PITTSBURGH POST.

FRIDAY MORNING.....FEBRUARY 15.

PRICE-CURRENT.

EXTRA copies of the *Price-Current*, put up in strong wrappers, ready for mailing, can always be had at the Merchants' Exchange, at the rate of five cents per copy, or fifty cents per dozen.

A PRIVATE DESPATCH from Harrisburg last evening informs us that the bill to repeal the Allegheny paving law was "killed" in the Senate yesterday.

CITY TAXES—EXPLANATION WANTED.

There is a good deal of dissatisfaction expressed in our city in regard to the High School. We have seen some receipts for taxes lately that contain pretty strong reasons for dissatisfaction. They need explanation. To make the matter plain, or put it in a position for explanation, we publish below the details of the expenses of the Pittsburgh High School for the current year.

The Principal of this School is paid a salary of	$2,000 00
The Professor of Natural Sciences	1,300 00
Do do Mathematics	1,100 00
One lady teacher	500 00
Teacher of German and French	500 00
Do do Book-keeping and Writing	600 00
The Janitor	250 00
Rent of building	450 00
Music teacher for H. School and for other schools	150 00
Total annual cost	$6,850 00
The furniture cost	$842 00
Apparatus	500 00
	—$1,342 00
Whole cost first year	$8,192 00

But the furniture and apparatus will last for several years, if the school is continued.

Now, an annual expense of eight thousand dollars for a good school of that kind, such as they have in almost all other large cities, would not be considered a great burden on a city whose property is assessed at many millions. But there seems to be something wrong in the mode of assessing the tax to support the school. To show this we publish below a copy of a Collector's receipt for taxes upon a single three-story building on Wood street, near Water street. The house and lot cannot be valued at more than eight thousand dollars. Here is the receipt for taxes on it:

PITTSBURGH, October 17, 1855.

Received of J. [illegible] one hundred and twenty-five dollars and forty five cents, in full, for Militia, County, State, City, Interest, Poor, High School, Ward School, Business and Water Taxes for the year 1855, in First Ward.

Militia	$1 00	Poor	$12 00
County	12 20	High School	21 50
State	12 00	Ward do	11 25
City	21 00	Business	17 50
Improvement	5 00	Water	15 00
	$63 20		$82 45
	61 45		
Total	$125 65	Collector	CALEB RUSSEL

By this receipt it will be seen that, while the owner of that house and lot pays but $11.75 for the ward public school, he pays $21.50—almost twice as much—for the annual support of the High School. If this single house and lot pays $21.50 for that purpose, then a little over three hundred houses and lots will pay all the expenses of that school every year. There are perhaps four times that number of houses and lots in the First Ward alone, and at this rate of taxation four times the money for the support of that school would be raised in that ward alone. Yet the school is supported by a general tax over all the nine wards.

This is the matter we would like to see explained. It looks wrong, and raises hostility to the High School that would not otherwise exist.

We would not be understood as striking a blow at that school. If its cost is not over $8000 per year it is not a great burden. But the mode of taxation seems to be wrong, and needs explanation.

COL. BLACK'S LETTER.

The action of the Senate in favor of a repeal of the Allegheny paving law has brought out a strong letter from Col. Black, in which he gives his reasons for the course he pursued, and makes out a pretty strong case against that portion of those laws that were enacted in 1851. By the act of 1849 the council could pave a street when two-third of the property owners along it petitioned to have it done; and then the cost of doing it was assessed upon the property holders themselves. While the law thus stood, there was not much danger of oppression, as a street could not be thus paved until two-thirds of the owners along it petitioned for it. But in 1851 the law was changed, and the councils empowered to grade and pave streets whether the property holders petitioned for it or not.

Under this act it is alleged that many serious hardships have occurred; and some property holders even saddled with judgments that must result in a sacrifice of their property.

The law of 1851 was a pretty harsh one at first, but now that it has been in operation nearly five years, would it not be an additional hardship to repeal it, and compel property holders who have paved their own streets to contribute by a general tax to pave the balance of the streets? The hardships mentioned may be charged with more justice upon the councils than upon the law. The councils were empowered to grade and pave. If they have driven the work too fast, to the wrong and injury of the citizens, it is their fault, rather than the fault of the law. And if bills have been cut down so as to ruin property owners, and not the law, did that.

Take the case of Mr Lowen, for instance. The street was cut down so much in front of his property as to render it almost valueless; and he had to pay for doing that very work himself, besides. That is a hardship. But now repeal those laws and this same citizen will have to contribute by a general tax to grade and pave all the balance of the streets. This would be to double the injury rather than cure it. If the laws are to be repealed restitution should be made to every citizen who has paid for improving his own street, and then let all be taxed equally to pay these debts to the citizens, and to make all the improvements hereafter. In no other way could full justice be done, that we can see, if the acts are repealed.

We think such a paving law would work well if the Councils act prudently, and not drive work too fast.

THE STEAMER PACIFIC.

Serious fears are entertained that the Collins steamer, *Pacific*, is lost. She has been out twenty-four days, and no word of her is yet heard. The Secretary of the Navy has sent the steam ship *Arctic*, and the steamer Dispatch in search of the Pacific. The *Dispatch* is under the command of Lieut. Crossan, of the navy.

The loss of the Pacific would be a serious disaster to the company that has put afloat the best line of steamers yet built. The company lost the Arctic just about this time last year, and now the Pacific is out at least twelve days over her time. No word has been heard of her since she left Liverpool. She is supposed to have quite a large number of passengers on board, and a partial list of them has been published in some of the papers.

A good deal is said about the amount paid by the government to this line of steamers for mail service. The sum last year was over $800,000. But the great cost of the vessels, the risks they run, and the regularity of the service they render would seem to justify a pretty liberal allowance of compensation if we would have those vessels, of which the nation is proud, still competing with the best skill and enterprise of England.

The Pacific may be safe yet, but the length of time she has been out justifies serious apprehensions that she is lost.

BANKS.—The Legislature of Nebraska has already chartered five banks, and the Governor has signed the bills. More are expected to be passed. Things will go on swimmingly for a while in that territory, and then look out for a crash and a bankrupt law.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Daily Morning Post.]

Naval Reform in the Senate—Officers not disgraced but honored—Liberal provision for the retired—Banishing the old Spanish coins—French and Nicaragua—General decapitation—Committees not announced—A scramble over the election of Printer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 11, 1856.

The Senate continues to be inundated with petitions and memorials from those officers of the navy who were retired from active service or dismissed upon the recommendation of the late Naval Board, and the Senators themselves seem to entertain widely differing views as to what, if any thing, should be done. For years there has been an incessant appeal to Congress, by the Navy itself, and by the public, for reform; and now that a single step in advance has been taken, there is an organized clamor excited, urging Congress to take a step backwards, and to undo all that has been done. The most earnest friends of reform were some of those who have been retired under the operation of the Act; they are frightened at the reform, and their opinions have changed with a change of circumstances.

Of course the sympathy of the public is sought to be excited on the ground that injustice has been done, that the Board sat in secret, and that an officer was condemned without having an opportunity to defend himself. This further urged that no record of its proceedings were kept by the Board, and, therefore, no reason whatever is given for retiring this one and dismissing that one. Congress certainly did not design the Board to be court martial, nor was it clothed with power to investigate and punish officers; its duty was limited to advising the Executive with their professional opinion, to do what their Navy and the public admitted was necessary to be done—that the personal efficiency of the service might be maintained at a high standard. No record was kept, for the reason that nothing might be placed on file in the Department or published to the world, discreditable to the retired officers. The same course was pursued when a reduction of the Army took place in 1850. I think a Board was convened and the best officers only retained; no record was kept of its proceedings, and consequently the dismissed entered civil life with the world (civil) against them in their military career. The retired officers say, too, that they have been disgraced; their pride has been wounded, doubtless, but surely it ought to be regarded rather as a distinguished honor to secure so liberal a pension after the country has no further need of their services. In civil life the member of Congress has further use for an officer of the government he is pensioned when no pension whatever. Private interest in this case must yield to that of the public. This rule perhaps is not entirely applicable to a military service, where the best portion of life has been spent in the acquisition of a special profession, and no opportunity afforded to acquire a knowledge of civil pursuits; but this disqueiting fear has been fully compensated for, in the cases under consideration especially, by the liberality of Congress. The provision for the other sufferers is amply good. Had charges been preferred against them, and a conviction followed after fair trial, then they would have been disgraced in the eyes of the public; now they are liberally provided for, and if they can satisfy themselves and their friends that injustice has been done them, so much the better for themselves.

Senator Fish, of New York, has introduced into the Senate, a bill relating to, apparently, a small matter, yet not so small when it is subjected to an examination. He proposes to get rid of the old Spanish coins, representing one eight and one sixteenth of a dollar set current, but representing no sum known to our coinage. Six and a quarter cents is a sum not provided for by our currency, and yet these Spanish coins entail a material loss upon the country at large. A newspaper costing six cents purchased, the purchaser receives four cents change, having paid two cents and a quarter for the paper, or twelve and a half per cent more than it is worth. An article costing six pence paid for out of a quarter dollar, and eighteen cents received in exchange, the article has the purchaser twelve per cent more than its price. Innumerable are the instances of petty losses by the circulation of these old coins, and it is desirable that they should be banished from our circulation, and thus get rid of all fractional parts of a cent, in the small transactions of life.

French, as he signs himself officially at home, the Nicaragua minister, has made a formal application to be recognized as the representative of the Walker Government, and been refused. There are reasons, perhaps, in himself, amply sufficient to justify this course on the part of the administration. It will not be long ere the new Nicaragua government will be fully recognised by ours, time having fully demonstrated its stability, and also made known the full acquiescence of the people in its supremacy. It is believed here that Walker is now waiting to organize sufficient force to guarantee success to make a descent upon the British protectorate of Mosquitos, and establish the authority of the Nicaraguan over the territory claimed by them. Much rejoicing at other, in our favor, the construction of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty.

There has been a pretty general decapitation among the clerks and employees of all sorts, in the south wing of the Capitol. Gen Cullom has retained but three of the clerks, who hold office under Col. Forney, viz: Col. Tyler, page, the doorkeepers, the messengers, folders, &c., are all new and green hands. After the House meets, members can hardly get in, because the door-keepers do not know them. The pages are not yet acquainted with the members, and consequently there is a good deal of confusion.

It was expected that the Speaker would announce the Committees to-day, but for some reason it was not done; Mr. Banks was not ready. It's a difficult task to arrange them, to put the right man in the right place, and so to give satisfaction to every one and to every interest, that is an impossibility. Various rumors are afloat with regard to the chairmanships of some of the more important Committees, but they have no authority further than mere surmise. They will be announced to-morrow, and will reach you by telegraph, before this fly away.

The House spent the day in trying to elect a Printer. It is one of the "good things" with in the gift of the House, and of course there is a scramble for it. To day Wendell, the nominee of the Democratic caucus, had a plurality of the votes. The Republicans, finding this to be the case, voted anxiously for an adjournment at an early hour, and succeeded in staving off the election until to-morrow. Probably a new man will be nominated in the place of Follet.

MERCER.

SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD. The annual election for Directors of this road took place on Tuesday last, in Philadelphia, when R. Emlen, D. K. Jackman, J. D. Wetham, B. Rush Petriken, Daniel Deal and James Cooper were chosen. Previous to the reception of the report of the Tellers a protest was received from Jeremiah L. Hutchinson and Robert L. Martin against the validity of the election, on the ground that certain contractors had voted their stock received for work which was not yet completed. We suppose the same rule, if made general, would debar any man owning stock from casting it at an election until he had paid in his entire subscription. Resolutions embodying the same sentiment were laid upon the table. Hon Wm. Bigler's declination of a re election to the Presidency was accepted.

GEORGE LAW. The K. N. National Convention that meets at Philadelphia on the 22d will probably nominate a candidate for the Presidency. The indications are that George Law will be the man. Fillmore has no strength in his own State, though popular at the South. Crittenden is not popular in Kentucky nor any where else. Stockton, of New Jersey, has not a small constituency to back his claims. Houston will not do for the North. Raynor, of North Carolina, was lamed at the former convention. Law seems to be the man most likely to receive the call if a nomination is made. The friends of Fillmore and others want it postponed. Law's friends are resolved to nominate.

METEOROLOGICAL.—A correspondent in Callansburg, Clarion county, writes us, giving the range of the mercury for a number of days in January and the present month. His letter is not late enough to include the last cold term. From him we also learn that they have had excellent sleighing in that neighborhood ever since the 25th of December. The following is the table:

	6½ A. M.			6½ A. M.
January 8	8 above zero	January 28	20 above zero
" 9	25 below zero	February 2	2 "
" 10	8 "	" 3	22 "
" 11	1 "	" 4	zero.
" 24	12 "	" 5	2 above zero
" 26	20 "	" 6	16 below zero
" 27	22 above zero	" 7	34 above zero

THE NEWS.

The state House at Columbus, Ohio, has cost $1,500,000, and is yet in so unfinished a condition that it is estimated it will take the big end of another million to complete it.

On Sunday last, twelve persons were immersed in the Delaware, opposite Kaighn's Point, by the Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, in Camden. An immense concourse of people assembled to witness the rite, which was performed through a channel cut in the ice.

Hon. Thomas E. Franklin, Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to whom was submitted the question whether the State of New York has a right, by the construction of a dam across the Chemung river, to supply with water the Chemung Canal, one of the public improvements of that State, and thus divert the water from the natural channel of the Chemung river into the Seneca Lake, thereby materially diminishing the capacity of that river to supply the North Branch Canal in this State, has given his opinion that such does not exist, and that one State or nation cannot divert the waters of a public river from their natural channel, to the detriment of the State or nation below.

IRISH MIGRATION TO CANADA. An Irish convention is to assemble at Buffalo to-day, and attracts much attention in various quarters. Its purpose is to concert a general scheme for the emigration of the Irish Catholic population of the British Provinces of Canada. Delegates have been appointed from New York city, Albany, Jersey City, Columbus, Ohio, Lacksville, Ill., Milwaukie, Portage City, Wisconsin, Quincy, Easton and Salem, Massachusetts, Detroit, and many other places both in the United States and Canada. At a meeting of the Catholics in Hamilton, C. W., to consider the project, an address was read by the Rev. Mr Cooper, advising that in order to assist the convention there should be information gathered as to a suitable tract of country for the Irish Catholics to settle on, and suggesting also that a deputation be sent to Washington and North America, every member of which shall be a loyal citizen, actually or a certain number of years, to enable a settling committee to purchase the land, and assist the emigrants to settle on it. Such an arrangement would be a great boon to the Irish Catholics, as it would secure them from the insolence and ill-treatment they have met with in Canada, and would enable them to settle in a large tract of country, where they could live in a body, and be governed by laws of their own making, and administered by officers of their own choosing. The Irish Catholics in Canada are numerous, and are said to be very poor, and requiring assistance to make their passage and settlement in the new country. At the present time, in the parishes of Toronto, there are about [illegible] Catholics, and in the whole of the Province of Upper Canada, it is said, there are about [illegible] Catholics, of whom about [illegible] are said to be very poor. The Catholics in Canada are said to be very much dissatisfied with the treatment they have received from the Government, and the Catholic Bishop of Toronto, in his address to the convention, said that the Catholics in Canada had not received their share of the public money, and that they had been taxed for the support of Protestant institutions, from which they could not derive any benefit