstorms occur most frequently at sunset.

—Japanese women are