WAGES OF POTTERS

130 Per Cent Higher in East Liverpool Than in English Factories.

CHINA MADE IN AMERICA

Becoming More and More Popular at the Expense of Its Rivals.

BLACK TONGUE IS GETTING BAD.

Beaver Falls People Kicking on the Increased Assessments.

NEWSY NOTES FROM NEARBY TOWNS

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

EAST LIVERPOOL, Feb. 26.—William Burgess, United States Consul at Tunstal, England, has just made a report, giving the items of cost of producing all grades of pottery in England and the United States, in detail. Democratic campaign speakers last fall made the statement all through this State that the American potters did not receive higher wages than were paid in England. The table prepared by Consul Burgess gives the price paid in English potteries and the price paid in New Jersey and East Liverpool, as well as Cincinnati, Findlay, Tiffin, Wheeling and other important places where pottery is made in this country.

The average wages paid Americans are over 130 per cent higher than the English, and the duty under the McKinley bill is 55 per cent on plain white ware and 60 per cent on decorated.

The amount of capital required to be locked up in the business differs greatly between the two countries. The American potter is both manufacturer and merchant and must carry a large and well-assorted stock to enable him to ship bulk carloads on short notice, while the English potters manufacture on orders alone, and the American who buys abroad does not expect to receive his order for four or five months, thus placing him in the position of a speculator should the market vary within that time.

English potters carry an average of $10,000 worth of ware in stock, while the average American carries from $50,000 to $60,000 worth, which is constantly being added to or drawn from.

The rate of money interest is from 2½ to 3 per cent, as against 6 or 7 per cent in the United States. Hence, in the investment, including the construction of the plant, the small stock of manufactured goods carried, added to the vast difference in wages paid labor, the English potters are enabled to compete with the American and still pay the 55 to 60 per cent duty.

The introduction of the manufacture of vitreous hotel china, thin, half thick and thick, at the East Liverpool china works, is cutting down the importation of this class of goods very fast. It is only recently that this grade of goods has been successfully made in this country, and foreigners have been getting their own prices through importers and jobbers. Now, however, American china, equal to the imported in color, in glazing, in vitrification and in translucency, is taking the place of the imported article, and at a much less price. The decorations are put on over or under the glaze, as desired, and the ware is very handsome, rapidly finding a wide sale.

M'KEESPORT MATTERS.

Possibly a Murder—A New $10,000 Hotel—Danger of Landslides.

MCKEESPORT, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—The condition of Thomas P. Potts, of Monongahela City, who was seriously hurt at the Opera House alley last Monday night, is critical, and Joseph Dietrich, who is charged with assaulting him, was placed under $3,000 bail for his appearance in court.

P. W. Schmidt, who bought the Neel & Wampler lot, corner of Center street and Fifth avenue, will place a fine hotel on the site. The lot cost him $10,000.

The hillside fronting Jenny Lind street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth avenues, is still sliding down, and it is feared when the frost leaves the ground an immense amount of the hillside will come down. Along Walnut street near Fourteenth avenue in front of the Power property, where a heavy cut was made when the upper end of Walnut street was improved, the appearance of the hillside is dangerous, and it is almost certain to slide down with the first thaw.

A License War at Johnstown.

JOHNSTOWN, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—The temperance people here to-day held a big meeting and decided to present remonstrances to the court against the granting of licenses to every applicant in the city with the exception of five, which are held to be reasonably necessary. As there are 130 applicants, the coming temperance campaign promises to be very interesting. They also decided to hold popular meetings every evening for two weeks until the holding of the license court.

A Double Tragedy at Salem.

SALEM, O., Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Salem was shocked a second time this morning by the death of Philip Geiger, following so soon after Lizzie Miller's tragic suicide yesterday. Last evening Seth Hunt procured a dozen doses of quinine from Dr. Anderson, giving them to Geiger to counteract the effect of liquor. Geiger took several doses, although he also took laudanum. He became unconscious and died. An investigation has been ordered. Many believe it to be murder.

He Smoked Over a Powder Can.

STEUBENVILLE, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—John Sopneak, a Hungarian coal miner, has died at Hiltonvale from fatal injuries received several days ago. He tried the experiment of pouring powder from a can into a hole for blasting while smoking. A spark set fire to the powder, and his hands were blown off and his body badly burned.

Two Arrests for Harboring Bruner.

JOHNSTOWN, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Two men named Acker, father and son, were brought here from Latrobe to-day and lodged in jail, charged with being accessories to the murder of old man Reese by harboring Elmer Bruner. They will be tried after Bruner's trial is over.

Warmer Than He Bargained For.

JOHNSTOWN, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—An unknown Hungarian lay down by a cinder dump last night to keep warm, and a car of molten cinders was emptied over him. The man was frightfully burned, but will likely recover.

Fifteen Young Men Prosecuted for Assault.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—In the case of Maggie Butter, the father of the girl will commence prosecution against 15 persons for assault, including several students.

Black Tongue Killing Off Oleons People.

RENOVO, PA., Feb. 26.—There are a number of cases of "black tongue" near Oleona. Harry Olson and two members of Charles Clookey's family died last week, and three others of the family are sick with the disease. Daniel Sechrist, an employe of Arthur Fish, also died of the disease.

BRUTALITY IN WRESTLING.

The Loser Almost Strangled to Death in a Bout at Bradford.

BRADFORD, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—At the Wagner Opera House here to-night W. E. Gibbs, of this place, and Dennis Gallagher, of Buffalo, engaged in a wrestling match that came near ending in a tragedy. The match was best two in three falls, Graeco-Roman style, strangle hold not barred. The men were in prime condition, and the first bout ended the contest. The struggle lasted 20 minutes, with honors even. Gibbs got a strangle hold on Gallagher, but the Buffalo man, by the exercise of wonderful strength, broke the hold. In the subsequent effort to obtain a fall, Gallagher got his man by the neck and tried to place his shoulders upon the carpet.

Gibbs squirmed partly off the bad position, and then Gallagher clutched him about the neck with a lang-hold. With the fierceness of an Evan Lewis he squeezed Gibbs' wind-pipe until the latter, with eyes protruding and black in the face, made a guttural sound like the roaring of a bull. He was strangling.

"Don't murder him," "foul," "let go of him," and other exclamations came from the horrified spectators. Bill Baker, Gibbs' second, attempted to rescue his man from Gallagher's clutches, but Referee Atherton held him back. Gallagher continued his choking until Gibbs became unconscious and lay upon the floor in a nearly lifeless condition. He was carried to his room by two men, and, by working over him for a long time, the wrestler was resuscitated. The match was awarded to Gallagher, although he did not throw his man. The strangling of Gibbs was the most brutal spectacle that was ever witnessed on a stage in this city.

YOUNGSTOWN JOTTINGS.

A Colored Pastor Makes a Wicked Prayer—More of the Foy Mystery.

YOUNGSTOWN, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Colored circles are stirred up over an incident which occurred at the A. M. E. Church, where a revival is in progress. The Colored Cornet Band gave a masquerade ball which was very successful, nearly all the colored people attending. Rev. Mr. Lee objected to the ball, believing it would interfere with his religious work, and, it is reported, his prayer that night expressed the wish that the floor would give way and leave the maskers in their sins. The band claimed that in the past they had largely aided in sustaining the church.

Relatives here have not laid any claim to the body of Thomas Foy, the suicide found hanging near Niles, and unless action is taken it will be turned over to a doctor who has claimed it. It is asserted by railroad men that the night before Foy was found he was with a party of tramps near the woods, and that in the morning they had disappeared, creating a suspicion that a quarrel had occurred, and they had settled the matter by a quiet hanging bee.

The Republicans of Mahoning county realize that their only hope of the Congressional nomination coming to this county is by uniting upon a candidate and giving him their solid delegation in the Congressional Convention. The leading candidates are Judge L. W. King and Judge J. R. Johnston, with J. G. Butler as a dark horse. A movement is now on foot to secure an agreement of the candidates that the one securing the largest number of delegates shall have the entire county delegation.

THE BEAVER VALLEY BUDGET.

A Kick Against Assessments—Dr. Scott Leaves His Old Haunts.

BEAVER FALLS, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Owing to the County Commissioners increasing the valuation on property in this place over the valuation sent in by the Assessors a public meeting is to be called to protest. When the Assessors began their duties they were instructed to assess property at the market value. This, it was supposed, they did, and now the County Commissioners have increased the valuation 20 per cent in the First ward and 10 per cent in the remaining wards.

Dr. Scott, the demented old herb doctor, who has been occupying rooms in the Mansion House, one of the old landmarks of Beaver county, and which is now being torn down, and who refused positively to move, claiming that he had a perpetual lease from the Moravian Indians, has at last decamped. When the roof was taken from the building and the plaster fell upon his bed he sadly packed his traps and departed.

A BLOODY FAMILY FEUD.

An Encounter in Cumberland County Which May End in Murder.

SHIPPENSBURG, PA., Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Information was received here this evening of the reported murder of one of the notorious Moffit brothers, which took place near Doubling Gap Springs, this county, last night.

The Hurly brothers left Newville early in the evening intoxicated, and on the way home, met the Moffit brothers. The men began to quarrel. A fight ensued, when one of the Moffit brothers was dangerously wounded and will probably die. District Attorney Maust will investigate and order the arrest of the parties concerned.

Trying to Save Murderer Reed.

WASHINGTON, PA., Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—An effort is being made to have the death sentence recently pronounced upon Martin Reed, the murderer of Alexander Chappel, commuted to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life. Bigger Donaldson, a Pittsburg attorney, who was formerly a chum of Reed's, is especially interested in the case. Mr. Donaldson says quite a number of Reed's boyhood friends have contributed money to defray the expenses connected with the move.

The York Match Factory Sold Out.

YORK, PA., Feb. 26.—The York Match Company of this city has sold out its plant at this place to the Diamond Match Company, of Chicago, for $200,000. The plant was valued at $50,000. The works of the York Match Company were the largest in the United States outside of the combination.

Tri-State Brevities.

BISSELL wishes to become a borough.

A 14-YEAR-OLD son of H. C. Boggs was accidentally shot and instantly killed in an Evans City (Pa.) shooting gallery Thursday morning.

TWELVE laborers at the Jefferson Iron Works furnace, Steubenville, quit work Thursday because of a reduction in the price paid for unloading ore cars.

SUPERINTENDENT DUFF, of the Wallace Banfield Iron Mill, at Irondale, O., discharged all his miners Thursday. They refused to work with three non-union men, and were paid off. New men are taking their places.

YESTERDAY morning Night Officer Douds, of Beaver Falls, saw two men looking into the window of a feedstore, and he ordered them to move on. The larger man jumped upon the officer and threw him down, and then stabbed at him. The officer wore an under coat, an overcoat and another of heavy rubber, which saved his life, as the knife failed to reach the body. After striking once the fellows ran away. Douds emptied his revolver after them, but failed to hit them.

GOWNS for young and old described by competent fashion writers in THE DISPATCH to-morrow.

Ocean Steamship Arrivals.

Steamer.	Where From.	Destination.
Trave	Bremen	New York.
Siberian	New York	Glasgow.
Ucendam	New York	Boulogne.
America	Bremen	Baltimore.
Saale	New York	Southampton.
Elbe	New York	Bremerhaven.

TROTTERS IN RUSSIA.

Joe Heideger Writes an Interesting Letter About Them.

LATEST ABOUT FITZ AND MAHER.

Connie Mack Offers to Compromise With the Local Club.

STEINITZ LEADS IN THE CHESS MATCH

The thousands of patrons of trotters and trotting races are always interested in hearing anything of a news kind from Joe Heideger, who left this city some time ago for Germany. The sporting editor of this paper received a letter from Joe yesterday, and like all of Joseph's letters, it contained lots of very interesting and instructive news about the trotters in Eastern Europe. When the ex-Pittsburger wrote the letter in question he was among the Russians in Moscow, but there is no evidence that the famine was at all marring his pleasure. He was having a high old time and was scoring great successes. The trotting races there were on ice tracks and that was not altogether palatable to Joseph. His letter is as follows:

"I am now in Moscow and it is a great place. Trotting has taken a great hold here and there is plenty of money in the business when a man has anything like a good horse. I am trotting horses here on the ice among the Russians and it is cold, awfully and terribly cold. One of my horses was badly frozen and it will take months before the horse is well enough to trot again. Our American horses can't stand the cold here half as well as the Russian horses. The latter can stand the weather no matter how freezing it is, and they will trot in great style. They can go heats of two and three miles without any blankets. They have no boots on; nor are any check reins used, and they have on only common road shoes. But despite all this they can all go the mile in from 2:25 to 2:35, and never make a skip. These horses really surprise me, and Americans who have never seen them will hardly believe they are such useful animals.

"I have some Russian horses now in my stable, and I have many a good laugh at them. A driver behind them has to sit with a slack line, and baste away at them with the whip from wire to wire. No judgment is required to drive them, as they are all pure gaited trotters, and you cannot drive them to a break. They are more natural trotters than our American horses, but they are very roughly built. One of these Russian horses would just be the thing for Watson Taylor to go round the pumpkin fairs with. With one of them Watson could give the boys the laugh. I have just won three races, and been twice second, so that I cannot complain."

When Joe wrote the letter he was on the point of going to Italy for a trip, and he expects to be in America next year.

STEINITZ LEADS ONCE MORE.

He Defeats the Russian Chess Master in a Great Game.

HAVANA, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—After a struggle which lasted for nearly seven hours the Russian master had to acknowledge defeat and to cede the lead to the Bohemian Cæsar once more. The Zukertort opening, which the Austro-American adopted for the third consecutive time, is highly congenial with his style. On the other hand, Tschigorin never could do himself full justice in a close opening, although he vastly improved in his line of play in the twentieth game of the present match. Steinitz, playing for nothing but position, gradually obtained a majority which promised a certain victory. Tschigorin vainly sought salvation in a counter attack.

At one time he set an ingenious trap which would have yielded him a harrassing attack or at least a draw by perpetual check, but Steinitz declined to be caught. After recess the Russian had to beat retreat at every point, and notwithstanding his stout defense he had to resign after 49 moves. The score of the contest at present is as follows:

Steinitz—0 d d 1 d 1 0 0 d 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 d 1—9.

Tschigorin—1 d d 0 d 0 1 1 d 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 d 0—8.

Steinitz, 9; Tschigorin, 8; drawn, 5.

CONNIE MACK HEARD FROM.

He Makes a Reasonable Proposition to the Club for This Season.

A letter was received yesterday from Connie Mack by President Temple, of the local ball club. The contents of the letter show that Connie is aware of the altered condition of things, and he writes in a manly and reasonable spirit. Last year, he points out, he received $3,500, and he is required to sign for $2,500 this year. This he claims is not fair and argues a reduction of $1,000 is unreasonable. He offers to meet the club half way and submit to a reduction of $500 this year. In his letter he says:

"I recognize the fact that the salaries of ball players will have to come down. I also recognize the fact that not one of the other players were reduced this year. Therefore, I think it a little unjust that I should be the only one to be pulled down, and my out such a big one."

Slosson Is Anxious.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—George F. Slosson is very anxious to have another contest at billiards with Schaefer, and to bring back the championship trophy to this city. He issued the following challenge Wednesday night:

NEW YORK, February 24.

Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company:

GENTLEMEN—I hereby challenge the winner of the Schaefer-Ives match, to be played in Chicago March 19 next, to play for the cup emblematic of the championship of the world and $500 a side, according to the rule governing such contests. My deposit of $250, made with Mr. Troescher, of your firm, on the evening of February 10, still holds good as a forfeit, and is an evidence of the sincerity of this challenge. Respectfully,

GEORGE F. SLOSSON.

A Club for Burlington.

BURLINGTON, IO., Feb. 26.—Burlington has concluded that she will have base ball this year, and made a decisive move to-night. W. S. McCaull, Secretary of the Illinois-Iowa League, dropped down on Burlington to-day, and at a meeting this evening an organization was formed. The street railway people and Chris Bonn, Democratic candidate for Mayor, offered to run a club themselves, but a dozen other influential business men joined the company. The street car company furnishes ground free and puts up one-half the money to back the club.

Bogardus Meets His Match.

VIRGINIA, ILL., Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—Captain A. H. Bogardus, of Lincoln, Ill., the crack shot, was defeated here to-day by George Rexroat, of this city, who has been attracting a good deal of attention of late by his wonderful trap-shooting. Rexroat's score sheet shows 92 birds killed to the Captain's 83, out of a possible 100. The Captain's best record to-day was 18 straight, while Rexroat killed 42 without a miss.

Budd Victorious.

OSKALOOSA, Feb. 26.—In a $1,000 match between Budd of Des Moines, and Marshal, of Keithsburg, at 100 live birds, Budd killed 96 and Marshal 90 birds. The best record was Budd's 35 straight.

Prize Fighters Raided.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Sol Van Praag, a member of the Illinois Legislature, and a State street saloon keeper arranged to have a prize fight in his saloon early this morning. Just as the principals had entered the ring the police raided the place, and the two pugilists and 50 spectators are under arrest.

GOSSIP ABOUT THE BATTLE.

Great Demand for Seats to See the Contest Between Maher and Fitzsimmons—Both Men in Good Condition—Slavin and Mitchell's Opponents—The Australian's Training.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—The interest in the Maher-Fitzsimmons fight is increasing. All the boxes were disposed of last week and the orders for reserved seats are being received daily by mail and telegraph. The seating capacity of the Olympic Amphitheater was increased. The report that Jack Dempsey, Fitz's last opponent, would visit the city to witness the contest is unfounded, as he is at his home in Portland, Ore., suffering with malaria. Frank Slavin and Charley Mitchell will arrive on Sunday, and both report themselves in splendid form and eager for the fray. The two men chosen to oppose them are also placing themselves in condition to try their hardest to earn the very liberal purse offered by the enterprising Olympics should they succeed in staying the required four rounds.

Maher will go quietly to Weiman's, at Carrollton, upon his arrival and it is said will not be seen in public until he enters the Olympic Club ring. He is evidently anxious to avoid notice and Madden telegraphs that Maher and he will reach here Sunday. They will make two stops on the road, at Washington and some other place, so that Maher will not be fatigued by the journey. A delegation of Galway men, now good citizens of New Orleans, will receive Maher and see him safely quartered.

The reports from Fitzsimmons continue favorable. He sleeps well and is still growing stronger and heavier, and yesterday sprinted for six miles and had a four-round bout with Jimmie Carroll, in which the latter did not land a blow.

Arthur Upham, the middle weight, has received an offer to meet Fred Woods, of Philadelphia before the Occidental Club, San Francisco, about the end of March for $1,000. Upham would gladly go if he could get away from St. Bernard in time.

MAHER ALL RIGHT.

He Starts for New Orleans and Is in Tiptop Shape to Meet Fitz.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—Peter Maher, who is to try conclusions with Bob Fitzsimmons before the Olympic Club of New Orleans, March 2, left his training quarters at East Hampton, N. Y., Wednesday and arrived in Washington yesterday morning with his backer and trainer, Billy Madden, and Jack Falion, his sparring partner. They were evidently anxious to keep their presence in the capital city a secret, for they went at once to a modest hotel and refused to see anyone.

Later in the day they took a long walk, and finally brought up at the Washington Monument, where Maher limbered himself up a bit by running up the long stairway, 520 feet. When he arrived at the landing he was not perceptibly fatigued, and rode down the elevator and tried it over. The party, after visiting the principal points of interest about the city, left last night at 11 o'clock for New Orleans. They will stop off at Mobile.

Before going, Madden said: "To show how Maher is rated in New York, here are a few bets made Wednesday: James Wakely bet $1,000 with Dink Davis on Maher, Phil Lynch bet Dink Davis $1,500. He also took the Maher end."

GREAT LOCAL ENTHUSIASM.

Betting on the Big Battle Becoming Very Lively Among the Sports.

Local interest in the Fitzsimmons-Maher fighj is getting to a high pitch and betting on the result is becoming brisk. The Fitzsimmons supporters are holding out for a point of odds and Maher backers yesterday offered to bet any amount of money at evens. The probability is that Maher money will become so strong as to force the odds on the Irish champion as far as local betting is concerned. If 5 to 4 were offered on Maher there would be some lively betting.

Many local admirers of the fistic sport are inclined to think that the amount of money at stake will induce the principals and their backers to "fix" things and this is deterring speculation to some extent.

RYAN AND NEEDHAM.

A Great Battle Expected and Lively Betting on the Result.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—The change of date for the Ryan-Needham contest from March 2 to February 29 by the management of the Metropolitan Club, meets with favor among the sporting fraternity and their friends, and there is a large demand for tickets. Maher and his backers and seconds have expressed their wish to attend. The audience to witness this great welterweight contest will contain more noted sporting men than ever congregated at a ringside in this city. The change of date makes no difference with the principals, as it saves them two days' hard work, and as both men have been down to weight for some days no material difference or annoyance is felt by either men.

Excitement over this contest is becoming more generally noticeable, and much money is being wagered on the result, the betting being about even. When the Chicago contingent arrives, however, Ryan stock may go up, but there is every reason to believe the Frisco boys will be only too willing to accept. Pools were sold to-day with odds a little in Needham's favor.

WORK ON THE SCHEDULE.

Pittsburg Not One of the First Clubs With Home Games.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—The baseball League Schedule Committee will meet again, and expect to agree on a schedule to be presented to the League on Tuesday. The only thing definitely known about the schedule is that the season will open the second week in April, and the first games will be played in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, and an effort will be made to keep the teams circling around at those points until the balmy zephyrs chase the blizzards away from Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Boston, Brooklyn and New York. The schedule will call for a double chamdionship series.

The clubs that will play Sunday games are St. Louis, Louisville, Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Pittsburg. The other six clubs will not play. The regular League meeting will begin Monday, with a meeting of the National Agreement Committee, and Tuesday the entire League will be represented at a meeting in which the schedule, rules and other matters will be considered.

Results at Guttenburg.

GUTTENBURG, N. J., Feb. 26.—The track was in good condition to-day.

First race, six and one-half furlongs—Forest King first, Bias second, J B third. Time, 1:24¼.

Second race, five furlongs—Disappointment first, Arthur Davis second, Vandal third. Time, 1:11.

Third race, six and one-half furlongs—Blitzen first, Brooklyn second, Panhandle third. Time, 1:33.

Fourth race, four and one-half furlongs—Mulligan first, Mollie Davis second, Two Lips third. Time, 1:03¾.

Fifth race, five furlongs—Azrael first, Needmoor second, Alma T third. Time, 1:07¾.

Sixth race, seven furlongs—Algernon first, Longstride second, Sandstone third. Time, 1:40¾.

Keys & Lockwood

Scarfs at 50c to-day.

HANNACH, 30 Sixth street.

A RELIC OF MASONRY.

The Oldest Original Minute Book in America Brought to Light.

CURIOUS OLDEN-TIME CUSTOMS.

The Transactions of the Lodge at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL FIND

MEDIA, PA., Feb. 26.—A historical find of more than ordinary importance has been made near here. Among a number of old books and papers, resurrected from their long-forgotten resting place in the attic of an old country house in Delaware county, where they had lain undisturbed for almost a century, was a leather-covered folio blank book, which upon examination proved to be one of the long-lost records of the Masonic lodge which was held at the Tun Tavern, on Water street, in Philadelphia, during the early decades of the last century.

The contents of the book consist of 106 closely-written pages, setting forth all their proceedings, and, in addition, recording the names of every candidate, member and visitor who was present or advanced at the various meetings. In fact, it is the first minute book of the lodge, and covers the period from June 28, 1749, to July 2, 1755, when the lodge changed its meeting place to the newly erected Freemason's Hall, in Norris (Lodge) alley.

The importance of this old relic will be recognized when it is stated that heretofore nothing whatever has been known of the official or social workings of the Masonic Brethren who flourished in Pennsylvania under the dispensation from the Grand Lodge of All England, extending from 1730 until the decade prior to the Revolution, when, on account of political differences, application was made by sundry brethren in Philadelphia to the rival Grand Lodge in England, known as the "Ancient York Masons," for permission to hold lodges in Pennsylvania under their authority.

Origin of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge.

In response to these applications two or three lodges were warranted about 1759-60, either by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. It is from these lodges of the A. Y. M. that the present Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had its origin.

As the majority of the members of the first Provincial Grand Lodge, working under the "Grand Lodge of All England," were politically inclined toward the Crown, that branch of Masonry rapidly declined in the troublous times immediately preceding the Revolution, the patriot brethren affiliating with the new lodges of the A. Y. M. rite. Thus the absolute absence of all records was always accounted for by the supposition that they were either carried away by their Loyalist custodians in their flight from the country, or else were destroyed during the war.

In the year 1884 the first scrap of authentic information, outside of the announcements in Franklin's paper, was found. This was an old account book, known as "Liber B," and now in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, which gives the names and accounts of the 19 members who composed St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia, the first Masonic lodge in America. It was this lodge which a few years afterward resolved itself into a Provincial Grand Lodge. It covers the period from June 24, 1731, to 1738, and settles the claim of Pennsylvania's priority in Freemasonry in America. But, independent of this great fact and the names of the 19 members, it gives no insight into the Masonic life of the order. The volume which has now come to light is the book of proceedings of the "Masons' Lodge, held at the Tun Tavern, in Water Street," and contains many curious entries, not the least of which is the invariable close of each proceedings with the announcement, "Ten O'clock, ye Lodge Closed," a custom which might well be followed by the brethren of the present day.

The First Entry in the Book.

The first entry in the book is dated "Wednesday, 28th June, 1749—present, Bro. Griffin, Mr. Reily, S. W., Shee, J. W. Members present, Bros. Corfe—Arstidale—Mullan—Wright—Eve—Foster. Visiting Brethren, Bros. Murray—Alsop—Gantony and Duglap." The business of the lodge consisted of electing a Tyler and a committee to amend the by-laws, after which a number of gentlemen were proposed for initiation, together with recommendations for passing and raising others, a separate ballot being taken in each case.

Another curious feature was that the lodge always met in the E. A. Degree, and occasionally admitted visitors who were not Freemasons. Thus in the proceedings of August 12, 1752, among the visitors appears the entry: "Sami. Austin, not a brother."

That matters at this early day did not always run smoothly is shown under date of August 5, 1749, when a ballot was held "whether or no three of the leading members should be continued or excluded from the lodge," after which the Secretary was ordered to "raise" their names off the book as members.

Three weeks later a petition was sent to Benjamin Franklin, Prov. Gr. Master, to grant a "deputation" under his sanction.

Charges of Irregular Practices.

Early in September the Master, being accused by several membeas of some irregular "practices, contrary to the dignity of the chair," is asked in open lodge to clear up the charges by the next regular meeting. This he succeeded in doing at the lodge September 27, 1749—"agreeable to the members." After this episode matters went on in harmony, and at the lodge December 19, 1749, it was agreed by the majority, to celebrate St. John's Day by a dinner at the Tun Tavern, at 10 o'clock, and "each Mason to bring his wife or partner to a dance at night, the expense of which to be left to the majority of the members after the dinner is over." The expense of this celebration, as shown by the next minutes, was £23 17s 5d, and 20 shillings were voted to the servants of the tavern.

Several cases are noted where members were imprisoned for debt, application being made to the lodge to release them from durance vile—the most interesting case being that of Brother Smith, in 1753. Six pounds were voted for his relief, but did not prove sufficient, when the Master offered to advance £10 for the brother's relief, provided he gave his watch and books and security—"upon condition the lodge, when in cash, pay him and take the watch and books, if they be not redeemed by Smith; to which the lodge agreed, and the things to be left with the lodge in pledge."

Regulations of Olden Time Expenses.

Another entry in a different vein, informs us that "The questions being put how we, as Masons, ought to be regulated in respect of our expenses at a regular lodge night, and a ballot being made, agreed that no member shall be obliged to spend more 2 shillings and sixpence during lodge hours without his consent, and not to depart paying less than 2 shillings and sixpence."

"It being proposed that no liquor be called for in lodge hours but by the consent of the masters and wardens, a ballot being made, passed in the affirmative; but so that nothing be understood to the contrary of each brother's spending 2 shillings and sixpence."

There are numerous entries showing that officers were entered, passed and raised in one night during the exciting French and Indian troubles.

Thus the lodge flourished, and when the proposed Free Masons' Hall, in Norris alley, was nearing completion, the question was put on St. John's Day, December 27, 1754, "whether or not the lodge shall be removed to ye lodge lately erected;" the brethren to a man voted in the negative.

The Greatest Gala Day of Modern Masons.

The next six months, however, brought about a change of mind, and the last minute in the old register sets forth:

"At a lodge held ye 27th June, 1755, at 6 o'clock in ye morning, the lodge opened and chose all the old officers for ye ensuing six months, and adjourned to the Lodge Hall in order to join the procession appointed for this day."

This occasion was perhaps the greatest gala day of the "Modern" Masons. There were 130 brethren in line, who marched to Christ Church, where Brother William Smith preached the first of his Masonic sermons, which have since become historic. With the dedication of the "New Lodge" the minutes cease, and it may well be inferred that from thence on the lodge changed its meeting place from the Tun tavern to the Freemasons' Hall until the troubles incident to the Revolution suppressed the aristocratic "Moderns," when the patriotic brethren almost to a man affiliated with the more patriotic Ancients, and laid the foundation of our present R. W. Grand Lodge and its hundreds of subordinate lodges.

PEOPLE COMING AND GOING.

Carl Alberte, the advance man for Rice's Evangeline Company, is at the Central.

Misses Jennie and Sadie Samuels went to New York last evening to visit friends.

W. L. Elkins, Jr., of Philadelphia, was a passenger on the limited last evening bound for Chicago.

E. B. Lemmon, an Idaho miner, and D. E. Gamble, of Washington, are registered at the Duquesne.

Thomas Kerr, the New York attorney of the Westinghouse Electric Company, was in the city yesterday.

Judge P. C. Young and J. S. Bowman, a tax inquisitor of New Lisbon, registered at the Anderson last evening.

John Pott, traveling passenger agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road arrived in the city yesterday.

Russell H. Conwell, a prominent Baptist preacher and lecturer, of Philadelphia, was at the Monongahela House yesterday.

Father McTighe returned from Philadelphia on the limited last evening. He attended the consecration of Dr. Horsman as Bishop of the Cleveland diocese.

J. C. Whitla and wife headed a party of 25 people from Beaver Falls last evening. They registered at the Monongahela House and took in "Sinbad" at the Duquesne Theater.

Louis Arrington, President of the Green Bottle Workers, registered at the Central Hotel last evening. He lives at Massillon and was on his way home from a visit to Washington. He says affairs are quiet in the association.

C. E. Tapping, of New York, general manager of the United States Express Company, W. H. Snyder, of Newark, and A. A. Bishop, a route agent of Washington, were at the Monongahela House yesterday. They attended to some local details preparatory to taking possession of the Pittsburg and Western road March 1.

George W. Burnham, manager of the old Indianapolis Baseball Club; F. A. Morrell, of Brooklyn, the man who sold the small cars to the Manchester line, and Captain Jesse M. Baker, of Media, registered at the Anderson yesterday. Mr. Burnham is now selling car wheels for a Hoosier company, and is glad he is out of the baseball business.

Pittsburgers in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—[*Special.*]—The following Pittsburgers are registered at New York hotels: W. A. Bennett, Earle's: C. H. Cameron, Imperial: W. Campbell, Metropolitan; J. Dunlevy, Jr., Hotel Imperial; F. G. Harding, Sturtevant; C. G. Hussey, Astor House; W. Loeffler, Hotel Imperial; J. Marron, Grand Hotel; R. J. McKay, Fifth Avenue Hotel; C. I. McKee, Westminster; H. S. McKee, Fifth Avenue Hotel; A. Mertes, International; Miss M. A. Painter, Fifth Avenue; J. N. Parsons, International; D. G. Stewart, St. James Hotel; W. Stewart, Windsor Hotel; E. M. Aiken, Westminster; W. P. Dermitt, Holland House; J. Dunlevy, St. James Hotel; W. E. Evans, Hoffman House; J. W. Gillette, F. K. Kahler, Hotel Imperial; F. Oppenheimer, Metropolitan; H. D. Thompson, Imperial.

DOINGS OF THE POLICE.

ALBERT DUNN and A. Simcox, who were supposed to have burglarized the pool room of Charles Davis, on Carson street, were tried by Magistrate Succop last night and discharged.

JOHN MCCORMACK was committed to jail yesterday by Alderman Richards for a hearing on a charge of assault and battery preferred by Mary Connely, who alleges that McCormack knocked her down.

JAMES WILSON will be given a hearing before Alderman McMasters to-day to answer a charge of assault and battery. Thomas A. Hoffman made the information, alleging that he was knocked down and severely beaten by the defendant.

JOHN KIRSCH and Frank Moran, charged with the larceny of about 400 pounds of tallow, a lot of knives and butchers' tools from the shop of Christian Born, at Carson and Twenty-fifth streets, had a hearing before Alderman Succop last night, and were held for court.

JOHN REILLY was arrested in Allegheny yesterday. He is charged by Detective Glenn with enticing Dora and Katie Luttinger from their home at Bennett station. The girls said they had run away because their father was cruel to them. The officer claims that Reilly had misused the eldest.

J. A. ELLIOTT entered suit before Alderman Warner yesterday charging Joseph Loll with fraudulently disposing of goods. Elliott is an agent for the Adams Furnishing Company. He alleges he sold Loll two hanging lamps on the installment plan. He called several times to collect, but Loll put him off from time to time, and finally Elliott decided to take the lamps away, but was unable to find them.

ALDERMAN KING had an interesting hearing before him yesterday afternoon. It was the outcome of a small-sized riot back of Mansfield about two weeks ago. Mike Zukes, John Petrofsky, Victor Petrofsky and William Bisket were before the Squire charged with assault and battery, and Bisket was charged with aggravated assault and battery. John Poflinger and Mike Morris were the prosecutors.

WILLIAM MANCHESTER entered suit before Alderman Warner yesterday, charging Henry Quartz with larceny by bailee. It seems Quartz had a team of horses but no wagon. Manchester had a wagon valued at $80. This wagon he rented to Quartz for $2 50 a week. For several weeks things were all right, but Quartz began to get behind in his weekly payments. Finally Manchester determined to go and get his wagon, but he discovered Quartz had sold it, so he brought suit.

SOME LITTLE THINGS OF INTEREST.

INSIDE of three weeks Charles Brosky, a Penn avenue saloonkeeper, lost his three children by diphtheria.

MICHAEL WELSH, a laborer at the Keystone Mill, had his right foot crushed yesterday by a large steel plate falling on it.

THE directors of the Excelsior Express Company presented David H. Warden, the night manager, with a silver tea set yesterday.

W. R. THOMPSON, Treasurer of the Russian famine fund, received yesterday a check for $10 to aid the sufferers. The contribution is from "Cash."

WORD was received in Allegheny yesterday that Dr. George Spangler, a well-known dentist on Monterey street, was dying in Denver, Col. His father left yesterday to take care of him.

THE Evangelical Alliance of Pittsburg, Allegheny and vicinity will meet in Y. M. C. A. hall on Monday at 10:30 A. M. Rev. Dr. Chambers, of Boston, will give his illustrated lecture on "Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress."

"THE Liquor Business the Great Evil of the Nineteenth Century" will be discussed on Sunday evening at 27 Federal street, Allegheny. Saloon keepers and others respectfully invited to give their side of the question.

THE first social meeting of the Pittsburg and Allegheny Baptist Union, composed of the Baptist Churches of Pittsburg and Allegheny for city mission work, will be held in the Thirty-seventh Street Baptist Church, Thursday evening, March 3.

THE Primary Teachers' Union will meet at the Second Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Penn avenue and Seventh street, Saturday at 1 P. M. The lesson for the coming Saturday will be taught and discussed. All interested in primary work are invited.

CATHERINE BROWN, 39 years old, wife of John Brown, the man who led the rescuing party into the Hill farm mine last winter, was found dead at her home in Glenwood early yesterday morning. The deceased has for some time been a sufferer from heart trouble and it is supposed that is what caused her death. An inquest will be held to-day.

FASHIONS in silks for spring wear in THE DISPATCH to-morrow.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

MANLY PURITY AND BEAUTY

To cleanse the Blood, Skin, and Scalp of every eruption, impurity, and disease, no agency in the world of medicine is so speedy, agreeable, economical, and unfailing as the world-renowned CUTICURA REMEDIES, consisting of CUTICURA, the great skin cure, CUTICURA SOAP, the most effective skin purifier and beautifier, and CUTICURA RES