Pittsburgh Gazette.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—FEB. 24, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

An Appeal to the People.

We direct special attention to the following important order by Gen. Brooks. Let every man read and act:

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE MONONGAHELA, } Pittsburgh, February 22, 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

But nine days now remain in which Government bounties are to be paid for recruits to fill up the depleted ranks of the gallant regiments now facing the enemy from the seaboard to the Rio Grande. The work has gone on well for the past ten days, but still greater exertions are needed to save the reputation of the State, and avoid the draft otherwise inevitable.

By recent orders, all men enlisted by recruiting officers in this vicinity can be mustered into service by Capt. Moorhead, at the Girard House. Every citizen, non-commissioned officer and private is made a special recruiting officer, and will be paid the premiums of $15 and $25 for every recruit they may present and get mustered into service.

Officers of the regular army on recruiting service are authorized to enlist men for the regular service for three years, to be credited on the quota of the respective districts, with the usual bounties.

Here is work for the various classes, trades, professions, &c., who have heretofore responded so nobly to every appeal of the Government for aid, and who have demonstrated oft-times, and especially in the call that was made, to work on the fortifications last summer, that nothing but the occasion is wanting to secure their every effort in the cause of patriotism. Let every man again lend a helping hand and the work will be done By command of

MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS.

THEODORE READ, A. A. G.

Important Oil Suit Decided.

The case of the Ardesco Oil Co. vs. Shreve, Tillson & Co., which was taken out of Court by consent of parties, and placed in the hands of arbitrators, has been decided in favor of the plaintiffs. The amount of damages awarded is $5,235.41.

The claim arose out of an agreement made by Shreve, Tillson & Co., in June, 1862, to deliver before the close of navigation, three thousand barrels crude oil at the works of the Ardesco Oil Co., the oil to be measured in the company's iron tanks, and to be paid for at the rate of four cents per gallon. The amount delivered within the time specified was about 1,000 barrels. During the following winter and spring 1,200 barrels more were delivered, thus leaving a deficit of about 800 barrels, for the non-delivery of which the claim for damage was made.

It was held by plaintiffs that the amount of damage should be ascertained by charging the difference between the contract price (four cents) and the market price (thirty cents) on the first day of December, 1862, on all the oil undelivered at the time the contract expired, and giving credit at the market price for subsequent deliveries. The amount of damages thus claimed was over $14,000. On behalf of defendants it was contended that the acceptance of oil in the spring of 1863 was a virtual re-opening of the contract, and therefore the measure of damages, if any, should be the market price at the last date of delivery; also that there was a loss of fifteen per cent. on oil delivered in consequence of its being steamed to a high temperature before measurement, as well as other losses by reason of delay in pumping from the boats.

In regard to these points it is understood that the arbitrators decided, first that the measure of damages should be the difference between the contract price at the time of the actual close of fall navigation. Second, this difference to be charged only on the 800 barrels remaining undelivered; and third, an allowance, though not to the extent claimed, was made for loss by steaming.

Lecture by Felix R. Brunot.

Felix R. Brunot will deliver a lecture in Doctor Clark's Church, Allegheny city, on Monday evening next, February 29th, at half past seven o'clock. Subject, "Our Soldiers."

The following correspondence will show that Mr. Brunot has consented to deliver the lecture for the benefit of the Soldiers' Aid Society. It was at first intended to have secured Concert Hall, but as that could not be procured within a reasonable time, recourse had to be made to the use of the church, with its limited capacity. We fear that the house will not be large enough to accommode the throng from the two cities that will be anxious to hear the lecturer. Mr. Brunot is one of ourselves, has been from the first earnestly devoted to the cause and comfort of the Northern soldier; and their cause and comfort are at once protection and safety to our own cherished homes and institutions:

ALLEGHENY CITY, Feb. 9, 1864.

MR. F. R. BRUNOT—*Dear Sir:* The ladies of the Allegheny Aid Society solicit a public lecture from you in their behalf.

The Society is in debt. Its objects are well known to the community, and it has occurred to us that the people of the two cities would be glad to hear you tell to them some evening at Concert Hall or elsewhere.

In this way the money could be raised, and at the same time a full equivalent would be rendered to the contributors. Respectfully, &c.,

ARABELLA FLEMING, E. H. DAVIS, E. H. MORRISON, Committee.

ALLEGHENY CITY, Feb. 10, 1864.

MY DEAR LADIES: I have before me your note, telling of the poverty of the Ladies' Aid Society, and asking me to "deliver a lecture in its behalf." I do not know whether I have nerve enough to get through so unaccustomed a task, but if the ladies of the Society think the attempt will be of service to them, I am willing to try.

If on further consideration you think it best to do so, you can select for the occasion any evening of this month after the 17th.

Very respectfully, your friend, &c.,

FELIX R. BRUNOT.

To Miss A. Fleming, Miss R. S. H. Davis, and Miss E. H. Morrison—committee.

Bitters.

Everybody takes bitters—the habit of bitters taking has almost become a disease, in many cases almost a necessity; and the man who wouldn't think of drinking rum, in the common meaning of the term, takes to his "bitters" under the fatal delusion that its "all right—does him good," and is of great advantage to his health and well being. There never was a greater mistake. The human stomach needs no such fuel to enable it to do the work which nature designed for it; bread and meat and solid, food, well chewed and properly digested, will do all that is required to keep the system in health; and with industry and care, which means exercise and pure air, no one will need the aid of what is usually denominated "bitters." It is a very great error to suppose that these excitants contain any health-giving or life-giving properties, for the most part, they are a mixture of bad roots and worse whisky, having a medicinal taste it is true, but, nevertheless, useless as a medicine, if not altogether hurtful. They are gotten up by vile quacks in many instances, to lure the dollars from the pockets of the credulous into their own, and no one can say that any have been permanently benefitted by them. Yet we are gravely told that some constitutions need these helps—the well nerved and the sick—what of them? —the torpid to make them fast, and the fast to restrain the vital powers. The youth—to make him develop, and the middle aged to keep up that development, and the old to support the sinking and decaying powers of age. We tell you the whole thing is a grand mistake, and Nature, always wise in her provisions to support and sustain all the powers of life, scouts at the very idea of such aids as whips and spurs in the shape of bitters, roots and herbs through which some bad whisky has dribbled, and in its dribbling has picked up some medicinal virtue, and the only virtue of most of the so-called "bitters." The only bitters that we know of having real merit, we are now going to name. They are, as a medical man at our elbow suggests, a BRAZEN TONIC, will strengthen the stomach, and the whole digestive tube, and enable it to perform its proper functions in digesting what food may be there. Of these bitters a great medical man of Philadelphia once said they are the very "King of Bitters," free from alcohol and composed of good materials. We mean HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS.—*Chambersburg Valley Spirit and Times, Feb. 17th.*

Hoofland's German Bitters may be had in any quantity at Mr. Keyser's, No. 140 Wood street, with full and complete directions.

City Mortality.

Dr. George L. McCock, Physician to the Board of Health, reports the following deaths for the week commencing Feb. 12th, and ending Feb. 20th:

Males..... 8 | White..... 16 } Total.... 18.
Females..... 10 | Colored..... 2 }

Rheumatic fever 1; consumption 3; typhoid fever 1; varioloid 1; puerperal peritonitis 1; constitutional debility 1; measels 2; membranous croup 1; chronic irritation of the bowels 1; convulsions 2; pneumonia 2; unknown 1; hydrocephalus 1.

Annual Meeting of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company—Condition and Prospects of the Road—Election of Officers, etc.

The eleventh annual meeting of the stockholders of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company was held on Tuesday, at the office of the company in this city.

Col. Henry McCullough was chosen President, and Messrs. Patrick Kerr and Lyman Wilmarth were appointed Secretaries.

The President of the Board, F. R. Brunot, Esq., read an elaborate report of the operations of the road, exhibiting its financial condition, and setting forth the prospects for its extension. We extract from the report as follows:

The Managers have the satisfaction to submit to you the following report of the business of the road for the year 1863, and to congratulate you on the improved condition of the company's affairs.

The floating debt for bills payable, coupons and due employees, etc., as stated in the last annual report at $37,507 96 has been paid.

The earnings from January 31st, 1863, to January 31st 1864, inclusive, were:

From Passengers	$94,128 88	
" Freight	102,921 63	
" Mails	3,150 00	
		$200,930 49

The operating expenses during the same time were:

For Maintenance of Way	$32,834 08	
" " Cars	9,071 87	
" " Engines	23,000 29	
" Machine Shop, etc	4,292 29	
" Transportation	26,619 76	
Total		$100,818 24
Net earnings		$ 99,231 25

By the above statement it will be seen that the operating expenses is 50.35 per cent. of the earnings.

Deducting $10,608 99 for new work, and which more properly belongs to construction and equipment, the operating expenses proper would be $90,210 26, or 45 per cent. of the gross earnings.

No passenger has been injured during the year, and no accident has occurred causing very material loss to the company, or more than a few hours' delay to trains.

Two locomotive engines, two passenger and seven platform and stock cars have been added to the rolling stock, which now consists of 9 engines, 8 passenger cars, 3 baggage cars, 22 box freight cars, 23 platform and stock cars, 24 gravel, 8 hand and 7 repair cars. A new first class freight engine is contracted for, and 10 freight cars are being made in the company's shops.

The President then alludes to the great embarrassment experienced in transferring petroleum, government stores, ordnance, etc., to the Pennsylvania Railroad, and remarks that a new mode of reaching that road is necessary. He suggests that the best line of connection is by way of Allegheny street, in the Ninth Ward, and advises a renewal of the application to Councils for the right of way.

EXTENSION OF THE ROAD.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting, the Board decided to extend the road to the mouth of the Mahoning river—either by application of the surplus earnings, or by the use of bonds. Sections 47 and 48 were put under contract, and the work in connection to be carried on vigorously in the Spring. It is proposed to let the balance of the ten miles as soon as it can be made ready, and it is believed that the road will be completed not only to Mahoning, but also much farther on the way to the oil regions before the period of the next annual meeting. To provide for the prosecution of work more rapidly than it could be done out of the surplus earnings, second mortgage 7 per cent. bonds have been issued, amounting to $650,000—one half of this sum, or as much thereof as is necessary, to be expended on the ten miles between Kittanning and Mahoning, and the balance to be used only in the extension of the road beyond that point.

The immense product of the oil regions, and the large proportion of that product which seeks Pittsburgh by the Allegheny river, forces the conviction that an extension of the road to the source of that traffic will make it one of the most profitable lines in the country. Acting on this conviction, your Board turned its attention to the extension of the road in that direction as the best mode of providing means for the eventual completion of the main line as originally located.

ROUTES TO THE OIL REGION

Several practicable routes to the oil region are suggested. That which follows the bank of the Allegheny river, will probably require the construction of 65 miles of road between Kittanning and Franklin. It passes by the Brady's Bend Iron Company's works, and along the western side of the Clarion river valley region, and would probably connect at Brady's Bend with a branch of the Atlantic and Great Western road which is already surveyed to that point. The river line would be easy of construction, and near no ascending grade in the direction of the trade.

Another route is said to be practicable and shorter, which leaves the river at Brady's Bend, thence taking an inland line westward of the river hills to Franklin.

The third route follows the located line of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, and the Clarion river valley line to Callensburg on the Clarion river, and thence over an easy country to Franklin or Oil Creek, at about 50 miles from Mahoning, making the total distance from Pittsburgh to Oil Creek 100 miles. Which of these routes is the most advantageous, can only be determined by accurate surveys.

While the Board has kept steadily in view the importance of extending the Allegheny Valley road to Franklin, it has co-operated with other parties in procuring a separate charter under which the proposed branch will probably be constructed, being your company more free to the prosecution of its original design.

The Board has information of active measures being taken to construct the Mahoning and Franklin Railroad, which would be practically a continuation of the Allegheny Valley road. Nevertheless we deem it important to act as though such measures were not being taken, until the certainty of their success shall be developed.

The policy of the Board in the matter of the Franklin branch is respectfully urged for your approval, in order that it may be carried out by the incoming Board. The necessary surveys should be made as soon as the weather will permit in the spring, and the work pushed on to the oil regions as speedily as possible.

The report closes with a reference to the original design to form part of a great through line of trade and travel between the eastern cities and the Ohio river—making through its eastern connections a cheaper freight route between seaboard and the Ohio river than has yet been constructed, or which can be located on any other route.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Orr, the Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. Wright, the Superintendent, made their reports, which were adopted, and the whole ordered to be printed.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the recommendations and actions of the Board of Managers for the past year, for the extension of the Allegheny Valley Railroad to the oil wells in Venango county, by such route as shall be deemed most practicable, meet with the approval of the stockholders—the Managers keeping in view its intersection with the great interests of the trade of Western New York.

Mr. S. Wilmarth offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the execution of a second mortgage, with bonds to the amount of $600,000, upon the road to the mouth of Mahoning, from Pittsburgh, meets with the approval of the Stockholders, and they do hereby ratify and confirm the same.

Mr. Fry submitted the following which was adopted:

Resolved, That the profits of the road which may be over the sum necessary to pay coupons and to run and maintain the road in a condition of its highest efficiency, be styled the "dividend fund," and this fund shall be disposed of as shall be most advantageous by the Directors in extending or improving the road.

Mr. O'Hara moved the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Messrs. Nathaniel Holmes, Joseph H. Hill, of Pittsburgh, and S. H. Carpenter, of Philadelphia, are hereby appointed from the stockholders to aid and co-operate with the incoming Board in raising funds for the extension of the road.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a President and a Board of Managers for the ensuing year.

Messrs. Wm. K. Nimick, Wm. S. Haven and Joseph H. Hill were duly sworn as Judges; and Messrs. P. P. Howley and Michael O'Hara as Secretaries.

Upon counting the votes, the following named gentlemen were declared duly elected MANAGERS:

F. R. Brunot,	B. D. Murray,
Jas. Park, Jr.,	George Black,
N. Holmes,	B. F. Jones,
	Wm. K. Nimick.

The only change in the old Board is the substitution of Mr. Nimick for Mr. M'Reynolds, who, it was understood, had declined to serve, on account of his non-residence in the city.

The meeting then adjourned.

How to Treat Libertines.

A war widow tricked a libertine out in Allegheny county, New York, by taking his five hundred dollars to get ready for a proposed elopement, and then sending him the following "billydux:"

"Mr. ——: I have to inform you that circumstances beyond my control will prevent me from fulfilling my engagement to elope with you to-night. I expect my husband home on furlough soon to spend Christmas and New Years, when we shall enjoy a hearty laugh at your discomfiture. Meanwhile I will keep your money as a Christmas present for him, and when this cruel war is over I will come handy to assist him to start in business. Yours, tenderly,

C. T. N.

"P. S.—When next you undertake to play the libertine, you would do well to select your victim outside of old Allegheny county; and, above all, beware of a soldier's wife."

Upon the above, the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, in allusion to the Johnstown tragedy, says: "If the 'war widow,' whose transactions in a sister county in this State, have produced such terrible results, had been as true a woman as the wife above referred to, she would not have made a wreck of herself, a widow of an innocent woman, orphans of nine children, a murderer of her husband, an outcast of an only son, and sent a soul unprepared into the presence of its God. Where true women exist—where the strong wife loves and lives—libertines do not flourish, and husbands do not become murderers from jealousy."

SALES OF STOCKS, by Davis & McIlwaine, Auctioneers, at the Commercial Sales Rooms, No. 54 Fifth street, on Tuesday, the 23d instant:

Exchange Bank	$68 50
Bank of Pittsburgh	68 00
Allegheny Bank	56 50
Pittsburgh Grain Elevator, $2,50 paid in	2 40
Allegheny Valley Railroad	10 00
P., Ft. W. & C. R. R. Co	90 00

PORTSFORD.—The presentation of the flag to Knap's Battery, which was announced to take place last evening, was postponed until tonight. The presentation will certainly come off this evening at Washington Hall, Rebecca street, Allegheny.

Bounty Fund.

SECOND WARD, ALLEGHENY.

We have been requested by the Bounty Commissioners of the Second Ward, Allegheny, to call the special attention of every citizen, *especially* those enrolled, to the call for a meeting to be held this evening at the School House. We refer to the advertisement in another column, and here append the subscriptions to the bounty fund received by W. A. Read, Treasurer, on February 22d and 23d:

R J Patton	$ 50	Hamilton Kerr	5
L H McIntosh	200	Thos Little	10
David Stoner	5	J Y Kaiser	10
F G Weiss	10	Chas Dallenger	10
C Footman	20	Geo Meamer	40
G Fleckstg	20	G Nicholson	20
Chas Monatt	30	T Poellet	20
W Wehling	20	Peter Eisenhas	20
Jas Reader	20	Henry Tenney	20
L H Eaton	20	Cash	50
W G Eiseman	10	Albert Fisher	5
John Hunter	20	A C Fox	5
Walter Putman	20	W Deem	20
Patrick Rice	20	D Mattingson	20
H F Schwartz	50	R D Bright	50
W Morrison	100	Andrew Ash	50
Joseph Kerr	10	Henry Gaddis	50
R Wiggins	20	G B Kurtz	50
Thos Smith	20	M Fire	40
Alex Greenald	50	J K Stevenson	20
H M Dunlap	50	Jas Connor	50
W H Lea	40	Jas Crow	25
J W Hall	20	Samuel Crow	25
Alex Wright	20	Wilson Smith	20
Jacob Black	25	W Munroe	50
Valentine Belsing	10	Score & Chambers	50
Thos Morrow	20	J W Spencer	50
C F Hagenman	50	G L Smithson	50
Erastus St John	50	P Urbing	50
D Schaefer	10	G L Hilderbrand	50
B R Karbourn	20	Chas Gumbert	20
Paul Recter	10	J K Cochran	25
Henry Bierwith	30	C Wineman	50
W Gowell	20	J B Sheriff	50
W Southworth	30	Previously reported	2,520
John Beiswanger	20		
F J Hamilton	5	Total	$6020

FOURTH WARD, ALLEGHENY.

The following amounts have been paid in to J. C. McPherson, treasurer of the Fourth Ward, (Allegheny city) Bounty Fund:

J Deanelly add'l		$30 David Stuart	40
C Hernog do		20 Henry Stewart	40
P Donnelly do		20 Wm May	30
A Maxwell		5 Michael Kreps	20
L Ritrobel		10 Peter Loffler	20
L A Glasser addl		20 George Hook	10
J W Carr do		60 Geo Redner	10
A L Robinson		50 P Helbrich	5
C Ellers do		5 J A Shaubacher	40
R O Loomis do		100 William Dill	40
E Mc Cadell do		60 John Martin	3
W N Morgan do		60 W M'Aplin	50
W Smith do		200 Geo Rode add	5
L Walter do		50 J N Green	5
S B Wadsworth do		40 James Bradley	5
R Chiles do		20 D M Clark add'l	60
A Schelo add'l		20 J Adler do	10
F Schwecker do		20 W O Scully do	60
J Rittman do		10 W F Reed do	10
J Bohlen do		40 J Shaiberger add'l	25
Frank Tiernan do		40 J B O'Dermot do	15
W Smith do		40 S Stewart do	10
Thos X Orr do		40 J P Kennedy do	10
J Kirby do		40 W H Robinson	50
T Jamison add'l		40 Joseph Craig	50
B Jamison do		40 G Alexander	50
C Schawers do		40 A Dalzell	40
S Kaufman do		25 D F Geiger	10
James Wiley		50 G Meakins	50
T Peacock		50 W Speer add'l	10
August Recke		40 John Haslett	40
D C Clapp		40 Am't previ'sly rep'ed	14,521
Jacob Kreis		10	
A S Bell		50 Total	$16,736

SECOND WARD, PITTSBURGH.

The following additional sums have been paid to Thomas Steel, Esq., Treasurer of the Second Ward Bounty Fund:

E C Smith	$ 25	O T Warring	25
Jos H'Ken	10	J E O'Neil	25
J H Lance	100	G M Watson	25
J O Wilson	100	R Murphy	20
Daniel O'Neil	20	O P Patterson	25
Geo Reem	20	Hugh M'Elroy	25
Wm Lemon	50	Geo Retzel	5
C Murphy	5	Wm H Keehling	25
Levi Harris	20	E B Matthews	50
Sarah Hentchen	10	Ed Leither	25
W m. P. Jones	25	James Manning	25
Henry Shaler	20	Geo Raibbs	5
A Ross	5	Jas Johnson	5
Cyrus Lewis	50	Previously reported	10,031
Wm Woods	50		
John Hunter	25	Total	$10,820
R S Warring	25		

Recruits Enlisted

By James C. Sproul, United States Recruiting Agent, Fourth street, on February 23d:

Name.	Sub-Dist cr'ed.	Enrolled
Sproul Shelley	Regular	2d Upper St Clair 23d
Thompson J W	N Fayette do	1st wd Pitts 22d
W M Jas	2d Ward Pitts	St Lawrence's 22d
Armor Jas C	6th wd Pitts do	Not enrolled
Martin H H	Penn tp do	do
Redman W S	Lawrence's do	do
Spisler John	Indiana tp 23d	do
Morrison Thos	Pitt tp 22d	do
Fogle John K	N Fayette do	do
Baier George	Indiana tp 23d	do
Dennison W J	Lawrence's 23d	do
Welsh Wm	1st Pitts 21st	do
Doddin Rich	6th wd Pitts 22d	do
Griffy A A	Patton tp do	do
Orris W S	Burrell tp 21st	do

Enlisted by Capt. N Irish, Battery F, Independent Pa. Artillery:

Bowlinger Jacob, 3 Pittsburg 23d, Not enrolled

RECRUITS REJECTED

Butler George, rheumatism, aged 20, born in Allegheny county; disability.

Seip Henry, laborer, aged 19, born in Pittsburgh; disability.

Sherman John W, printer, aged 21, born in Pittsburgh, disability.

Murray James, laborer, aged 34, born in Ireland, disability.

Davis Colin, coal digger, aged 17, born in Pennsylvania; under age.

Recruiting Extraordinary.

The business of recruiting was extraordinarily brisk in the city, yesterday. Out of the fifteen recruiting officers now stationed here Capt. Moorhead alone recruited *fifty* men. The number enlisted by the others we have not heard. Over *three hundred* men were sent out to camp yesterday, and another large squad will be sent out early this morning. These, however, do not all belong to this district, but come from the 22d, 23d and 24th districts.

It is worthy of remark that recruits can now be mustered in here, at the Girard House, and receive the government and local bounty, clothing, etc., and are not under the necessity of going to Harrisburg.

A most noticeable feature of the enlistments yesterday, was the fact that nearly all the recruits came from those sub districts where no provision has been made for paying a local bounty. The men are determined not to wait to be drafted, but prefer enlisting and crediting themselves to some district more patriotic than their own. The result of all this is obvious. When the draft *does* come, it will fall very heavily upon these derelict sub-districts. They had better be "up and doing" at once.

The Concert of Ye Olden Time,

At Concert Hall last night, was a brilliant success. The hall was crowded with an intelligent and fashionable audience. The costumes of the amateur performers could not well have been improved. We would gladly notice the many interesting features of the entertainment, at length, if we had room and time in which to do them justice. One of the most interesting features of the evening was the display on the platform of the tattered flag of the 63d regiment, Pa. Volunteers, (Col. Hays' old regiment.) It produced quite a sensation, laid aside as it was by a one-armed lieutenant of the Invalid Corps. A number of wounded soldiers from the hospital occupied front seats. Their arrival was greeted with cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs.

PIGEON SHOOTING.—The shooting match between Messrs. John V. Kerr, of Pittsburgh, and Robert Brown, of Allegheny city, took place yesterday, and resulted in the success of Mr. Kerr. The shooting of both parties is represented to have been excellent.

THE veterans of the 103d Penna. Regiment met last evening in the Hall of the Eagle Fire Company, to sign the necessary papers to entitle them to receive the local bounty. They will be accredited to various wards in the city. The detachment will leave for the regiment on Thursday evening in the 8.30 train.

RIVER INTELLIGENCE.

The weather continues warm, cloudy, and unsettled, with every appearance of rain. The river appeared to be about at a stand, yesterday, with four feet two or three inches in the channel, by the marks at sunset. The ice is rotting slowly under the influence of the mild weather, but a general break-up is not likely to occur soon, unless we have rain sufficient to produce a swell of three or four feet in the river.

The steamer Jas. B. Gilmore was sold on Monday, to Capt. Marsh Harton, formerly of the Starlight, and others, for thirty-five thousand dollars. We understand that there are other parties in the city desirous of investing in steamboat stock, but no other sales have been made, that we are aware of.

STEAMBOATS.

FOR LOUISVILLE, EVANSVILLE and CAIRO.—On FRIDAY, the 26th instant, at four o'clock P. M., the new and splendid passenger steamer JAMES B. GILMORE, Captain ——, will leave as announced above. For freight or passage apply on board or to

JAS. COLLINS, } Agents.
JOHN FLACK. }

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FOR NASHVILLE.—The fine steamer GOLDEN ERA, Capt. Bryan, C. A. Glendenning, Clerk, will leave as above on THIS DAY, 24th inst., if the low water permits. For freight or passage apply on board or to

J. D. COLLINGWOOD, } Agents.
JOHN FLACK. }

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BOILER FOR SALE, 14 feet long, 32 inches in diameter, double flues, changed from a cylinder to a flue boiler, by JAMES THORNE & CO., as where boiler yard it is, and to whom buyers are referred for quality, &c. Price $300. fb24:1t

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 1864.

MR. BLOW'S SPEECH.

Henry T. Blow, of St. Louis, concluded his speech to-day in reply to Frank Blair. It excited general interest, and commanded the closest attention on both sides of the House. Among other things, it reviewed Mr. Blair's attack on Mr. Chase's policy about trade regulations, and said they were no more nor less than an attack on the President, who had revised and approved every regulation of the Treasury Department before it was put into effect, and rebuked the policy of bringing the Cabinet quarrels of Mr. Mongomery Blair into discussions of the House. He gave a history of certain interviews with the President on Missouri matters, concerning which the discussion had arisen, and referred to Schofield the matter, and charged that while Frank Blair endorses and defends General Schofield now, he and his friends had, in 1862, appointed him (Mr. Blow,) Chairman of a committee authorised to present the shortcomings of Gen. Schofield to the President, and pray for his removal, and on that prayer and presentation he was removed. Mr. Blair denied that he had authorized or approved anything of the sort, and said that in that very meeting he had defended Gen. Schofield. "Then, God protect me from such defenders as you were then to Gen. Schofield," replied Mr. Blow.

He then went on to reiterate his charges to give names of parties who were there, and to say that he would leave the question at issue between them to the decision of Mr. Blair's own friends. To this Mr. Blair had no reply to make. Mr. Blow continued exposing Mr. Blair's colonization projects, and quoted from Montgomery Blair's Rockville speech denouncing the Abolitionists, and replied to it by saying that an Abolition party ruled the country, that Abolitionists had the ascendancy in the border States, and that the army was more intensely Abolition than either. The speech was strong and radical throughout, and attracted very marked attention. The radical border State men are especially delighted with it.

WHISKY TAXATION.

Whisky took a new turn to-day, and everybody interested in it is again on the anxious seat. After the Conference Committee refused, as announced in these dispatches a day or two ago, to reopen the question of taxing the stock on hand, it was supposed that that proposition was finally killed. The Committee reported to-day in favor of a sliding scale of sixty, sixty-five and seventy cents. The Senate promptly adopted the report, but in the House a debate sprang up, that soon showed a decided change since their last vote on the subject. It was stated by a number of the Committee, that they desired to take up the question of taxing stock on hand, but that the separate portion of the Committee had prevented it on the ground that it was contrary to rules to revive in the Conference Committee any point already settled by the concurrent vote of both houses. The Speaker's decision was called for, and he stated that while this was technically true, yet a conference committee could report that they would agree on a certain point, provided both houses amended their action on a certain other point, thus making the agreement in the conference dependent on a joint agreement of the two houses on another point which the conference committee itself could not take up. The effect of this ruling in the case of whisky tax would be that the conference committee could report an agreement on a certain sliding scale of taxation on whisky, provided the House and Senate should severally recede from their former action on taxing stock on hand. Or in other words, by a roundabout technicality, the Conference Committee could revive the question of stock on hand, and decide to tax it if they chose.

As soon as this decision cleared away the parliamentary difficulty, it became evident at once that the House meant to have a new Conference Committee, and to insist on taxing the stock on hand; and as soon as it could be pressed to a vote they disagreed to the report of the Conference and asked a new committee by a vote of 86 to 51. The new committee on the part of the House consists of Messrs. Washburne, Kasson and Dawson, and is even stronger than the former one was for taxing the stock on hand. To-day's vote may be considered as rendering certain that there will be some tax on stock on hand, probably not so large as at first reported. Twenty to thirty cents is now mostly talked of.

MR. COX AND AMALGAMATION.

Judge Kelly made a happy reply to Mr. Cox's amalgamation speech to-day, in the course of a set speech on the Freedmen's Bureau bill. As Mr. Cox had charged amalgamation theories on the Administration side, he chose to show where the amalgamation practice was, and for that purpose had gone to the tables of the census of 1860, now preparing for the press. He found there such contrasts as the following in the per centage of mixed blood to the total colored population: Louisiana, 31.29; Pennsylvania, 33.67; Alabama, 77.79; Vermont, 27.08; Texas, 76.09; Rhode Island, 25.22; South Carolina, 71.95; Connecticut; 22.04; North Carolina, 71.59; New York, 15.88; Florida, 68.99; New Jersey, 13.64; and to show how rapidly Mr. Cox's Democratic allies in the South were improving in their practice on the amalgamation theories, he gave the following figures: Per cent. of mixed blood to total slave population, as shown by the census of 1840, 7.30 per cent. of mixed; to total slave population, shown by census of 1860, 10.41. The production of these figures caused quite a sensation.

MR. CLAY'S SOLD BILL.

The Judiciary Committee are against Mr. Clay's gold bill on the ground that it is inexpedient to interfere as it does with the settled policy of the Government. The impression despens that a heavy taxation will still be called for from this Congress, and that efforts of specific basis of interests like petroleum to escape, will be unavailing. The expenditures of the war continue at such a rate that it is believed the Treasury Department will be forced either to insist on a stringent taxation or allow the finances to become irretrievably involved.

GUERRILLA FIGHTING.

A fight took place to-day on the Georgetown road between Leesburg and Drainsville between a party of Maine and New York cavalry and Mosby's guerrillas, numbering about two hundred. The rebels fired from a pine thicket at short range, killing nine men and Capt. Reed and wounding fifteen others. A number of new recruits broke at first fire, which, demoralising the column, resulted in a disgraceful flight. But forty men out of one hundred and fifty have so far been heard from; the rest are undoubtedly prisoners. Mosby is now a Lieut. Colonel in the rebel army, having been commissioned to avoid the penalty attached to guerrilla warfare.

ARRIVED.

Capt. Fisk, leader of the emigrant expedition to Idaho, arrived here to-day. He brings an immense nugget of gold as a present from a number of miners to Mr. Lincoln. He returned with a large party of adventurers which is expected to leave St. Paul for Idaho early in the spring.

MAYOR LINCOLN.

Of Boston, was here on a visit to the army the other day. He was invited to dine by John Minor Botts.

BOSTON HARBOR.

A Boston delegation is here asking that steps be taken to protect their harbor from being destroyed by gradual filling up. At the rate at which it is now going on, they say the harbor will not be open for large vessels in ten years more.

THE TRIBUNE'S ARTICLE ON THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

To-day's New York *Tribune* contains a carefully written leader, opposing the renomination of Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency. After referring to the calls for conventions, and to its desire that the question should have been much longer postponed, it says: "The canvass is therefore fairly opened in defiance of our wishes, and the renomination of President Lincoln has already been urged by the Legislatures and conventions of several States, while some movements in favor of Gen. Fremont and Gov. Chase, respectively, have more recently solicited public attention. We give a synopsis of all these in another part of this paper, and shall here give, as a commentary thereon, a synopsis of the reasons which seem to us to dictate the nomination of another than Mr. Lincoln, on the part of those who have sustained his administration and the war for the Union." The article goes on at some length, and concludes as follows: "The practical question, then, is this: Has Mr. Lincoln proved so transcendently able and admirable a President that all consideration of the merits, abilities and services of others should be postponed or foreborne in favor of his re-election? This is a question whereon is pending the definite selection of our candidates, and there should be the utmost freedom of opinion and expression. We answer in the negative. Heartily agreeing that Mr. Lincoln has done well, we do not regard it as at all demonstrated that Gov. Chase, Gen. Fremont, Gen. McClellan or Gen. Grant cannot do as well. We freely admit Mr. Lincoln's merits, but they are not such as to eclipse and obscure those of all the statesmen and soldiers who have aided in the great work of saving the country from disruption and overthrow. And if others have done as well in their respective spheres, then we hold that the genius of our institutions is the salutary one-term principle, which has prevailed in the selection of each National one; it is therefore proper that the Constitution of the United States shall be so amended as to secure freedom to every human being within its jurisdiction. Such a guarantee of individual freedom is as necessary in the Constitution of the United States as that of a Republican form of Government is to each State.

3d. The government has the Constitutional right to command the services of ever man, no matter what his color or condition, whether bond or free; the master cannot interfere his right between the man and the government. We are in favor of enlisting and enrolling all alike.

4th. That during a rebellion the President, in the exercise of the war power, has full and ample authority to free all the slaves in the rebellious districts, and they are hereby invested irrevocably with all the rights of freemen, and in the present rebellion he ought to exercise this power to its full extent.

5th That with the effect of the President's Amnesty Proclamation before us, we declare that in our opinion the same has been injurious to the Union cause, and its operations within the districts to which it especially applies humiliating and unjust to the loyal men, placing them upon the same footing with the rebels, and we would urge its recall or suspension until the rebellion is wholly crushed.

6th. That the Slave State Freedom Convention be made a permanent organization by the formation of an Executive Committee of one member and one alternate from each of the Slave States, for the purpose of carrying out its principles, and that the delegates from each State represented in this Convention appoint the members on the Committee.

7th. That we declare ourselves favorable to such an amendment of the Constitution of the United States as shall make the President's election for one term only.

A resolution was offered and lively contested, that the provisions of the National Radical Convention at St. Louis on the 10th of May. Fifty-three were in favor and 64 against, the majority preferring to wait with the Republican party in their National Convention.

The proceedings of the convention were generally harmonious, but towards the close a serious division of opinion was also prevailed, principally upon minor points, and the convention adjourned *sine die*.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 23, 1864

HOUSE.—The House resumed the consideration of the bill to establish a bureau for freedmen's affairs.

Mr. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, advocated the bill and pressed its immediate passage, to meet the exigencies which have risen under the present war.

Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, wanted the report referred to another committee, to accord with the sense of the House formerly expressed.

Mr. Stevens denied that there was any principle in parliamentary practice to arrange in Committee of Conference for taxing stock on hand.

A message was received from the Senate that that body had concurred in the report of the Committee of Conference on the Whisky bill.

Mr. Stevens moved concurrence in the report.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, who dissented from the report, gave his reasons for withholding his assent. He was consistently in favor of taxing liquors on hand, and wanted the report referred back for such modification as will secure to the Treasury a proper income from that source. He insisted that the speculators should not prosper at the expense of the people.

Mr. Fernando Wood still adhered to his former proposition to tax whisky on hand, but as a member of the Committee of Conference, he was obliged to acquiesce in the decision of the majority of that Committee; both Houses having agreed to strike out the clause, there was no such question in controversy. The House refused—yeas 57 against 86—to agree to the Committee of Conference on the whisky bill. The report of agreement were transmitted hence yesterday, in advance of the report and already published. Another Committee of Conference was ordered at quarter of three o'clock.

The Navy Appropriation bill is up; the debate will continue till the close of the session.

The question was taken up and the report was non-concurred