The Pittsburgh Gazette

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

CITY COUNCILS.

Street Commissioners in New Districts—Laborers' Bondsmen—Board of Health Liabilities—Small Pox Cases—Resolutions and Petitions—Abatement of Office of Gas Inspector Asked For—Contractors on Cess Pools—Ordinances for Street Paving Presented and Passed—Tin Flags on Redford Avenue—City Water Loan—Issue of $250,000 of Bonds—Street Committee Business—Decisions by Police Force—Minersville Passenger Railway.

An adjourned meeting of the City Councils was held Tuesday March 10th, 1868, at two o'clock, P. M.

Select Council.

Members present: Messrs. W. R. Brown, A. M. Brown, Cochrane, Coffin, Coyle, Dickson, Dunn, Gallaher, Gross, Hardman, Jones, Kelson, Laufman, Morrow, McCleland, M'Clintock, M'Farren, M'Kibben, Ogden, Phillips, Rafferty, Rees, Shipton, Tanner, Wainwright, White and President M'Auley.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

REPORT APPROVED.

Mr. Gross withdrew his objection to the approval of the report of the Street Committee appointing Street Commissioners in the new districts, and moved that it be taken up and approved. Motion adopted.

SOLDIERS MONUMENT.

The President read a communication from Mr. John Watt, of the Soldiers' Monument Association, asking for the donation of a piece of ground lying between Grant and Liberty street, above Seventh street.

Mr. Brown moved that the petition be accepted and the prayer be granted.

Mr. W. R. Brown amended by referring the matter to the Committee on City Property. The motion as amended was adopted.

PETITIONS FOR WATER AND GAS.

Mr. Morrow presented a petition from citizens in the Eighth ward, asking for a water main on Peach alley. Referred to Water Committee.

Mr. Dunn, a petition for a gas lamp on Harrison street. Referred to Gas Committee.

Mr. Gross submitted the following communication:

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, PITTSBURGH, March 9, 1868.

To the Select and Common Council of the City of Pittsburgh:

GENTLEMEN:—We have sent communications to Councils in regard to the financial condition of the Board of Health, and as yet no attention has been paid to them.

We have now before us bills against the Board to the amount of one thousand dollars unpaid. A large portion of those bills are due hospitals for the care of patients with small pox. Within the past week we have sent five cases of small pox to the hospital, three of them taken from the House of the Destitute, and the Physician of the Board is now engaged in vaccinating the poor throughout the city. This work cannot be done without money. We again respectfully and earnestly request your honorable bodies to make the appropriations called for, or we will have to close our doors, as it is impossible for us to continue unless we are able to meet the liabilities of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID FITZSIMMONS,
President Board of Health.

On motion of Mr. Morrow, the communication was received.

Mr. Morrow offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Controller be and is hereby authorized to certify a warrant on the City Treasurer for two thousand dollars in favor of D. Fitzsimmons, President of the Board of Health, and charge the same to the Contingent Fund. Adopted.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Ogden offered a resolution providing that when the Councils adjourn it be until the second Tuesday of April. Adopted.

Mr. W. R. brown, a resolution authorizing the Controller to draw his warrant in favor of John O'Keefe, for fifteen dollars and sixty cents, for amount of water rent overpaid by him. Adopted.

WATER PIPE.

Mr. Cochran, a petition from property holders on Smallman street, Ninth Ward, for water pipe on Smallman street. Referred to Water Committee.

GRADING AND PAVING.

Mr. McEwen, a petition for the grading and paving of Guss street. Referred to the Street Committee.

A BRIDGE WANTED.

Mr. Wainwright, a petition asking for the extension of Wainwright street to Wainwright's Island, in the Allegheny River. Referred to the Street Committee.

SALT INSPECTOR.

Mr. A. M. Brown presented the following:

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Pittsburgh:

The undersigned, manufacturers of or dealers in salt in the city of Pittsburgh, believing from experience that the office Inspector of Salt imposes unnecessary trouble on the manufacturer and dealer, and needless expense on the consumer, that as at present conducted it is no protection against the sale of an impure article, and being informed that it affords but small revenue to the city, would respectfully petition your honorable bodies that the office of Inspector of Salt be abolished, and that all ordinances now or force relating thereto be repealed.

The petition was signed by all the dealers and manufacturers of salt in the city and vicinity. The petition was received.

An ordinance abolishing the office of Inspector of Salt and repealing sections five and fifth chapter twelve of the City Code, which provides for the election of said officer, was offered.

Mr. Brown stated he was informed that the officer did not return a sum of more than $50 to the city, and it was of little or no effect.

Mr. Ogden opposed the abolishing of the office. He thought that the salt inspection were too high. If a proper rate was established it would yield an immense revenue.

Mr. Jones opposed the abolition of the office without time for consideration.

On motion of Mr. Gross, the ordinance was laid over until the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION.

The Chairman read a communication from the Controller, covering sundry bills, accompanied by a resolution authorizing him to draw his warrant for the payment of the bills. The communication was received and the resolution adopted.

FEES OF SALT INSPECTOR.

Mr. Ogden offered an ordinance providing for the regulation of fees of Salt Inspector, fixing them at three cents per barrel.

On motion of Mr. W. R. Brown, the matter was postponed.

CESS POOLS.

Mr. Ogden offered a resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee of five, two from Select and three from Common Council, to inquire into the cost and expediency of purchasing a machine for cleaning cess pools. Adopted, and Messrs. Ogden and Coffin appointed in Select.

ORDINANCES PASSED FINALLY.

The following ordinances were taken up on third reading and passed finally:

For the grading and paving of Allegheny street, from Penn to Liberty street.

Vine street from Pennsylvania avenue to Reed street.

Centre avenue from Dinwiddie to Kirkpatrick street.

Mulberry alley from Smith to Taylor street.

Smallman street from Morton to Taylor street.

An ordinance for the grading and paving of Overhill street, from Centre avenue to Rose street. Postponed.

FIRE PLUGS.

Mr. McEwen offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Water Committee be authorized to put in two fire plugs on Bedford Avenue, one at the intersection of Carroll street, and one near the center of the square from Cassett to Lediln street. Referred to the Water Committee.

CITY WATER LOAN.

Mr. W. R. Brown submitted an ordinance providing for the issue of bonds, amounting to the sum of $250,000, of the Water Loan authorized by the act approved Feb. 8, 1868.

The first section authorizes the City Controller to prepare and issue bonds to the amount of $250,000.

Section second provides that the interest on the bonds shall be made payable to bearer semi-annually, with semi-annual coupons attached, to be in sums of one, two, three and five hundred dollars in such proportion as the Finance Committee shall determine, and bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and shall be payable in twenty-five years after April 1st, 1868, at the office of the City Treasurer, to be signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the Controller, with the corporate seal of the city.

Section third authorizes the Finance Committee to advertise for proposals for the purchase of said bonds, and sell the same to the highest bidder, and that none shall be sold for less than par.

Section fourth provides that the Controller shall keep a strict account of all monies paid out or received relative to said bonds, and cancel all bonds that may, at any time, be paid by the Treasurer.

Mr. Jones moved that it be laid over until the next meeting. Lost.

Mr. McAuley (Mr. Gross in the chair) moved that it be postponed until next meeting. Adopted.

FIRE HOSE.

Mr. Gallaher offered the following:

Resolved, That the Road Committee, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, be requested to inquire what action would be necessary to have the toll gates removed beyond the city limits.

Adopted. In C. C. not acted upon.

In all business not otherwise noted C. C. concurred with S. C.

Common Council.

Present: Messrs. Batchelor, Beales, Berger, Boggs, Brush, Cluskey, Carroll, Davis, Fitzsimmons, Gerner, Hare, Herron, Hillerman, House, Jeremy, Kremer, Mawhinney, Moorhead, McCleane, Palmer, Rebman, Reed, Reynolds, Robb, Roswell, A. Scott, Sims, Torley, Torrens, Verner, Vick, Weldon, Welsh, Zern and President Tomlinson.

Absent: Messrs. Ashborn, Barnhill, Barton, Dash, Dravo, Friday, Hemphill, Meyer and Scott.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. E. House, member elect from the Second ward, being present for the first time, since the organization of the Council for 1868, was duly sworn and took his seat.

OBJECTION TO THE MINUTES.

Mr. Brush objected to the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, stating that Common Council non-concurred in the action of Select Council in the adoption of a resolution reconsidering previous action of Council protesting against the passage of any bill by the Legislature incorporating a passenger railway with the right to occupy Liberty street, and resolving that Councils are not opposed to such occupation of Liberty street for passenger railway purposes. Mr. Brush said the minutes as read were inconsistent. A motion to non-concur in the resolution had been voted down on a call of the yeas and nays, and subsequently a motion to concur was also voted down, Mr. Brush believing the members had voted under a misapprehension.

The yeas and nays were called on a motion to approve the minutes, resulting, yeas twenty three, nays thirteen, as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Batchelor, Beales, Cassky, Davis, Fitzsimmons, Gerner, Hare, Hemphill, Herron, House, McCleane, Palmer, Rebman, Reynolds, Scott, Sims, Torley, Torrens, Verner, Vick, Weldon, and President Tomlinson—23.

Nays—Messrs. Berger, Boggs, Brush, Carroll, Hillerman, Jeremy, Moorhead, Meyer, Reed, Robb, Roswell, Welsh, Zern—13.

So the minutes were approved.

BUSINESS FROM STREET COMMITTEE.

Mr. Weldon, from Street Committee, presented

An ordinance for the grading and paving of Hazlett's alley. Laid over.

Also, an ordinance for the grading of Mifflin street from Pennsylvania avenue to Bluff street. Laid over.

Also, an ordinance relative to the Pittsburgh and Minersville Railway Company, relieving it from liability to clean and keep in repair the streets through which it passes, except so much as lies between the rails of the track and one foot outside thereof. Laid over under the rules, objection being made.

Also, an ordinance allowing the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company to erect poles in certain streets. Rules suspended and ordinance passed.

Also, an ordinance for the grading and paving of Greenough street to Iron alley. Laid over.

Also, a resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That the City Controller be and he is hereby authorized to issue his certificate on the Mayor for a warrant in favor of Burke & Glass for $119.23, for index boards put up at Smithfield bridge and also one in favor of Mackin & McCabe for $76.33, which was assessed to Sarah Reed for the grading and paving of Chestnut street, Eighth ward, which should have been charged to "street crossings" and charge the same to contingent fund. Read three times and passed.

RELATIVE TO HURRAHONS.

Mr. Hare presented a petition from sundry citizens praying for the passage of an ordinance to place police and private watchmen in alleys less than twenty feet wide.

A motion to lay on the table was lost—ayes 11, nays 15.

The petition was then referred to the Ordinance Committee.

INCREASE OF POLICE FORCE.

Mr. Hare, from the Police Committee, presented the following:

Whereas, In view of the extended limits of the City of Pittsburgh, the present police force is entirely inadequate to the protection of the citizens in the suburban districts of the city, and too large to be traversed sufficiently to secure the efficiency the objects of a police in guarding the persons and property of the citizens along these lines, therefore, the Police Committee hereby recommend the passage by act of Councils of the following ordinance:

An ordinance to increase the police force of Pittsburgh.

Be it enacted, &c., That the police force of the City of Pittsburgh shall be increased to one hundred and fifty men.

Sec. 2. That the Mayor and Police Committee shall as soon as practicable after the passage of this ordinance appoint in the manner provided by law fifty additional policemen to supply the deficiency now existing.

On motion of Mr. Hare, the ordinance was read three times and passed. Select Council non-concurred.

PETITION FOR SIDEWALK.

Mr. Zern presented a petition from property holders in the village of Bloomfield, for the erection of a plank walk from said village to the Greenshurg pike, beginning at the foot of Cedar street and extending along Main street to Pearl and along Pearl to Alom street, thus giving access to Lawrenceville.

Mr. Scott moved to lay the petition on the table, but without the motion, and then, on motion of Mr. Weldon, the paper was referred to Street Committee.

PETITION FOR WATER.

Mr. Jeremy presented a petition for water on Whiteside's alley, Sixth ward. Referred to Water Committee.

CITY ASSESSOR.

Also, an ordinance prescribing additional duties of the City Assessor, and increasing his salary from April 1st to $2,500.

A motion by Mr. Jeremy that the rules be suspended and the ordinance passed was out.

On motion of Mr. Torley, the ordinance was referred to the Finance Committee.

A REMONSTRANCE.

Mr. Cackey, Eighth ward, a remonstrance against the opening of Apple alley. Referred to Street Committee.

WATCH HOUSES.

Mr. Mawhinney offered a resolution instructing the Street Committee to have the houses on Bluff street repaired, commencing at the west end. Referred to the Street Committee.

STREET LAMPS.

Mr. Sims presented a petition for additional gas lamps on Smithfield street. Referred to Gas Committee.

LAWRENCEVILLE MATTERS.

Mr. Reynolds presented the bills of C. Rote, late Street Commissioner of Lawrenceville. Referred to Street Committee with power to act.

Also, a petition for the grading and paving of St. Marys street, Lawrenceville. Referred to Street Committee.

Also, a communication from J. P. Cook relative to the opening or continuation of Washington street, Lawrenceville, asking the appointment of viewers to assess damages caused thereby.

Also, preamble and resolutions relative to the matter, providing for the appointment of a Committee of Councils to act in conjunction with the City Solicitor and City Engineer.

First—To inquire into the necessity and expediency of carrying out or repealing the ordinance of the Council of Lawrenceville, passed June 8th, 1867, relative to the widening of Chestnut street, and if found necessary and expedient to carry out said ordinance, that action shall be taken in order that a fair and equitable assessment and award of damages be made in the case.

Second. To ascertain what contracts have been entered into by the late borough of Lawrenceville which will have to be completed by the city, the Committee to report to Councils whether such contracts conform with the regulations adopted by the city; also to inquire into the legality of all or any contracts which may be presented to them, and if found not to conform to city regulations, or if found illegal, to report what action will be necessary in the premises. The Committee shall be at liberty to examine persons and send for any papers that may be necessary to aid in the investigation.

The communication was received and the resolutions read three times and passed. Select Council concurred and appointed as the Committee of that branch Messrs. Cochran and Ogden. Committee of Common Council not announced.

REDFORD AVENUE OPENING.

Mr. Hillerman presented a petition for the opening of Redford avenue. Referred to Committee on Surveys and Roads.

COMMITTEE ON PURE WATER.

Mr. Herron, the following:

Resolved, That a special committee of five—two members from the Select and three from the Common Council—be appointed in accordance with the recommendation of the Water Committee in their last annual report, to investigate and report upon the feasibility and expense of procuring pure water from the Allegheny or other streams, together with such other matters as may properly come within the scope of such committee.

The resolution was adopted. Messrs. Herron, A. Scott and Weldon appointed on part of C. C. Select Council concurred and appointed Messrs. W. R. Brown and Shipton.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFER.

Also, the following:

Resolved, That the Controller is hereby authorized to transfer nine thousand dollars from appropriation No. 13 to appropriation No. 25.

Read three times and passed. Select Council non-concurred, there being no such appropriation as No. 25.

ACTION RECONSIDERED.

Mr. Brush moved to reconsider action on the ordinance relieving the Pittsburgh and Minersville Passenger Railway Company from the necessity to keep the streets traversed clean and in good repair, except between and one foot outside of the tracks. The yeas and nays on the motion was to lays the ordinance passed. Carried—yeas 14, nays 12.

Mr. Herron stated it was well known the Passenger Railway Company had not been a paying institution. In the last few years the corporation had sunk $11,000 or $12,000. For this reason the streets were in bad repair, the Company being unable to comply with the terms of the right of way. It was proposed by the ordinance to relieve them of the responsibility.

The rules were suspended—three-fourths voting in the affirmative, in accordance with rule sixteenth—and the ordinance adopted.

In S. C. a motion to suspend the rules was lost.

DUTIES OF SURVEY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Hillerman presented an ordinance defining the duties of the Survey Committee, viz: to have charge of all surveys ordered for the boundary lines of the consolidated city; to fix and establish permanent monuments along said lines, and have charge of all surveys for the purpose of laying out new streets or straightening old streets; to propose plans; to establish the width of streets, lanes and alleys; to prepare charts of grades; to examine all matters in dispute as to street lines and location of new streets through private property, their decision to be final; to authorize the City Engineer to employ assistance; to keep a journal of their proceedings, and make a full report immediately, exhibiting in detail their transactions.

The rules were suspended and the ordinance read three times and passed. In Select Council the ordinance was postponed, and ordered to be printed one time in papers authorized to do city printing.

In all action not otherwise noted the Select Council concurred.

Adjourned till the second Tuesday in April.

Central Board of Education.

A regular monthly meeting of the Central Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, March 10th, 1868, in the High School Building, Smithfield street, Mr. James M. Brush in the Chair.

Members present: Messrs. Brush, Getty, Wilson, McCook, Anderson, Nobbs, Mays, Sergeant and Crawford.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

MEMBERS ADMITTED.

The Secretary read the credentials of Dr. Oldshue, member elect from the Third ward, Dr. Cornett, from Lawrenceville and T. J. Craig, from Oakland. The credentials were received and the gentlemen named declared members of the Central Board.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The following report of the High school was presented:

PITTSBURGH, March 10, 1868.

To the Central Board of Education:

GENTLEMEN: I hereby present of the High School would respectfully report:

From February 24 to the 28th, inclusive, the School was in session twenty days.

Whole number of males 53; average attendance 50 9-20.

Whole number of females 71; average attendance 70 7-20.

Total attendance 124; total average attendance 116 15-20.

Greatest attendance of males 53; least attendance 48.

Greatest attendance of females 65; least attendance 63.

Greatest total attendance 116; least total attendance 104.

Regret to announce Miss Wilkins continued absent till the 25th, Miss Dawson acting as her substitute. Miss Wilkins resumed her duties on the 26 inst. The other teachers were regular in their attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILOTON DEAN.

The report was received and ordered to be filed.

The Secretary read the report of the Principal of Colored Schools, which showed that it appears there are 178 scholars enrolled for the month, males 102, females 76; enrolled since the first, 183, 203.

average attendance 76 percent. Number

The report was received and ordered to be filed.

Mr. Sergeant, Secretary, submitted the following report:

GENTLEMEN: I would respectfully report that warrants to the amount of $7,387 48 have been drawn since your last regular meeting.

The enumerated attendance, 3,264, is 495 less than the preceding month.

The report was received and ordered to be filed.

The bill of J. S. Black, of $2.25, for ink, was approved and ordered to be paid.

Mr. Nobbs moved that a vacation of one week be ordered, from the 27th of March to the 6th of April.

Mr. Getty thought that one week would be too long enough for the High School, and moved to amend by extending the time for the High School to the 13th of April.

Dr. McCook believed that the time for all the Schools should be extended to the 13th of April. The teachers, he said, were compelled to attend the Institute, which required one week, and consequently they had no vacation. He moved an amendment to the motion to that effect, which was lost.

The original motion was adopted.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had been requested to speak to the Board, in reference to obtaining the hall of the colored school building for the use of a colored congregation as a place of worship, and moved that the matter be referred to the Committee on Colored Schools with power to act.

Dr. McCook opposed the motion. He said the building was needed for educational purposes, and the board had no right to grant the request.

Mr. Mays moved to amend by requiring the Committee to report back to the Board.

The motion, as amended, was adopted.

Dr. McCook, Chairman of the Committee on Salaries, stated that the Committee had not had a final meeting but that he was authorized to say that a majority of members were in favor of an increase of salaries, provided the Board could devise means to pay the same. He would not, under the circumstances, recommend an increase.

Mr. Anderson, a member of the Committee, stated that the salaries should be increased, but the want of funds to pay the increase prevented it.

The report was received and the Committee relieved.

Mr. Sergeant, Chairman of the special committee appointed to secure certain legislation relative to the school laws of the city, reported that the Committee had prepared a bill and forwarded it to Harrisburgh.

The report was received and the Committee discharged.

The meeting adjourned.

Coal Boat Rise.

The recent rains and the general thaw of snow and ice up the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers, have combined to gladden the hearts of our coal-boat merchants with a rise which will enable them to run out a large fleet of coal. The greatest activity prevailed on the wharf yesterday, and during the day a few barges and boats were floated into the Ohio on their way to the Southern market. Our river reporter furnishes us with the following table of shipments made yesterday and to be made to-day provided the ice all cuts out:

DEPARTED FOR CINCINNATI.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Coal Valley	—	8	80,000
Ormsby	5	—	65,000
Total			145,000

WILL LEAVE TO-DAY—LOUISVILLE.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Fred Wilson	7	2	70,000
Hercules	—	5	110,000
Brother	—	6	120,000
Warrenton	8	2	80,000
J. S. Neal	5	—	70,000
Bengal Tiger	—	4	80,000
Arrow	1	4	90,000
Sam Roberts	9	—	90,000
Tom Rees	—	5	80,000
James Gilmore	—	4	80,000
Reindeer	—	4	80,000
Alps	4	—	100,000
Total			1,017,000

CINCINNATI.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Coal Hill	3	2	70,000
Wild Cat	4	—	80,000
Tigress	—	2	90,000
Total			1,510,000

FOR NEW ORLEANS.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Lake Erie	—	6	120,000
Simpson Herron	—	7	140,000
A. J. Baker	—	5	100,000
Total			360,000

FOR CAIRO.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Ratle	—	5	100,000
Resolute	—	5	100,000
Total			200,000

FOR VICKSBURG.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Stella	—	6	120,000
J. S. Ann	—	6	120,000
Hawk	7	—	70,000
Total			310,000

FOR MEMPHIS.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Diamond	10	—	200,000

FOR CINCINNATI.

	Barges.	Boats.	Bushels.
Towboat	—	—	80,000
Lioness	9	—	80,000
Leopard	9	—	80,000
Fearless	9	—	70,000
Whale	9	—	120,000
Lion	7	2	110,000
Coal City	10	—	90,000
Hampton	9	—	90,000
Star	3	8	110,000
Clipper	6	—	60,000
Tiger	6	—	60,000
Collier	5	2	90,000
Greyhound	7	—	70,000
Tom Farrow	7	—	70,000
Total			1,170,000

RECAPITULATION.

Cincinnati	1,795,000
Louisville	1,017,000
New Orleans	360,000
Cairo	200,000
Vicksburg	310,000
Memphis	200,000
Total	3,472,000

Survey.—Lucinda Somers appeared before Alderman Thomas and made information charging Clara Annis with using threatening and abusive language toward her little daughter. The defendant was arrested by officer Rigby, and after a hearing gave bail to appear at Court.

Pittsburgh Burglar.—James McAlister, a Pittsburgh adventurer, who has lately took up his residence in Scrubgrassville, has been committed for burglarizing a store in that town. The evidence against him is of a positive character.

Graduated and Returned to Pittsburgh.

We are pleased to learn that T. L. Oldshue, M. D., son of Dr. L. Oldshue, of No. 122 Grant street, this city, who has just completed a thorough course at the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery, has returned, and in future will practice in connection with his father. Dr. Oldshue, at his final examination, by the best medical and surgical authority in this country, received the highest graduation honors. He will be a very acceptable and valuable assistant to his father, the Professor, whose fame as a successful practitioner is bringing more to his care than he can attend to. We tender the Doctor our congratulations on the successful and honorable termination of his theoretical course of study, and trust, and believe his practical course will be equally so.

Committed Again.—Michael McGary and Hugh Connelly, charged with receiving stolen goods, had a hearing yesterday, and in default of $1,000 bail were committed to jail to answer at Court.

Breach of the Peace.—Officer Peter Holster made information before Alderman Mullen yesterday, charging Philip Sternagle with a breach of the peace. He was arrested and held for a hearing.

Taken Over.—Peter Kiel, convicted of seduction and sentenced to the Penitentiary, was taken to that institution yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Thomas Cluley.

The lower portions of Johnstown, Pa., were completely inundated yesterday by a great freshet in the Conemaugh river.

The town of Pittsfield experienced its most disastrous fire for many years on Wednesday morning last. A brick block, three stories high, and occupied in every portion, was entirely destroyed. The total loss will reach $50,000, of which W. M. Root, the owner of the block, loses $12,000. There was but a small amount of insurance.

RIVER NEWS

The river appeared to be at a stand last evening with sixteen feet in the channel by the Pittsburgh gauge, and fifteen and a half feet in Monongahela marks. There was still considerable floating ice in the Allegheny yesterday, but, we presume, that by to-day it will be pretty well run out. The weather continues soft and unsettled, with occasional showers of rain, in the middle of the afternoon the thermometer was up to 42 degrees above zero.

There has been no arrivals or departures since last week. There will be several departures to-day, including the Argosy, for Cincinnati, and the Pittsburgh, for Kenton, if she did not leave last night, will leave this morning.

The New York is to be sold at auction on Saturday, and it is reported that the Imperia will be sold under the hammer next week. The Imperia is a good boat, but two years old, and is in excellent condition for business.

Capt. Geo. W. Reed, and clerks Russell and Spiane, arrived here from Cincinnati yesterday morning, reporting a fine rise in the river at the time, Capt. Reed sold his boat, the Colombia, at Cincinnati the other day, so that he, as well as the other gentlemen above named, are now out of a job on the Ohio.

Business was quite active at the landing yesterday, the arrivings for all points being quite numerous so many new faces, freight on the wharf as one time, reminded us of old times, before there were so many railroads.

The Capt. Jacob Strickfaden's new steamer, is now in tow, and will be the first boat out for St. Louis and the Upper Missouri. The Wabash and Lect Leotz will load after the Sallie.

The Mary Dawson and barges, Capt. Campbell, is filling up ready for St. Louis, and will leave to-day without fail. Shippers will therefore, hurry down their freight and bills of lading as soon as possible.

A large number of coal tugs had steam up yesterday and were engaged in getting tows in ship-shape. Two of them, the O. H. Ormsby and Coal Valley are reported as having departed, and the whole fleet will doubtless get off to-day and to-morrow. The "crush" it is estimated will reach over three millions of bushels in the aggregate, as follows:

Cincinnati	1,795,000 bushels
Louisville	1,017,000 "
New Orleans	360,000 "
Cairo	200,000 "
Vicksburg	310,000 "
Memphis	200,000 "
Total	3,472,000 "

The J. N. McCullough, Capt. Geo. H. Morris, is the regular packet for Parkersburg for this season, leaving promptly at noon. The Bayard will be ready to take the place of the Lena Lee in the Parkersburg trade in about a week.

The R. C. Grey from Cairo and Julia No. 8 from Zanesville, are among the first boats due. The Grey Eagle is expected daily, and we hope a statement of the cargo which will be run out to-day on the line, for publication.

The steamer was made at Quincy on Wednesday last to launch the steamer Jessie on the day just following, by. The ways gave way and the launch was delayed until the next tide, and for a time, operations ceased. Afterwards, the Hornet was brought up, and with a little assistance from the crew of the Jessie, the launch was effected. The parties reside on Gazzam's Hill. He was arrested and gave bail for his appearance at Court.

Larceny.—John A. Reel made information before Mayor Blackmore, yesterday, charging Anna Riley with the larceny of a silver watch and several articles of jewelry. A warrant was issued for her arrest.

Felonious Assault and Battery.—Geo Hunter was charged with felonious assault and battery, yesterday, before Mayor Blackmore, on oath of Charles Beckley. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

Masonic.—With Masonic honors the body of A. V. Scott, Esq., will be interred to-day.

THE COURTS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

TUESDAY, March 10.—On motion of R. B. Carnahan, Esq., W. J. Baird, of Somerset county, and Charles Flower, of border country, were returned, and in future will practice in connection with his father. Dr. Oldshue, at his final examination, by the best medical and surgical authority in this country, received the highest graduation honors. He will be a very acceptable and valuable assistant to his father, the Professor, whose fame as a successful practitioner is bringing more to his care than he can attend to. We tender the Doctor our congratulations on the successful and honorable termination of his theoretical course of study, and trust, and believe his practical course will be equally so.

Committed Again.—Michael McGary and Hugh Connelly, charged with receiving stolen goods, had a hearing yesterday, and in default of $1,000 bail were committed to jail to answer at Court.

Breach of the Peace.—Officer Peter Holster made information before Alderman Mullen yesterday, charging Philip Sternagle with a breach of the peace. He was arrested and held for a hearing.

Taken Over.—Peter Kiel, convicted of seduction and sentenced to the Penitentiary, was taken to that institution yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Thomas Cluley.

The lower portions of Johnstown, Pa., were completely inundated yesterday by a great freshet in the Conemaugh river.

The town of Pittsfield experienced its most disastrous fire for many years on Wednesday morning last. A brick block, three stories high, and occupied in every portion, was entirely destroyed. The total loss will reach $50,000, of which W. M. Root, the owner of the block, loses $12,000. There was but a small amount of insurance.

PH. R. MERTZ,

BANKER AND BROKER,

118 Wood St., near corner of Fifth.

Government Securities

Gold, Silver,

and Coupons.

Bought and sold on liberal terms. Drafts sold on all the principal cities of Europe.

CONVERSION OF 7-30'S.

We are now prepared to convert the SECOND and THIRD SERIES of

SEVEN-THIRTIES

INTO THE

New 1867 5-20 Gold Coupon Bonds.

JAMES T. BRADY & CO.,

Dealers in Government Securities,

Corner Fourth & Wood Streets.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, TUESDAY, March 10, 1868.

Gold was rather unsettled today, opening at 140¼, declining to 139¾, advancing to 140¾, and closing after 3 p. m. at 139¾. Transactions are light, and lower rates are looked for, in anticipation of large shipments of flour and grain.

Government bonds were dull and lower, and sympathies with the decline of gold; the legitimate demand is light, and speculators have other opportunities to employ their funds.

Stocks were quiet to-day. Erie fluctuated from 43 to 46, with light business; at the close there was a general decline of the entire list. Express stocks have improved a little, and little disposition exists to buy at the present moment. Mining shares are dull and neglected, which is always the case after an excited day in the Railroad share market, but they generally improve during the period of stagnation following an excitement like that which prevailed at the stock exchange yesterday. Fortunes are swept away in an hour, and out the thousands that are seeking to succeed there, when they failed elsewhere go away richer in experience but poorer in purse, but not to stop long—to try again.

The local money market seems to be easy; we notice some eight months paper on the market, which has discounted at 10 per cent. and nominal, but, in reality, at almost 12 per cent. The banks are discounting all good paper offering, and only prime business is done at 6 to 8 per cent. Some of the National Banks are striving for business, and have at last commenced to sell their large amounts of big interest-bearing securities, and seem to satisfy themselves to their proper business, namely, to accommodate the business community.

Closing New York quotations, reserve: 3 P. M. Merts, are as follows:

Gold,	139¾	139¾	139¾
Coupons, 1881,	114¾	114¾	114¾
Coupons, 1865,	104¾	104¾	104¾
Coupons, 1867,	104¾	104¾	104¾
Coupons, 1868,	104¾	104¾	104¾

Cleveland & Pittsburgh R. R. 57¼
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago R. R. 86¾
Western Union Telegraph 34¾
Mil. & M. R. R. 26¾
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago R. R. 110¾
Northwestern Railroad—common 49¾
Northwestern Railroad—preferred 57¾
New York Central 127¾
Erie and Pittsburgh (Guaranteed) 43¾
Michigan Southern 90¾
Illinois Central 140¾
Quarrie Mill 125
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis R. R. 56¾
Adams Express 63

—The following stocks were sold Tuesday evening, March 10th, on the second floor of the Stock Exchange, 140 Smithfield street, by A. McIlwaine, Auctioneer:

Exchange National Bank	87 00	
J. S. Ark	64 00	
Allegheny "	64 00	
Pittsburgh Insurance Company (327.35 paid in)	19 80	
Monongahela Navigation Company	48 00	
" "	48 00	
" "	48 00	
" "	48 00	

—We take from the United States *Economist*, the following in regard to the failures in New York last week:

"In our last issue, press of matter obliged us to pass over in silence the announcement of the failure of Smith & Lounsbery, carpet dealers, 375 Pearl, No. 2 Atlantic place, and 1 Cedar place (upholsters and importers, formerly Jno. A. Wiske & Co.) and Thomas & Co., importers and jobbers in the same line, 460 and 462 Broadway, respectively. The firm named first were importers, others and still others in carpets, dry goods, etc., and although most possessed of very extensive means, they were, notwithstanding, men of strict business principles, close in their dealings, and always ready to meet their liabilities, if in about two months since their credit stood unshaken, and they had over $250,000 assets, for now means, $24,000 cash, $25,000 in notes, and $1,500 in bills receivable, and yet they are unable to meet their maturing obligations."

—The Philadelphia *Press* says: Money continues very abundant in Lombard street, and the lowest five Twenties are in steady favor at the highest quotations. The Stock Exchange continues quiet, with occasional transactions in Government securities, and a very dull feeling on the part of the public. Dealers in miscellaneous securities, for foreign dry goods. The demand for Gold is very light, and the sales against the amount making against outstanding contracts, and without any material change in the price, which ranged from the opening to the close between 139¾ and 139¾. The ways are very limited in the Stock Exchange, and the business in American gold coin.

Government bonds were steady, and very quiet. The following are the prices at the close of the Stock Exchange:

Gold	139¾	139¾
6's of 1881	114¾	114¾
5-20s, 1862, coupon	104¾	104¾
5-20s, 1864	104¾	104¾
5-20s, 1865	104¾	104¾
5-20s, Jan. and July, 1865	104¾	104¾
5-20s, Jan. and July, 1867	104¾	104¾
5-20s, Jan. and July, 1868	104¾	104¾
10-40s, coupon	104¾	104¾
7-30s, 1st series	105¾	105¾
7-30s, 2d series	105¾	105¾
7-30s, 3d series	105¾	105¾
Navy 6's, 1865	105¾	105¾

—We take from the Philadelphia *Ledger*, of Tuesday, March 10, the following:

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