PERSONAL.

Attorney M. F. Coury has returned from Shenandoah.

Miss Margaret Reynolds has returned from a visit at Kingston.

Rev. P. J. Golden, of Williamsport, is visiting Scranton friends.

Miss Minnie Driesen, of Washington avenue, is in New York city.

Mrs. S. T. Hosie, of Hoboken, is the guest of relatives in this city.

W. H. Whatley, of Dickson avenue, has returned from Morristown, N. J.

Miss Scott, of Binghamton, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Willis Kommerer.

The Misses Stevens, of Elmira, are the guests of their uncle, Attorney George S. Horn.

Miss Lizzie McCaffrey, of Green Ridge, is the guest of Miss McFadden, at Olean, N. Y.

Thomas and Miss Kathryne Fahey are visiting their uncle, Dr. Lamb, of Carbondale.

Miss Edna Nagle, of Hollis, L. I., is the guest of Miss Mary Beamish, of Olive street.

Emmet Gromer, of Homesdale, returned to that place yesterday after a visit with Scranton friends.

George S. Baskerville, of Philadelphia, has returned home after a visit with relatives in this city.

Miss Nellie O'Malley has returned from a Christmas visit with her parents at Binghamton, N. Y.

Miss Bradley, of Newburg, N. Y., is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank M. Spencer, of Clay avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. James McAnulty will give a dancing party this evening in honor of their daughter, Miss Anna.

A. J. Randall, of the Guarantor's Liability company, of Philadelphia, is spending a few days in this city.

P. J. Weir, of Honesdale, who has been in this city several days, left here yesterday for Pittston and Wilkes-Barre.

A. H. Hartley was in this city greeting his many old friends yesterday. He speaks highly of the thrift and prosperity of Allegheny county, which leads the world in iron manufacture.

Mrs. H. M. Boies will be at home this afternoon to a large number of ladies and Colonel and Mrs. Boies will give a reception and dance this evening. Both events are in honor of their elder daughter.

SCRANTON BUSINESS COLLEGE.

Day and evening sessions of the Scranton Business College will reopen on Monday, January 3d. If you have not seen a copy of the new journal, call at the office or address Scranton Business College, corner Adams avenue and Linden street.

Klondike.

A handsome map of Alaska and all details as to routes, supplies, cost of same, transportation charges, etc., etc., furnished free, by writing F. J. Moore, General Agent, Nickel Plate Road, 23 Exchange street, Buffalo, N. Y. **

FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES CONSIDERED

Officials Confer About the Needs of the Coming Year.

$98,000 IS ESTIMATED FOR 1898

Of That Sum $44,025.57 is For the Actual Current Needs of the Department and Over $53,000 is Involved in Recommendations to Be Made for New Buildings and Apparatus and More Permanent Men. $22,000 for a Fire and Police Headquarters.

Last night's conference among the members of the joint fire department committee of councils, the board of fire engineers and Chief Hickey of the fire department was the beginning of a decided innovation in making up the estimate of fire department expenditures for incorporation in the annual appropriation ordinance. Heretofore the heads of all city departments have made their estimates independent of advice and have submitted the same to the city controller to be by him submitted in turn to councils for consideration by the joint estimates committee.

While Chief Hickey has had no such intention it is probable that his new and open-handed manner of making up the estimate will not only give the members of councils a comprehensive idea of the fire department's needs but will also encourage unusual support in providing for the items in the estimate. L. P. Zeidler, chairman of common council's fire department committee, was chosen to preside over last night's conference, which was held in the common council chamber.

Each person present was provided with a detailed estimate compiled by Chief Hickey of the 1898 expenditures. It involved $44,025.57 for general and current items, all considered absolutely necessary, and $61,742.49 for recommended increase in the department's efficiency by the purchase of additional apparatus, the employment of more permanent men, new fire quarters, etc. The recommendations were cut about $8,000, which made the total of the general estimate and recommendations about $98,000.

THIS YEAR'S APPROPRIATION.

This year $41,540.20 was appropriated for fire department purposes. Chief Hickey's general estimate for 1898, which was but slightly changed last night, is for $44,025.57, an increase of but $2,485.31. The increase is much smaller than is usually asked for one year as compared with that immediately preceding and in the present case applies to only such details in the way of equipment and repair as would be expected in the growth of the city and the effort of the department to keep pace with it.

The feature of interest in the fire department estimate will be its recommendations involving over $53,000 in addition to the general estimate. It is not expected—in fact it is impossible without the proposed bond issue—that many of these items can be provided for. The largest was for $30,000 for the purchase of the present site of the Crystal Hose company, on Linden street, now owned by the Blair estate. This item was reduced and changed so as to involve an expenditure of but $22,000 for the erection of a fire and police headquarters building and a home for Crystal company on the city's plot in the rear of the city hall.

Less than three years ago plans for such a building were adopted. The structure was to be connected by an overhead passageway with the present office of the chief of police. It was to contain stalls for the police patrol horses, four fire department horses, and a hospital stall; space for a fire engine, hose cart, chief's wagon and patrol wagon; quarters for the permanent men of one fire company, offices for the chiefs of the fire and police departments, bath rooms; a drying room for hose, a storage room and other facilities for the two departments.

WOULD PROTECT THE HILL.

One of the arguments advanced for the erection of such a building is that it would furnish better fire protection for the hill while not lessening the protection of the growing business district in the vicinity of Linden street and Washington avenue or of the locality around Spruce street and Wyoming avenue which can be quickly reached by the Phoenix and Nay Aug companies.

Another large item is $12,000 for the purchase of a site and building for the Century company. For the purchase of the fire alarm system which is now rented from the Gamewell company, $9,250 is wanted. If the whole of this item cannot be appropriated it is possible that part of it will be set aside for the purchase of the boxes if the Gamewell company will consent to sell a part of the system.

The additional permanent men at yearly salaries of $600 each, a total of $6,000 are needed, and the purchase of combination hose and chemical wagons for Nay Aug and Excelsior companies are recommended. The two wagons would cost $5,100, and $1,440 for chemical engines would have to be provided.

While not anticipating any particular disposition by councils of the estimates and recommendations, Chief Hickey, the fire department committees and the board of engineers are satisfied that they are going to ask nothing beyond reason. If every item was granted, they say, Scranton's fire department would be well equipped but not so well fortified as many other cities of lesser area.

THE NEW COUNTY OFFICERS.

Oaths of Office and Bonds That Have Been Filed.

Five of the new county officers, C. E. Pryor, sheriff; John Copeland, prothonotary; William Koch, jr., register; Fred W. Warnke, recorder; Thomas P. Daniels, clerk of the courts, filed their oaths of office with Prothonotary Pryor, yesterday. M. J. Kelly, treasurer, has already filed his oath and John R. Jones, district attorney, will take his obligation later.

Their respective bonds had been previously filed and approved. Mr. Daniels was required to give $11,000 security, $1,000 as clerk of oyer and terminer; $5,000 as clerk of quarter sessions and $5,000 as clerk of orphans' court. Daniel Williams and William R. Williams are his bondsmen.

Mr. Warnke's bondsmen are John J. Fahey and Philip Schnell. He gave a bond of "six hundred pounds" as security that he would faithfully administer the affairs of his office and turn over to his successor all books, records and the like in good condition. He also gave a bond of $8,333.33 to insure his good and true return of taxes collected for the state.

Mr. Pryor's bond is in the sum of $25,000. Adam Thompson and Franc T. Vail are his sureties.

Mr. Kelly gave a bond for $50,000 with M. J. Healey, Michael Hand and James Nolan as sureties.

Mr. Copeland's bondsmen are S. A. McMullen and T. C. Robinson and the amount of his bond is $20,000.

Mr. Koch gave two bonds in the sum of $12,500 each, one covering the collection and payment of taxes and the other the keeping and turning over of the records and faithful discharge of his duties. Charles Kaestner and Philip Robinson are on the first bond, and William Koch, sr., and Peter Rosar, on the second.

The district attorney is not required to give a bond.

BOY'S SUDDEN DEATH.

His Grief Stricken Parents Can Assign no Cause.

A fair-haired boy lay down to sleep Tuesday night. In the morning when his mother went to awaken him he was ill. He kissed her; she left the room and upon re-entering ten minutes afterward she found him cold in death.

The boy was James Cafferty, son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Cafferty, of 515 Fourth street, Bellevue. What caused his sudden taking away will always remain unknown. His parents can only guess at it.

A mark on the boy's head started the gossip among neighbors that some one had beaten him for a misdeed. But this was not true for Mr. and Mrs. Cafferty mourn the loss of their boy as true loving parents do. He would be fourteen years of age next August.

Some people say that little James Cafferty was out skating Monday. He fell, they say, and hurt his head. Another story is that he slipped on the sidewalk and struck his head against the frozen ground.

Whatever it was the boy didn't complain any to his parents when he came into the house at 11 o'clock Monday morning. He was sick he said. He didn't leave the house after that. He went to bed Monday night, got up in the morning and hung around during the day.

"He never once mentioned a hurt to us," said the grief stricken father yesterday. "We would have got a doctor if we thought Jimmie was very sick." "Yes," rejoined Mrs. Cafferty, "he was happy and healthy. He didn't complain at all. When I went in to see him this morning he put his arms around me and kissed me. He said nothing even then of a hurt to his head. I don't know what happened him."

Coroner Longstreet viewed the remains yesterday. He decided not to hold an inquest as there was no evidence of foul play. Just what caused the death will probably never be known. The funeral will be tomorrow afternoon.

MRS. GEORGE B. HAND ENTERTAINS.

Gave a Tea at Her Home on Jefferson Avenue For Her Daughters.

Mrs. George B. Hand gave a tea yesterday in honor of her elder daughter, Miss Annie, at her home on Jefferson avenue, which was largely attended. The ladies were assisted in receiving by Miss Katharine Goodale, of Watertown, N. Y. Mrs. Hand wore silver brocade. Miss Hand was attired in white muslin and carried pink roses. Miss Goodale's gown was also of white with lavender accessories.

About the rooms were Mrs. F. H. Jermyn, Mrs. C. W. Kirkpatrick, and Miss Barker. Miss Linen and Miss May Houghton, of Buffalo, served frappe. Miss Dale and Miss Augusta Merrill presided at the table in the dining room, where Miss Margaret Hanley, Miss Anna Archbald, Miss Gibson, of Philadelphia, and Miss Adeline Hand served refreshments.

The house was elaborately decorated by Clark, the dining room being especially effective with ropes of smilax forming a canopy above the table, while from the chandlier was suspended a basket of pink roses. In the front reception room pink roses were employed in the decorations. Red roses adorned the room adjoining.

FIREMEN POSTPONE ACTION.

Will Await the Disposition of Mr. Griers Ordinance.

A meeting of the Firemen's Relief association was to have been held in city hall yesterday afternoon to hear the report of the committee on constitution and by-laws.

A number of members gathered in the common council chamber, but it was decided not to take any action on the constitution until final disposition is made of Mr. Grier's ordinance providing for the disbursement of the fund in the hands of the city treasurer, derived from the state tax on foreign fire insurance companies and intended for the benefit of disabled firemen.

The meeting was postponed until such time as the ordinance in question is finally acted upon, when the chairman will issue a call.

TRACK WALKER KILLED.

Run Down by an Engine Near the Nay Aug Tunnel.

Frank Kossuth, a track-walker, employed by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company on the southern division, was run down by an engine just above the Nay Aug tunnel yesterday morning. He died instantly.

Kossuth was in the discharge of his duties at the time of the accident. He was walking on the track, unmindful of danger, when an engine came along the track behind him and ran him down. His left arm was severed and his head crushed.

The body was removed to Raub's undertaking establishment and afterward to Kossuth's boarding house, 312 Third street. He was a young man, and had been in the country but seven months.

Came Down Under Guard.

Fourteen-year-old Mary Yanick, of Archbald, and Alex. Kranill, a grown-up man, of the same borough, came down from the office of Justice of the Peace Helmes, of Jermyn, yesterday morning, accompanied by two constables and after securing a marriage license, returned and were made one by the Jermyn magistrate.

Corner Stone Laying.

The corner stone laying for the new silk mill in the Tenth ward will be laid this afternoon. C. Schoen, of New York, will be present to conduct the ceremony. He is one of the members of the firm that is erecting the mill.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies'

Busy Shoe Store, will be open evenings during December. **

IT WAS MURDER NOT ACCIDENT

Such Was the Verdict on the Death of John Frank, Jr.

KILLED BY BLOWS ON THE HEAD

When Frank, Nearly Dead, Was Found Lying in the River, It Was Thought He Had Been Hurt by a Fall—He Died and the Autopsy Gave Evidence That Frank's Skull Had Been Crushed by a Weapon.

The police department has a chance to distinguish itself in ferreting out what a coroner's jury believes to have been a case of murder. A verdict was reached last night that John Frank, jr., who was found dying in the Lackawanna river, Sunday morning, Dec. 19, came to his death from the effects of blows upon the head and not from a fall, as was generally supposed.

The verdict was based chiefly upon the testimony of Coroner Longstreet. In his autopsy of the body he found on Frank's battered head the best of circumstantial evidence that the young man was the victim of foul play. If this testimony had been lacking there was abundant reason to suppose that Frank died from the effects of something other than a fall.

On the Sunday morning in question Frank was found moaning and mumbling incoherently while sitting in a kneeling position near the river's shore below the Jersey Central tracks, near the Elm street bridge. It was supposed he had fallen from the railroad wall and had been stunned. He was taken in the patrol wagon to the central police station, where he died in two hours. Police Surgeon Fulton had been called to attend him, but could do nothing to save his life.

CORONER CALLED.

Frank's body was taken to Raub's undertaking establishment on Spruce street and the case turned over to the coroner.

It was ascertained that on Sunday night Frank was carousing in Polish saloons on the South Side and that Patrolman Sartor had taken him from the custody of two Polanders. Frank being sent toward the Elm street bridge on his route home to the West Side and his companions in another direction. On Tuesday three Polanders, John Kumar, John Olszurski and George Bernac, were arrested.

The latter was discharged by Alderman Millar and the other two held for a hearing on Wednesday and pending investigation by the police. No evidence against them was found and they were released.

Corner Longstreet discovered in his autopsy that Frank's skull had sustained several fractures. It was "almost mushy," as he described it. The injury was at the base of the skull, but the scalp was not cut, showing that a fall could hardly have caused the fracture. There was every reason to believe that Frank had been struck several times with some heavy instrument that had a smooth surface.

THE JURY'S VERDICT.

The revelations of the autopsy were made known to the coroner's jury, who met last evening in the arbitration room at the court house. From this evidence, augmented by the knowledge that Frank had been carousing and in bad company the night he met his death, a verdict was quickly reached that he died from the effects of a blow or blows on the head at the hand of a person or persons unknown.

The verdict will be made known to the police early this morning, and it is possible that there may be further developments in the case.

MAYOR BAILEY SIGNED THEM.

Batch of Councilmanic Measures Have Become Operative.

Of a number of ordinances and resolutions signed by Mayor Bailey yesterday, several were of considerable import. Among the measures were the following:

Providing for curbing on both sides of Webster avenue between Mulberry and Linden streets; providing for an estimate of cost for sidewalks and curbing on Mulberry street between Irving and Arthur avenues; providing for an estimate of cost for a stone block pavement on Scranton street from the gas house bridge to Seventh street; for an estimate of cost for filling the approaches to the Bloom avenue culvert in the Third ward; awarding the contract for building a sewer on Wyoming avenue, between Green Ridge and Marion streets to James O'Boyle & Co., at $2.13 per lineal foot, $85 for each extra basin and $20 for each extra manhole; requiring the Delaware and Hudson company to plank its crossing at Phelps street; providing for an estimate of cost for opening Vine street, Irving avenue and Farber court; providing for an electric light at the corner of Prescott avenue and Mulberry street.

COSTS ON THE INFORMANT.

Fleetville Man Claims he Was Injustly Treated.

In the case of the commonwealth against L. M. Potter, charged with keeping a tippling house at Fleetville, the last grand jury returned the bill ignored and placed the costs on O. F. Gunther, who entered the complaint on which the constable made the return.

Mr. Gunther thinks that this was unfair and illegal and going before Judge Gunster, yesterday, secured a rule to show cause why the return of the grand jury as regards the costs should not be set aside.

Mr. Gunther is the gentleman who acquired some fame last summer by advertising for a wife in a New York city newspaper. In response to his advertisement he secured one within a few days.

FIRST ENTERTAINMENT AND BALL.

Will Be Given by the Giuseppe Verdi Musical Club.

Entertainment and ball of the Giuseppe Verdi Musical club tonight at Music Hall.

The Giuseppe Verdi Italian Musical club will give its first entertainment and ball tonight at Music Hall. The club is composed of the music-loving young men of the Italian colony.

The committee in charge this evening has done its best to prepare an enjoyable programme, one they are confident will please and delight all. The dance will be preceded by the following musical numbers:

Selection from "Traviata" .....G. Verdi
Verdi Orchestra.
Vocal Solo, "None C' Ver" .....T. Mattei
Miss Rose Artigoni.
Accompanied by Miss Maude Lavo.
Violin Solo, Fantasie from "Martha."
H. Leonard
Mons. F. Vanderveken.
Accompanied by Mr. Thomas.
Piano Solo, "Les Deux Anges."
J. Blumenthal
Miss Maude Lavo.
Vocal Solo, "The Charming Cup."
Miss Anna Scanlon.
Accompanied by Miss Anna Durkin.
Recitation, Selected.
Miss Angelina Di Martino
(a) Selection, from "Trovatore."
G. Verdi
(b) Mazurka .....O. Mosin
(c) Cavalleria Rusticana, "Intermezzo."
P. Mascagni
Mr. Felix Vandervekeu.
Accompanied by Mr. Thomas.
Trombone Solo, "Resignation."
G. Koppitz
Mr. Felix Chiara.
Accompanied by Miss Sadie Posner.
Selection, from "Boccacio" ....Von Suppe
Verdi Orchestra.

Funeral of Brakeman O'Rourke.

The funeral of Hugh O'Rourke, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western brakeman who was killed at Scranguville Tuesday by falling from a freight car will be held this morning at Tobyhanna at 9 o'clock. Mr. O'Rourke was a member of Moses Taylor lodge, No. 429, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. All trainmen desirous of attending the funeral will be furnished transportation on the train which leaves Delaware, Lackawanna and Western depot at 8 o'clock a. m.

Marriage Licenses Granted.

Marriage licenses were yesterday granted to John Mastell and Margaret Magnotta, of Pittston; Fred. Michael and Dora George, of Scranton; Thomas Walker and Sarah A. Roberts, of Peckville; Selden Brady and Ina Brant, of Dunmore.