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VOLUME LXXVIII—NO. 18. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1865. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

Pittsburgh Gazette.

DAILY LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON.

Report of the Interview Between Col. Key and Hon. Howell Cobb.

ALLIANCE OF PRISONERS QUESTION.

Important Supreme Court Decision.

HUDSON BAY AND PUGET SOUND COMMISSIONER.

Appropriation Asked for Scheldt Dues.

HORACE GREELY URGENT FOR PEACE.

The Theatre Question Under Consideration.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT LOANS.

Blair's Proposed Richmond Visit.

THE JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The President, to-day, in answer to a resolution of the House, communicated the report of Col. Thos. M. Key, giving an account of an interview between himself and Hon. Howell Cobb, on the 5th of June, 1863, on the banks of the Chickahominy. The report is addressed to the Secretary of War. Col. Key says: "I am instructed by Maj. Gen. McClellan to report to you the substance of an interview held by me with Hon. Howell Cobb, now acting as Brigadier-General in the rebel army at Richmond. I was ordered to proceed with a flag of truce, to be met by Gen. Cobb, for conference with regard to an exchange of prisoners, and making arrangements for a second meeting. I also received permission to converse with Gen. Cobb upon the general subject of the existing contest—informing him, however, that all such conversation was purely personal, and not in any respect to be considered of an official character. I was to the place appointed and was met on the bridge by Gen. Cobb. In regard to the exchange of prisoners he exhibited written authority from General Lee, giving him full power to make any convention on the subject, as to any or all prisoners of war, whenever captured. He expressed a readiness to make an agreement embracing all prisoners held on either side, and made such agreement applicable either to existing prisoners or also to those hereafter captured. He stated that he would sign any cartel which was based upon principles of entire equality, and proposed that exchanges should take place according to date of capture; first, however, exhausting the list of officers, their scale of equivalents to be any one which we might propose, which would, of course, equalize, for instance, for one exchanged officer held by Gen. Wool at the conference between them, and which was taken from the cartel between the United States and Great Britain in 1813, exchanged persons to be conveyed by the captors at the captors' expense to some point of delivery convenient to the other party, and the exchange to operate uniformly, without the right of reservation or exception in any single case. He professed ignorance of any complaint against this Government in any matter of exchanging prisoners and pledged himself for the removal of any cause of complaint upon representations being made. He suggested the propriety of releasing, upon parole, any surplus of prisoners remaining on hand after exchanges had exhausted the other party."

WILMINGTON, Jan. 9.—The Supreme Court of the United States pronounced their opinion to-day in the case of Stone vs. United States, affirming to the latter the title to the entire southern part of the Fort Leavenworth reservation.

The nomination of Alexander S. Johnson, of New York, has been confirmed as Commissioner for the settlement of the claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Agricultural Company, vice Daniel S. Dickinson, resigned.

The President has sent a message to Congress asking an appropriation for a portion of the money to be paid by the United States under the treaty with Belgium for the capitalization of the Scheldt dues.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The *Post's* Washington special says: Mr. Fessenden has received such ample subscriptions to the 10-40 loan, and is doing so well with his 7-30 loan, that the Committee of Ways and Means received a communication from him on the subject of the finances, which will probably be deferred. It is probable the subscriptions to the 10-40 loan will aggregate $140,000,000.

A special to the *Commercial Advertiser*, dated Washington, January 9, says: It is a question whether Mr. Blair will go to Richmond. He was reported to be still in Washington to-day.

Mr. Fessenden will not lay his financial plans before Congress until he can have fully consulted his successor, who, it is said, the President will decide on this week.

The *Post's* Washington special says: The Ways and Means Committee had the tobacco question under consideration this morning. The interests are clashing and it is difficult to reconcile them.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: The delegation from the Michigan Central and connecting roads to secure a modification of the passport system, had a interview with Secretary Seward, but were unable to accomplish anything.

The *Commercial Advertiser's* Washington special says: Horace Greeley is here urgent and persistent in his demands for peace, and predicting a speedy termination of the war.

Subscriptions to the 10-40 loan for the 6th and 7th inst., amounted to $300,075,550, and to the 7-30 loan, nearly $4,500,000.

The Judicial and Executive Appropriation bills reported to-day are heavier than heretofore. The appropriations from the Government Printing Bureau amount to nearly a million and a half, the paper alone being $620,000. The total amount for the American Agricultural Department, including purchasing and distributing seed for experimental gardening is $150,000.

TENNESSEE.

HOOD'S RECENT LOSSES 20,084!

Gen. Thomas' Total Loss 7,000.

A NEW CAMPAIGN PROJECTED.

Our Army Already in Motion.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The *Times'* Huntsville correspondent, dating the 4th, sums up the losses since Hood assumed the offensive against Thomas, as follows: Hood's loss in killed, wounded and missing, 20,084.

Thomas' total loss, 7,000.

The rebels lost in generals killed, 6; wounded and captured, 5. They also lost 68 cannon.

When Hood marched on Franklin he had 40,000 men. The Union force at that time numbered only 17,000.

A new campaign is projected, and the army is in motion, the new base of which will be nearer Corinth, Miss., than Nashville. Gen. Thomas' headquarters will be on the Tennessee river, near Eastport, a few days.

Secesh.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The Richmond *Sentinel* of the 6th says: General Sherman is doubtless moving on Branchville.

The *Examiner* says: A dispatch from Hardee reports the enemy before Hardeeville, but no indications of an immediate attack.

The *Constitutionalist* declares there were only seventeen persons present at the citizens' meeting at Savannah.

The *Chronicle* comments on the affairs in Savannah by warning Georgians against submission, saying 'tis treasonable.

The *Examiner* demands public meetings in Georgia to keep up the spirits of the citizens, and prevent their trusting in the promises of the Yankees.

Steamer Knickerbocker Lost—The Crew Perished.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The steamer Knickerbocker, from New York for Washington, was in Chesapeake Bay, on Friday last. It is thought her crew perished.

NEW YORK.

AID FOR SAVANNAH CALLED FOR.

Excitement Over the Provost Marshal's Credit Order.

CRIME FEARFULLY INCREASING.

MAYOR GUNTHER'S PROCLAMATION

The City and County Debt $32,500,000.

THE ROANOKE RIVER EXPEDITION.

Union Officers Escaping from Columbia.

ESCAPE OF A BLOCKADE RUNNER.

The Proposed British North American Confederation.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LIVERPOOL FAIR.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-day, an appeal was adopted and ordered to be published, calling for aid for the citizens of Savannah. The Treasurer announced that five thousand dollars had been already subscribed. The New York and Washington Steamship Company have offered the use of a steamer to transport the provisions contributed.

There is considerable excitement here to-day over the Provost-Marshal General's order, that no enlistments previous to 19th December are to be credited on the quotas under the last call. If the order remains unmodified, the city will be compelled to raise 14,000 men, instead of 4,000 as previously announced.

The *Post* editorially denies the accusation of the *Tribune's* special of the conduct of General Jeff C. Davis in the treatment of negroes.

Crime appears to be fearfully increasing. The papers of this morning have accounts of two more fatal assaults.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Mayor Gunther sent in his message to the Common Council to-day. He complains of the creation of new corporations, also of the circumscribed powers of the Mayor. The city and county debt is stated to be $32,500,000. Against this debt the city holds property valued at from $40,000,000 to $50,000,000; and the county also holds an incalculable amount.

The *Tribune's* London letter says: The proceeds of the Liverpool fair are to be given to the rebels abroad, who are greatly in need of it. In the principal hotels in Paris, over four hundred trunks have been journed by Southern gentlemen, as security for their bills. The same letter says that the rebel agents recently brought the steamship Rattlesnake safely into Tallahassee. They evidently design fitting her out as a privateer.

Considerable opposition is manifested in some of the British North American Provinces to the proposed colonial confederation with Prince Edward Island. It has caused a ministerial resignation, and it is claimed that nine-tenths of the inhabitants there are opposed to the scheme. In Nova Scotia numerously attended and enthusiastic meetings by influential citizens were held to protest against it.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The *Herald's* Newbern letter gives additional particulars of the Roanoke river expedition: The gunboats Otsego and Bazely were sunk by torpedoes. The river was found full of torpedoes, and seventy-five were taken up in a distance of twenty-five miles. Sometimes eight or nine were found stretched across the river in a single line. The fleet proceeded to Poplar Point and found the batteries too strong to be taken without co-operating with a land force. On their return, the boats were somewhat annoyed by sharpshooters.

A Union officer, writing from a rebel prison in Columbia, says many officers are escaping, one hundred getting away in one day. The rations of the prisoners consist of corn meal and sorghum molasses.

The *Herald's* Savannah letter says: On the night of the 7th, two boats were captured. Midford's flag of truce left Fort Sumter, the blockade runner Fox ran through the fleet and reached Nassau.

Communication with Newbern by canal, has been resumed.

It is rumored that the rebel rams are preparing to come down to attack the fleet.

LOUISIANA.

ADVICES FROM MORGANZIA.

SALUTARY EFFECT OF ULLMAN'S ORDERS.

Retaliation for the Murder of Commander Thatcher.

AN EXPEDITION BEYOND THE ATCHAFALAYA.

The Ram Tennessee.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Advices from Morganzia state that all was quiet, and that the recent strict measures adopted by Gen. Ullman, relative to communication outside of that post, has had a most salutary effect on the predatory rebels.

The gunboat Gazelle had retaliated for the murder of Commander Thatcher by destroying the rebel residences in the vicinity of the bloody deed.

An expedition, consisting of Nims' battery, and an infantry and cavalry force, had been sent by Gen. Ullman beyond the Atchafalaya, but they met but few rebels, who fled at their appearance.

A report was current that the ram Tennessee, captured at Mobile, was to be sent up the river, and probably to Vicksburg.

The health of the garrison at Morganzia was good.

Brigadier General C. C. Andrews had been appointed to the command of the 3d brigade of the reserve corps.

GRANT.

ALL QUIET AT PETERSBURG.

CANNONADING ON THE APPOMATTOX.

EXECUTION OF DESERTERS.

ARRIVAL OF REBEL DESERTERS AND REFUGEES.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, January 1, 1864.

There is nothing new to report on the lines in front of Petersburg. Some shelling took place near the Appomattox, yesterday morning, without any important result.

Four deserters were executed yesterday. One was hung and three shot.

Some fifteen deserters from the enemy came in this morning, four being cavalrymen, with their horses and equipments. A party of poor whites numbering about twenty-five, who said they had lately been in the poor-house in Prince George county, also came into our lines yesterday and were sent North to-day. They were forced to leave on account of the scarcity of food, and looked as though they had suffered for the bare necessaries of life for some time.

New York Stock and Money Markets.

Special Western Associate Press Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Railway share speculation was active this morning, with a general improvement in prices. There was great excitement on Northwestern shares, and a large business done at full prices. The balance of the list was generally steady. Governments were strong, and sales of gold-bearing bonds were very large, with prices tending upward. State stocks were quiet and without much change. Coal shares were generally dull. Bank stocks were not inquired for. Railroad bonds were in good demand.

Money was easier than on Saturday, principally on account of a reduction in the demand. Foreign Exchange was quiet, though sales were stronger. The gold market drooped slightly on account of peace rumors, and there was very little excitement at the board. Stocks were dull at the Petroleum Board. The only sales were 200 bbls. Tack at 3.25@3.00; Germania, 1.10. Market firm and inactive, with small sales of Crude at 51@52c., and Refined, in bond, at 73@74c.; Free is dull at 94c.

New Jersey Legislature.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 9.—The Legislature meets to-morrow. There are thirteen Democrats and eight Republicans in the Senate, and thirty of each party in the House. There will be a compromise made on the organization of the Houses. The joint meeting to elect a Senator cannot be held unless the House consents.

XXXVIIITH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

MONEY ASKED FOR THE RELIEF OF REFUGEES.

The Resolution Freeing Wives and Children of Colored Soldiers Discussed.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 9, 1865.

SENATE.

Mr. Doolittle presented the memorial of the Board of Trade of Racine, Wis., in relation to the establishment of a naval depot on the western lakes.

Mr. Sherman presented the memorial of the president of the Refugee Relief Commission of Ohio, asking for an appropriation of money for the support of Southern refugees.

Mr. Sherman said there were thousands of loyal refugees in the cities of Cincinnati, St. Louis and Louisville, and their condition was deplorable. Not less than 100,000 white people had been rendered homeless, and scattered throughout the South by the fortunes of war. He thought Congress ought to do something in the matter, but he did not believe the appropriation of money would be the most judicious means of relieving them. He thought the Government ought to give them work to do for the army, the manufacture of clothing, &c., or a law might be passed giving them use of lands subject to conscription. He withed the memorial to be referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and it was so referred.

Mr. Wilson, of the Military Committee, reported back the resolution to distribute the proceeds of the cotton captured at Savannah among the officers and soldiers of Gen. Sherman's army, with the unanimous recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed, and was so ordered.

Mr. Anthony offered the remonstrance of the National India Rubber Company against the extension of the Goodyear patent, which was referred to the Committee on Patents.

Mr. Doolittle offered a resolution directing inquiry as to the treatment of Indian tribes by the civil and military authorities. Referred to Committee on Indian affairs.

Mr. Doolittle called attention to a letter from an officer, stationed in Colorado, in reference to the alleged brutality of Col. Chivington toward certain Indians, stating that he slaughtered and murdered them and had no mercy.

A resolution was offered directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire what legislation was necessary to enable the President to call an extra session of the 39th Congress without the sixty days' notice now required, which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Wilson the joint resolution freeing the wives and children of colored soldiers was taken up.

Mr. Saulsbury spoke against the resolution. He opposed the measure before in the Senate on the ground of policy and of humanity, and because it was contrary to the legislative rules of war. As it were, under the title of Commissioners, and also of the circumscribed powers of the Mayor. The city and county debt is stated to be $32,500,000. Against this debt the city holds property valued from $40,000,000 to $50,000,000; and the county also holds an incalculable amount.

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NEWS FROM REBEL SOURCES.

The Situation at Wilmington.

LETTER FROM GEN. BRAGG.

The Richmond Dispatch on Sherman's Policy.

UNION RAID ON WEST PASCAGOULA.

Enthusiastic Reception of the Pirate Semmes.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

Opposition to the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.

PEACE RESOLUTIONS OFFERED.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The Wilmington *Journal* says Bragg has written a letter breathing the spirit of christian hope. He says: "There is no cause for alarm, as there is no enemy between Wilmington and Fort Fisher," and, with the present force, he thinks he will be able to resist any further attempt on Wilmington, and closes by asking prayers of christians for himself and the army.

The Richmond *Whig* of the 6th says that a large number of rebel deserters and lawless men are roaming over the upper counties of Georgia, committing depredations on the inhabitants.

The Richmond *Dispatch* says that since Sherman left Milledgeville he has changed his policy. At that town and at Atlanta he was all harshness and brutality; at Savannah he had been all conciliation. The *Dispatch* forgets that Sherman announced that his conduct would be governed by the treatment he received.

The Mobile *Tribune* learns that on the 10th a party of Yankee raiders, numbering about 1,800, reached West Pascagoula, and were embarked on launches. They destroyed several ferries and did other damage.

The pirate Semmes met with an enthusiastic reception in Mobile.

Resolutions have been introduced in the North Carolina Legislature of the opposition to the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, to the impressment to conscription; to the surrender of State troops, and in support of State negotiations for peace.

Mr. Carter, in a marked speech on the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, said if gentlemen in the Legislature and in Congress could not protest against another illegal suspension of this privilege the time had come when they might as well, in the world to be justified in starting a new revolution.

The majority of the committee of the North Carolina legislature on the resolutions reported into negotiations for an honorable peace report that for every effort which was being made to strengthen the army there should be accompanied some manifestation of the desire and determination to secure an honorable peace. The commissioners having heretofore been refused by the United States government the recognition of the Confederacy, this is the objection which is sought to be removed in the resolution, by appointing commissioners on the part of the States whose civil existence and authority have never been denied. These commissioners are not to have powers from the States, but only to be delivered by the President for a peace conference.

NAVAL BRIGADE DISBANDED.

The Mine Explosion at Petersburg.

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS FAILURE.

Efforts to Exchange Newspaper Correspondents.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The *Herald's* off Charleston correspondent of January 1st, says: Commander Preble's naval brigade has been disbanded and sent back to the vessels to which they belong.

The *Times'* correspondent says: The investigation of the failure in the mine explosion, in front of Petersburg, is closed, and the verdict will show a divided responsibility—falling upon Meade, Burnside, and the General who led the assault. Nor does General Grant escape himself entirely blameless, especially in permitting the selection of the officer who led the assault, to be made by lot.

The *Tribune's* Army of the James correspondent of the 30th, says that Mr. Pollard, of the Richmond *Examiner*, captured some eight days since, has gone to Richmond to seek an exchange of himself for Mr. Richardson, correspondent of the *Tribune*, captured some eighteen months since.

Destructive Fire at Portsmouth, Ohio.

ROLLING MILL DESTROYED.

ESTIMATE OF GEN. HOOD'S FORCES.

One Hundred and Fifty Wagons Abandoned by Forrest.

A COMPANY OF UNION CAVALRY CAPTURED.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 9.—P. Hayden's extensive rolling mill at Portsmouth, Ohio, was destroyed by fire on Thursday, with a large stock of manufactured iron. Loss $150,000; no insurance.

The *Commercial's* correspondent estimates that Hood took across the Tennessee from twenty-five to twenty-eight thousand men. Forrest abandoned about one hundred and fifty wagons on the road.

On Friday, Lyon, with about eight hundred men, passed Moulton, "picketed," chez, clothe and care for all, and especially for the many who are sick. Homes for families and for children must be found—transportation to friends, or to districts more congenial to their wants and capacities—all these and other occasional wants press upon us, as family after family daily drop in upon our attention. As is stated in our report, no State, county, or municipal laws reach these cases. No hospital or alms house is open to receive the aged, the sick or the feeble. We plead not for men, for we say in general to them, you must care for yourselves, as you can obtain work; but we plead for helpless, homeless women and children. Not so much for our Cincinnati home wants, but that we may send through our organization to the suffering and dying at Nashville, where, it is said, there are now 5,000 deprived of their homes—to Memphis, Cairo, Little Rock, Louisville, and other points filled with these suffering. Sensible as we are of the many calls upon the community for kindred objects, we claim yet another boon, that you, as Christians or philanthropists, will aid in this, *at the present moment*, the chief of charities. Even if we sometimes give food to the families of rebels, we but obey the dictates of common humanity and the Divine command, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him."

We ask the pastors of churches to call the attention of their congregations to this subject, and particularly would we ask of the *Eastern States* who have thus far been exempt from the din of battle, and the sufferings to which we allude, to help the border towns in bearing what should be a common burden. Will you not feel it a privilege to co-operate with us in this work?

We want women and children's apparel, however coarse and worn—shoes, caps, food and delicacies for the sick. Still another need—and that very essential to the physical and moral condition of these people—money is necessary to send them to places where they can find homes, free from the vices and miseries which must of necessity come upon them, in their now unfortunate and miserable condition. Our funds are nearly exhausted and we wait with deep solicitude the result of our appeal.

Good marked "Refuge Commission, Cincinnati," (and advice of shipment by mail,) will reach us. Money should be remitted to B. F. Brannan, Treasurer, Franklin Bank, Cincinnati.

T. G. OBORNE,
For the Committee.

Edgar Conkling, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is the special Agent for procuring aid for the Refuge Commission of Ohio, and is now at the Monongahela House.

STRANGE PEACH TRANSACTION.—Last fall S. H. Voight & Co., of this city, bought, in Indiana, a lot of peaches at fourteen cents per pound. They took the peaches to Philadelphia and sold them at seventeen cents; they were again bought there at fifteen cents, brought back to this place and re-sold to a Philadelphian at twenty-eight cents. We believe the peaches are yet in a good state of preservation, and may bear two or three more transactions.

ABRAHAM BERRER, probably the oldest physician in the United States, died at Lawrenceburg, Ind., on Tuesday last, at the advanced age of ninety-four.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway.

The Chicago *Tribune*, in giving a sketch of the several railroads centering in that city, speaks as follows of the great line which connects our city with the metropolis of the West:

"This line was commenced at the boundary line between the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, July 4, 1849, by the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, incorporated by an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania. The entire track was laid and the road opened for use between Pittsburgh and Crestline, a distance of 187 miles, April 11, 1853. Crestline was thus then made the western terminus of the road in view of the certainty that the line would be practically carried to the western boundary of Ohio by the building of the Ohio and Indiana Railroad in the direction of Indianapolis. On the 28th of January, 1853, the Directors awarded to Mitchell & Co. the contract for building the road from Crestline to Fort Wayne, a distance of 131 miles. So vigorously was the work prosecuted, that on the 1st of November, 1854, the road from Pittsburgh to Fort Wayne was ready for use.

"So anxiety then became general to have a western connection with Chicago, and the passage of an act was secured in the Illinois Legislature incorporating the Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company, thus giving the Indiana corporation legal existence in this State. The road in this line was begun in 1859, and completed to Columbia City, twenty miles from Fort Wayne, in February, 1860.

"At this time it became evident that to secure the early completion of the line to Chicago some plan for harmonizing all interests and creating a unit in the management would have to be devised. A plan for the consolidation of these three corporations into one was proposed and adopted, and the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company, whose existence dates from August 1st, 1856, was formed. Forty-five miles of the road on the 10th of November following, and on the same day the portion of the Cincinnati, Peru and Chicago Railroad between Plymouth and Laporte was also completed, so that on that day, a line was opened between Pittsburgh and Chicago for the traffic of the Northwest 354 miles in extent.

"On the 1st of January, 1857, the new company executed a mortgage on their entire property for $10,000,000 to secure an issue of the same amount of thirty-year bonds—divided into two classes, as follows: $3,500,000 Construction Bonds to be used in the construction and equipment of the road, and $6,500,000 Redemption Bonds to be used in redeeming all the issues of the old corporation.

"In 1858, the company was enabled to complete its track to Chicago. In December, 1859, the Bondholders commenced proceedings for foreclosure, and the property was placed in the hands of a Receiver. Soon after the whole property was sold, and purchased in for the benefit of the creditors of the old concern. A new corporation was created to hold the property.

"From the commencement of this great enterprise in 1849, to the consummation of the plan of reorganization in 1862, no creditor of the Company was ever compelled to wait a dollar from any just claim; all such debts, with interest, have been paid in cash, or in the bonds of the Company.

"The entire cost of the railway with its equipment, up to the first of January, 1865, will not largely vary from $30,000,000. During the year 1864 its net earnings will reach a trifle over $7,000,000, of which amount nearly $1,000,000 has been received from Government for the transportation of troops and supplies. The above earnings are about 20 per cent. in excess of the earnings of the old running, before the new consolidations or extensions during the year, and of accidents. The additions to the rolling stock have been very large—how large we have no means of determining—and consist of locomotives, passenger and stock cars. The following is the present Board of officers:

President—George W. Cass, Pittsburgh.
Vice President—Sam'l Hanna, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Superintendent—J. M. McCullough, Pittsburgh.
Chief Engineer—J. E. Jervis, Pittsburgh.
Secretary—W. H. Barnes, Pittsburgh.
Assistant Secretary—F. M. Hutchinson, Pittsburgh.
Treasurer—J. P. Henderson, Pittsburgh.
Commercial and General Agent—J. H. Moore, Chicago.
General Freight Agent—J. J. Houston, Pittsburgh.
General Passenger Agent—F. R. Myers, Pittsburgh.
Supt. E. D.—Wm. P. Shinn, Pittsburgh.
Supt. W. D.—C. E. Gorham, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

An Appeal on Behalf of the Southern Refugees.

ROOMS OF THE CINCINNATI REFUGEE RELIEF COMMISSION, December 16, 1864.

Since our first report was issued, the tramp of contending armies in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and some of the more Western as well as Eastern States, has thrown upon the border towns an increase of refugees, which, at this season of the year, is truly appalling. A single steamer landed at our wharf, about two weeks since, near four hundred of these people, about one half of whom were children, and nearly all the remainder women. The substance had been consumed, their homes destroyed and made desolate, and, unrecognized by any law for their protection, they are thrown upon our borders and upon the charities of those who, in some degree, appreciate their condition. If citizens here or elsewhere would know the desolation that war makes among families, let them visit the barracks, the hospitals, the temporary shelter of rails or boards—where these sufferers are housed—and inquire into their family and individual cases; hear the tales of privation and suffering, and they will not be likely to return with the impression, that "we will not help the families of the Rebels," or, that "this class of people should not have come North." They would find many Union families (for the greater proportion, stripped of their little all, while their husbands or sons were either killed or were fighting for their country. With little or no food—starvation staring them in the face—and even if it were expedient to meet their wants at home, no transportation could be had from the Government. The frequent reply of General Sherman to even applicants for a passage by rail from Nashville, has been, "you which one hundred and fifty pounds, and if allow you to go, you just keep so much food from my soldiers." Situated as these people are, others here made it a military necessity ceases when they reach the border towns. True, by act of Congress, rations are allowed here a limited ration for each when they can not otherwise obtain food, and, in extreme cases, temporary shelter is provided; but here private sympathy and aid must step in and supply the deficiency. Clothing for all, and especially for the many who are sick. Homes for families and for children must be found—transportation to friends, or to districts more congenial to their wants and capacities—all these and other occasional wants press upon us, as family after family daily drop in upon our attention. As is stated in our report, no State, county, or municipal laws reach these cases. No hospital or alms house is open to receive the aged, the sick or the feeble. We plead not for men, for we say in general to them, you must care for yourselves, as you can obtain work; but we plead for helpless, homeless women and children. Not so much for our Cincinnati home wants, but that we may send through our organization to the suffering and dying at Nashville, where, it is said, there are now 5,000 deprived of their homes—to Memphis, Cairo, Little Rock, Louisville, and other points filled with these suffering. Sensible as we are of the many calls upon the community for kindred objects, we claim yet another boon, that you, as Christians or philanthropists, will aid in this, *at the present moment*, the chief of charities. Even if we sometimes give food to the families of rebels, we but obey the dictates of common humanity and the Divine command, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him."

We ask the pastors of churches to call the attention of their congregations to this subject, and particularly would we ask of the *Eastern States* who have thus far been exempt from the din of battle, and the sufferings to which we allude, to help the border towns in bearing what should be a common burden. Will you not feel it a privilege to co-operate with us in this work?

We want women and children's apparel, however coarse and worn—shoes, caps, food and delicacies for the sick. Still another need—and that very essential to the physical and moral condition of these people—money is necessary to send them to places where they can find homes, free from the vices and miseries which must of necessity come upon them, in their now unfortunate and miserable condition. Our funds are nearly exhausted and we wait with deep solicitude the result of our appeal.

Good marked "Refuge Commission, Cincinnati," (and advice of shipment by mail,) will reach us. Money should be remitted to B. F. Brannan, Treasurer, Franklin Bank, Cincinnati.

T. G. OBORNE,
For the Committee.

Edgar Conkling, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is the special Agent for procuring aid for the Refuge Commission of Ohio, and is now at the Monongahela House.

STRANGE PEACH TRANSACTION.—Last fall S. H. Voight & Co., of this city, bought, in Indiana, a lot of peaches at fourteen cents per pound. They took the peaches to Philadelphia and sold them at seventeen cents; they were again bought there at fifteen cents, brought back to this place and re-sold to a Philadelphian at twenty-eight cents. We believe the peaches are yet in a good state of preservation, and may bear two or three more transactions.

BROKE THROUGH THE ICE.—Two ladies, whose names we did not learn, while skating near Sharpsburgh, yesterday, broke through the ice, and narrowly escaped being drowned. One of them was humanred to her neck, but was finally rescued from her "cool" position, having received no other injury than a refreshing duck.

A Pittsburgher in the Kentucky Oil Regions.

The following letter was written by an intelligent and observant citizen, who has recently made an extensive tour through the oil region of Kentucky. His statements may be implicitly relied on:

CALLETTSBURG, Ky., Jan. 2d, 1865.

Editors Gazette:—I have just returned from a tour through the oil district of the "Sandy Valley," and thinking that a few of the items picked up may be of interest to some of your readers I have "jotted" them down, and take the liberty of addressing them to you.

The Big Sandy river and its tributaries have long been known to yield petroleum in considerable quantities, but the limited demand previous to 1859 did not warrant any further search than to collect a portion of what came to the surface on springs, and at "rich stirrings" along the creeks and streams.

In 1859 and 1860, Messrs. Dixon, Cummings, Lyons, and others, commenced boring at different points in the valley, but the work progressed very slowly, being conducted in the old fashioned way—with spring pole and rods—and finally stopped altogether, either from the breaking out of the war in the spring of 1861, or from the relapse in the oil business, which occurred at about the same time. Ever since the revival of the oil trade, the general impression has been, that the "Sandy Valley" was inaccessible, and "oil men" all over the country have been anxiously awaiting the time that her rich store-houses might be thrown open to them, and it was not until late in the last summer, that it became known to the outside world that the way was open; since which time, great activity has been displayed in securing territory, forming companies and getting machinery on the ground preparatory to commencing operations.

Surface oil makes its appearance in varying quantities upon most of the small streams or branches from the mouth of Big Sandy to the head of its tributaries, either in springs or slops along the runs or marshy places. At the mouth of Blaire creek an old salt well, bored several years ago, yielded considerable oil. The well is just above low water mark, and consequently is frequently under water, and has become filled with sand and mud; but the oil now forces its way up through it and runs out upon the beach.

An oil well was commenced some one or two miles above Blaine in 1860, with very encouraging prospects, but the tool's got fast at something over one hundred feet, and the well was abandoned. In sinking a well for water, three miles below Louisa, at the depth of about thirty feet, oil came into the well with the water in such quantities as to necessitate its abandonment. Similar instances are reported in other parts of the country.

A few enterprising gentlemen of Louisa are now boring down a well on Contrary Creek, about eighteen miles above the mouth of Sandy. They commenced boring with a 5½-inch bit and a spring pole, but have recently procured an engine, and will soon be prepared to prosecute their work more vigorously and rapidly than ever.

From the commencement of this great enterprise in 1849, to the consummation of the plan of reorganization in 1862, no creditor of the Company was ever compelled to wait a dollar from any just claim; all such debts, with interest, have been paid in cash, or in the bonds of the Company.

The entire cost of the railway with its equipment, up to the first of January, 1865, will not largely vary from $30,000,000. During the year 1864 its net earnings will reach a trifle over $7,000,000, of which amount nearly $1,000,000 has been received from Government for the transportation of troops and supplies. The above earnings are about 20 per cent. in excess of the earnings of the old running, before the new consolidations or extensions during the year, and of accidents. The additions to the rolling stock have been very large—how large we have no means of determining—and consist of locomotives, passenger and stock cars. The following is the present Board of officers:

President—George W. Cass, Pittsburgh.
Vice President—Sam'l Hanna, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Superintendent—J. M. McCullough, Pittsburgh.
Chief Engineer—J. E. Jervis, Pittsburgh.
Secretary—W. H. Barnes, Pittsburgh.
Assistant Secretary—F. M. Hutchinson, Pittsburgh.
Treasurer—J. P. Henderson, Pittsburgh.
Commercial and General Agent—J. H. Moore, Chicago.
General Freight Agent—J. J. Houston, Pittsburgh.
General Passenger Agent—F. R. Myers, Pittsburgh.
Supt. E. D.—Wm. P. Shinn, Pittsburgh.
Supt. W. D.—C. E. Gorham, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Caucus Nominations.

The Union members of Councils held their caucus last night, when the following nominations were made:

Recording Regulator—Chas. Reichspfarr.
City Assessor—R. Newman, by acclamation.
City Gauger—J. H. Nobbs.
Supt. of Markets—David Sims.
Clerk of Market—John Wallace.
Monongahela Wharf Master—Wm. Forsyth, by acclamation.
Allegheny Wharf—J. S. Patterson.
Soil Inspector—Jacob Feidler, by acclamation.
Inspector of Ashes—M. W. Watson, by acclamation.
Inspector of Tobacco—George Wilson, by acclamation.
City Printers—(English) *Gazette* and *Dispatch*, by acclamation; (German) *Freiheit's Friedd*.
City Job Printers—Slugerty & Myers.
Street Commissioners—1st. Dist—John Owens.
" " " —2d. " —S. B. Cooper.
Bark Measurer—J. Pollock, by acclamation.
Supt. of Water Works—Joseph French.
Assistant of Water Works—Rob't King.
Board Measurers—1st Ward, R. Walker.
" " 2d " John Gemmingh.
" " 3d " Jas. McMaster.
" " 4th " R. McClure.
" " 5th " W. Sliter.
" " 6th " Thomas Hill.
" " 7th " Robt. Donaldson.
" " 8th " C. Koehn.
" " 9th " S. D. Hill.

Court of Quarter Sessions.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 9.—Before Judges Sterrett and Brown.

Frederick Gobbert, Ludwig Wagner and Frank Lauderstadt, were arraigned on a charge of assault and battery, on oath of Theodore Beilstein, prosecuting witness. The complainant, it appears, entered a saloon in Allegheny on the evening of the 26th of December, in company with some friends, all of whom had been drinking. There were another party in the saloon, who had also been drinking. An altercation occurred, which culminated in a general row, in which Beilstein was pretty roughly handled. During the melee knives and missiles were freely used, and the complainant received a severe gash on the side of his head, severing a part of the ear. Two of the other party received cuts or stabs, but in neither case does it seem clear as to whose hands inflicted the wounds. The examination of witnesses in this case occupied the attention of the Court from eleven o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, when the Jury retired.

THE SAVANNAH DAILY LOYAL GEORGIAN.—Such is the title of a half sheet paper, printed in Savannah, by "M. Summers, A. G. 20th army corps." The copy before us is dated December 20th, and the first number was issued on Christmas day. We are under obligations to Thomas S. Sloan, of Knapp's Pennsylvania Battery, for this and other favors.

The gallant division of Gen. Geary—the White Star—was the first to enter the captured city, are enjoying a brief respite after their arduous campaign. We know of none more deserving.

AN OLD INHABITANT GONE.—The funeral of Hugh Keating took place on last Tuesday, and was numerously attended by the friends of the family of the deceased. Mr. Keating was one of the oldest settlers, having first come to the county as a laborer in 1816, and by his industry and prudence had accumulated considerable property, among the best sections of the residences on Ferry and Third streets. Mr. Keating was a native of Ireland.

PITTSBURGH AND STEUBENVILLE RAILROAD.—The stockholders of this road yesterday held their annual meeting, and those the following named gentlemen as officers for the ensuing year:

President—Isaac Jones.
Directors—R. F. Smyth, M. B. Brown, James Schoonmaker, M. O'Hara, Max. K. Moorhead, James B. Murray, Nathan Lemes, Wm. Phillips, Joshua Rhodes, A. S. Nicholson, W. S. Haven, Jesse Edgington.

THE EYTINGO-SOTIAN.—This remarkable exhibition opens for the first time at Masonic Hall this evening. Of course there will be a