

NEW ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN ORDERED

Board of Revision and Appeals Comes to a Decision.

HARMFUL EFFECT IS CLAIMED
Mr. Chittenden Says Lawsuits Will Follow any Attempt to Impose Unjust Burdens on the Central City—Statement by Mr. Oliver and Interview with Assessor Fowler.

After some hesitation the board of revision and appeals yesterday decided upon a new assessment. Opponents of the new assessment, however, claim that it is inadvisable to go to the expense of a new general assessment this year in view of the fact that next year the regular triennial assessment is due.

The adherents of the movement contend that the inequalities of the present assessment are so numerous and of such a nature that it would be a great injustice to those who are bearing more than their just share of the burden of taxation to allow the abuse to continue, even for a year when there are means at hand to prevent it.

Those who favored the measure are from the outside wards; those against it are the central city councilmen. Every member of the board of appeals is from an outlying ward. The outlying wards won.

The power of the board to order a new assessment is found in the following excerpt from the act creating the body:

Said board, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, may in any year other than a triennial year, if they shall deem a new assessment necessary, on or before the first day of September, issue their precept to the city assessors requiring them to make out and return a full, just and equal assessment of property within the city, or such parts thereof as the said board of revision may deem advisable, and they shall take and receive the triennial and yearly assessments as returned by the board of city assessors, and shall have power and authority to revise, equalize or alter such assessments in any and every year by increasing or reducing the valuations, either in individual cases or by wards or parts of wards.

The new assessment involves the expenditure of about \$1,000 for assistant assessors, new books and the like. There is no appropriation at present for such an expense and the assessors will be compelled to wait till next year for their pay.

Mr. Oliver, one of the members of the board, said:

"We were prompted to make this move by the discoveries we have made during the last assessment. There are hundreds of cases of flagrant unjust discrimination. This is true to a greater or less extent throughout the entire city, but it is more apparent in the central city wards. We have one instance of a property for which the owner refused a cash offer of \$55,000 which is assessed for only \$3,000. There are numerous other cases almost as bad, but this one is sufficient to serve as an illustration."

Mr. Oliver, who fought the movement along with the preventive select council from reconsidering its adverse action on the resolution advising the new assessment, said upon learning of the board's action: "There is going to be no end of mischief created by this move. Those members of the board of revision and appeals imagine that central city property is undervalued, simply because they have discovered a few cases of inequitable assessment and because they are basing their comparisons in the fancy prices which a few lots brought during the real estate boom, engineered by the real estate agents. The central city property holders will not submit to this unjust attempt to increase the city's valuation at their expense and you can rely upon it that some very lively litigation will result."

"The board has power to correct any inaccuracies that may come to their attention and they should have been satisfied to do this and not go to the expense of having twenty-one additional assessors to disturb the assessment throughout the whole city. The creation of these twenty-one new assessors, in my way of thinking, did not militate in any way against the project in the minds of the members of the board."

C. S. Fowler of the board of assessors, admitted that he had advised in favor of a new assessment. He said he did not care to discuss the present assessment for fear it might be taken as criticism of his predecessors, who made it. In making the new assessment, however, he would say, the system employed in former years would be departed from in many particulars. One of these and the most important is the method of fixing the value of property. The law directs that the valuation should be placed at a figure representing what in the judgment of the assessors would be a fair price at a forced sale. Mr. Fowler remarked that land heretofore has been assessed at one-third of its value and improvements at one-half. This, besides being illegal, as City Solicitor Torrey has decided, puts a premium on idle land and, if for no other reason than the latter, should be disproved. The present assessors propose to assess all property alike at one-third its market value. The loss in revenue by this decrease in the valuation of improvements will, they expect, be more than entirely made up for in the general increase in valuation which the new assessment contemplates.

FIREMEN'S IMPORTANT MEETING.

Will be Held in the City Hall Next Monday Night.

The Firemen's union will hold an important meeting next Monday night in the municipal building at 8 p. m. President Seaman will appoint all the committee to act at the excursion on Sept. 7.

It is expected that every company will send in a list of members willing to assist, and also notify Isadore Goodman of the same time they intend sending a delegate to the convention at Johnstown. All persons desiring to accompany the Firemen's union to Johnstown should notify the secretary at once in order that proper accommodations and transportation can be made.

PROF. GENTRY'S

Equine and Canine Paradox—50 Wonderful Educated Ponies and Dogs.

Will give one of the grandest entertainments ever seen in this city at Adams avenue and Mulberry street, six nights beginning Monday, Aug. 31. Those who saw Prof. Gentry's horse and dog show go away in a state of bewilderment. It is marvelous and most amusing to see the animals perform

their parts. Until seen no one would believe that so much intelligence could be awakened in dumb brutes. No such thing has been seen before in this city or elsewhere, excepting as in Prof. Gentry's combination. It is the event of a lifetime to see such a show and the prices are so low that no one can afford to miss it. Children, 10 cents; adults, 20 cents. Matinee Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2:30 p. m.

TURNPIKE MUDDLE.

City Will Take Chances and Repair the Turnpike and Abington Turnpike.

Messrs. Roche, Lansing and Manley, of the special committee appointed to look after the Abington Turnpike case, met last night in the city clerk's office and passed a resolution directing Mr. Roche, chairman of the committee, to confer with Attorney S. B. Price with a view to get an opinion from the latter as to whether the city owns the part of the turnpike within its limits; if so what steps are necessary to establish such ownership, and if it does not own the road, how to get possession of it at the earliest possible moment.

While the committee was deliberating a meeting of common council was in session and the following communication was read from Mayor Bailey: To the Honorable the Select and Common Councils of the City of Scranton.

Gentlemen: The Scranton and Abington Turnpike company informs me that the portion of the Abington turnpike within the city limits needs immediate repairs, and having called the attention of Mr. C. E. Kinsey, street commissioner, to the matter, he says that on account of extensive travel on said turnpike it would be well to put it in good condition at once. I therefore recommend that an appropriation of not exceeding \$1,500 be provided for improving said turnpike at the earliest possible date.

Yours very respectfully,
James G. Bailey, Mayor.

After a lengthy discussion it was referred to the streets and bridges committee with instructions to bring in an ordinance providing for the appropriation.

The communication was the result of a conference in the mayor's office yesterday morning among the mayor, Street Commissioner Kinsey, City Controller Robinson and Attorney S. B. Price. Mr. Price is special attorney for the city in the case. He stated that the company, as his opinion, has forfeited its charter and cannot legally collect toll, as the turnpike is now less than two miles long. The supreme court has decided that toll cannot be collected on a road less than three miles long.

The Scranton Traction company is anxious to extend its line out West Market street, but has a charter for a road along the route, but it has expired. The charter can be renewed if the company can get the right of way from the city. General Manager Stillman is willing to share the expense of grading and paving the street provided the property owners agree to do so. The city is of the opinion that the owners are not ready yet to assume this improvement, and as far as they are concerned it will suit them better to defer grading and paving for a few years. They are anxious enough for street car service, but do not want the burden of expense that it would entail.

CALL IS ISSUED.

Chairman O'Neill Summons the Democratic County Committee for Tomorrow Night.

The long delayed preliminary step towards the Democratic county convention was made yesterday when Chairman O'Neill issued the following call: There will be a meeting of the Democratic county standing committee held Saturday, Aug. 29, at 8 p. m. in the St. Charles hotel to name a date to hold the county convention. James J. O'Neill, Chairman.

It is likely that the convention will be fixed for Sept. 8. George S. Horn is the latest mentioned congressional candidate.

P. P. Gordon, common councilman from the Second ward, is out for the office of county clerk.

The prohibitionists announce that they will open their campaign Sept. 10 with a roving mass meeting in the Academy of Music, at which Hon. John G. Wooley will be the principal speaker.

P. J. Kelley, of Locust street, candidate for the Second ward, street commissioner, is in the field as a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the Second legislative district.

C. B. Pennam, recently resigned from the city treasurer's department, is an aspirant for nomination in this district. The appointment comes from the executive department at Harrisburg and will be made next December.

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Bryan and Sewall club to formulate plans for conducting the silver campaign met last night in the office of C. G. Boland in the Republican building. The members of the committee are M. J. O'Toole, D. J. Reedy, D. P. Replegle, L. P. Wedeman and B. T. Castles.

Insurance Company Sued.
John Hay, administrator of the estate of Annie Walter, late of this city, by his attorney, H. W. Mulholland, brought suit yesterday in court against the United States Industrial Insurance company, of Newark, N. J., for \$400 with interest from April 13, 1896. Mrs. Walter was insured with the company for the above amount. She died on April 9, 1896, and although proofs of death were forwarded to the company the policy has not yet been paid.

IT IS A FACT that Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier, has proved over and over again, that it has power to cure, even when other medicines fail to do any good.

HOOD'S PILLS are purely vegetable and do not purge, pain or gripe. All druggists, 25c.

SCRANTON BUSINESS COLLEGE.

Special Offer.

The demand for those who can do both book-keeping and stenographic work has been greater than the supply. In order to be able to supply this demand in the future, Buck, Whitmore & Co., seek to induce many ladies and gentlemen to take both courses by offering, until Sept. 15th, a combined scholarship for the complete business course, complete stenographic course and academic course, for the price of one scholarship, fifty dollars.

Ask Your Dealer for McGarr's Insect Powder, 25 and 50-cent boxes. Never sold in bulk. Take no other.

Read Williams' Business College ad.

MUSICAL TREAT AT THE LINDEN

In Honor of Professor Fairlamb, the New York Composer.

HIS COMPOSITIONS ARE RENDERED

Audience of Music Lovers and Many Critics—The Artists Were Miss Wolfe, Mrs. Strine, the Misses Duncan, Mr. Wooley, Mr. Strine and Thos. C. Jones.

One of the most artistic music events of the year was the musicale given last evening at "The Linden" in honor of Professor J. Remington Fairlamb, of New York, who has been playing the organ for the past few months at the Elm Park church, in the absence of the regular organist, Professor Pennington. The programme consisted entirely of compositions by Mr. Fairlamb, and served well to show the versatility and talent of this well-known composer.

Miss Carolyn Wolfe, the soprano of Elm Park church; Alfred Wooley, the tenor of the same church; Thomas C. Jones, Robert P. Strine, of Philadelphia, assisted the composer in interpreting his music. The Misses Duncan contributed a piano duet and Mrs. Robert P. Strine, who is a well-known reader, furnished a welcome diversion in the shape of a recitation entitled "Tom's Little Star," in which she displayed rare talent.

THE PROGRAMME.

The programme in full is as follows:

PART FIRST.
Piano duet—Overture, "The Dragon Fighter"..... Hofmann
The Misses Duncan.

Songs,
(a) "Whether I Love Thee?"
(b) A Hunter's Song.
Thomas C. Jones
Song, "But Say Thou Wilt Be Mine"
Dear Love..... Miss Carolyn Wolfe
Song, from Romantic opera "Valerie"
"When Fortune Smiled"..... Alfred Wooley

Songs,
(a) "Untold Love," A Spinning song.
(b) "The May Girl."
Miss Carolyn Wolfe.
Song, from Quartette opera, "Love's Stratagem"
"I Love the Sound of the Rattling Drum."
Robert Patterson Strine

PART SECOND.

Recitation, "Tom's Little Star."
Penny Foster

Song, "Since First I Gazed"..... Miss Carolyn Wolfe
Song, "The Sea and the Wind."
Miss Carolyn Wolfe
Lullaby, "Little Blue Pigeon."
Miss Carolyn Wolfe
(By special request.)

Piano Solos,
(a) Mazurka du Salon.
(b) Wedding March.
J. Remington Fairlamb
Trio, from Romantic opera, "Valerie"
"Ah! Now with Hope and Joy."
Miss Wolfe, Mr. Wooley, Mr. Strine

PROF. FAIRLAM'S TALENT.

Professor Fairlamb has contributed much to the world of music. Three operas, a mass and a Te Deum averaging his greater compositions, and he has published a large quantity of orchestral

music. Over two hundred songs bearing his name are published, and he is prominent in church organ and piano composition. Several years ago he composed and dedicated a Te Deum to Karl, the late King of Wurtemberg, which so pleased that monarch that he awarded the musician the "great" gold medal, the highest distinction for art and music attainable. A year ago he was granted the prize for the new national anthem entitled "Sons of America," and which is played by Sousa's band and at the Crystal Palace in London.

Miss Wolfe delighted her hearers by the artistic rendition of her songs and displayed to splendid advantage her well-trained soprano voice of great flexibility, sweetness and power. The numbers of Mr. Jones were carefully rendered, and Mr. Wooley gave the audience much pleasure with his sympathetic tenor voice.

Mr. Strine, who is well-known in Philadelphia musical circles, gave those present a real treat in well sung numbers, and his artistic work showed the beauty of his voice, a rich baritone, to advantage.

INTRODUCED BY MR. STRINE.
Mr. Fairlamb was introduced in a few felicitous remarks by Mr. Strine, and entertained his hearers with some interesting facts concerning composition.

The large gathering included many of the city's best known critics and lovers of music.

REXFORD'S

Japanese Goods

Just from Japan

Today we place on sale a nice line of Japanese goods fresh from the land of the Mikado. A truly beautiful line of fancy goods and china that is worth the looking over. We won't weary you with details, but you will surely find something you want in this lot. All are our own importation, which means no middleman's profit and a saving to you.

China Tea Cups

Two exceptionally pretty patterns. Tea cups from the land of tea. Two patterns in particular are worth your notice. They sell at 10 and 25c. Extra fine ones in blue and gold decorations. A tea cup fit for a king. China stores say \$1.50 for these. We are satisfied to sell them for 50c.

Vases

Japanese vases that will fill an aching void on your mantel. The assortment is large and the prices cover a wide range. Little fellows that attract by their cuteness; yours for 50c.

Then there's another lot of larger size that should bring 75c, at least. All we ask is 25c.

Still another lot embracing some handsome designs in blue and gold that would not be dear at \$1.25. They are really cheap at your price, 80c. When \$1.50 vases sell for 50c, it's time you were buying, and yet we have a nice assortment of them in beautiful shapes and colors to go at that price. There are others. Finer still. You want to understand we've got a nice line, with prices running up to \$2.50, and values keeping constantly ahead.

Crumb, Brush and Tray

Purple Maple tray and good brush. Lacquered black, with gold trimming. Brush and tray both today for an even quarter. \$1.00 for an even quarter.

Japanese Tea Trays

The nicest we've ever seen. Back ground of fine bronze, with handsome designs in gilt. 2 sizes at 3 prices.
11 inches square, 80c; worth 75c.
11 inches square, 1.25; worth 1.00.
11 inches square, 1.25; worth 1.00.

Feather Dusters

Dainty little dusters for bed-room and dining room. Just what you want for the sideboard and parlor. No danger of breaking the daintiest of dishes with these. It was hardly worth while for the Japanese chickens to part with their feathers, when we sell the dusters for 10c.

Rose Bowls

A special at special value. Inside cover on these and 50 cents the right price; but we never do sell things at the right price; always lower, so these go at 30c.

Ice Cream Sets

Real china, two patterns; are particularly pretty. Blue and gold, a nice combination; large dish and six small dishes, 2.25. Cream and gold, a beautiful dish that only sounds dear. You'll know it's cheap at the price after you see it. Large dish and six small ones for \$3.99; worth anybody's \$5.00.

Syrup Jugs

We don't know who told the little Japs that the Americans were great eaters of maple syrup. At all events they must know it, for they've sent us some of the loveliest syrup jugs. There's a 7c. worth of jug for just 30c.

Cracker Jars

Prices start at 30c. Couldn't start much lower, could they? Can give you quite a jar for 30c. Come get one. Next we strike an 80c. one. It's worth-while, it's worth a dollar, anyhow, and we're not sure that a dollar and a quarter would be dear for it; still, we're going to sell it for 80c.

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We don't know who told the little Japs that the Americans were great eaters of maple syrup. At all events they must know it, for they've sent us some of the loveliest syrup jugs. There's a 7c. worth of jug for just 30c.

Cracker Jars

Prices start at 30c. Couldn't start much lower, could they? Can give you quite a jar for 30c. Come get one. Next we strike an 80c. one. It's worth-while, it's worth a dollar, anyhow, and we're not sure that a dollar and a quarter would be dear for it; still, we're going to sell it for 80c.



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He Can Play in the Dirt

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