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THE Journal still thinks there will be no panic because of cheap gas.

No franchise should be granted to any man or company by the City Council without a fair equivalent.

The Indianapolis Sentinel has been using natural gas taken from the Broad Ripple company for a considerable length of time, and no terrible seismic convulsion has yet resulted.

We cannot see our way clear to believing that the city will be injured by a reduction in the price of natural gas.

The encaustic-tile works has been using natural gas from the Broad Ripple's "little tin bucket" for some time, and people still continue to buy tiles, and the world has not stopped in its daily rotation.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the Sentinel, has come out in opposition to equal suffrage, or rather woman suffrage. In this, as in other things, the Sentinel is behind the age. The Journal is for equal suffrage.

ST. LOUIS is talking largely about a smoke consumer which is expected to work a great improvement in that city. St. Louis ought to move over to Indianapolis and burn natural gas, which makes no smoke.

THE rumor last week that the Supreme Court had been heard from relative to the Coy-Bernhamer case was premature. The Court will be heard from to-day, and we feel confident that what it says will be interesting.

NEW JERSEY Republicans are very confident of carrying the State next fall. They base their claims on the rupture in the Democratic party, and the great number of workmen who are openly declaring in favor of protection.

A WASHINGTON special says the McDonald-Bright faction of the Democracy will send a special delegation to St. Louis to expose Gray's political record in the past, and to declare that Indiana will be surely lost should he be put on the ticket.

THE Journal is not in favor of monopolies or exclusive privileges of any kind. There can be no exclusive privileges granted to any man or company, either for street railways or for gas purposes. The Supreme Court has everlastingly settled that.

INDIANAPOLIS franchises are worth a fair return; but the bargain to be made should be a fair one to both sides. We cannot make a satisfactory bargain on the highwayman principle, and the sooner Indianapolis learns that fact the better it will be. A hard bargain is never a good bargain.

AN exchange remarks that the Wisconsin Republicans in booming Governor Ruess for the presidency evidently do not care for the Anarchist vote. The Wisconsin Republicans do not expect to gain this vote even if they wanted it. Anarchists, as a rule, belong to the Democratic party.

A GREAT many hundreds of people are using natural gas, being customers of the Broad Ripple and the Indianapolis companies. To quiet the apprehensions of any timid souls, the Journal feels authorized to say that they will not be visited by midnight regulators and either whipped or lynched.

THE Washington Post, administration organ, intimates that the President will punish every Democrat in Congress who does not support the Mills bill. Referring to the veto of the Allentown public building bill, it says "there will be an Allentown for every Sothen." This is a shameless avowal of the President's purpose to use the executive power in support of "my policy."

THAT soldier organ, the St. Louis Picket Guard, says of the proposed transformation of the United States Arsenal at this place into a national soldiers' home, that favorable action on the matter by the congressional military committee would meet with the cordial approval of every comrade, and adds: "Indianapolis is a beautiful and thriving city, and is a most excellent location for a soldiers' home."

MR. WESTCOTT, of the Broad Ripple company, says he has been quietly attending to his business, has twenty-five miles of pipe in the ground, and shall go ahead in the even tenor of his way to supply all who want to patronize him with gas at ordinance rates. This is business and good common sense. Indianapolis is not prepared yet to make it a

penal offense for anybody to supply natural gas for any price he pleases, at or below that fixed by the ordinance.

REPUBLICANS of Indianapolis who desire to assist in the work of promoting the nomination of General Harrison for the presidency are invited to a meeting to be held in the Criminal Court room this evening. Several good speakers will be present, and steps will be taken to put on foot an organization of leading business men and citizens that shall be a strong and effective influence in securing the success of the desire of Indiana. The Journal needs not urge a large attendance; we have no doubts there will be such a meeting as will indicate the esteem in which his fellow-citizens at his own home hold the man whose name and fame are so distinguishing the city and State.

GET OUT OF THE RUTS.

Cities and communities, like individuals, sometimes get into a rut. The phrase is expressive. Everybody has seen the deep ruts cut in a county road and knows how easy it is for a driver to get into one, and how hard to get out. A rut is not a bad place to be in provided one's business or his ambition does not require or impel him to get out, but hardly any person wants to finish his earthly journey in a ready-made rut. But life is full of figurative ruts, which are easy to get into and hard to get out of. Too many men live and die in them. Indeed, whoever lives in one long is pretty sure to die in it. The longer a man runs in a rut the more apt he is to continue in it until finally he has no ambition nor desire to get out. This has a double moral: First, a man should never allow himself to get into a rut; second, if he does he should get out as soon as possible.

Cities, as well as individuals, sometimes get into ruts, and it is not a pleasant or prosperous condition for a city any more than it is for a man. When a community falls into an old fogy, pessimistic way of regarding things, looking over its shoulder all the time for lost opportunities, ignoring or under-rating present advantages, discouraging new enterprises, slapping them in the face instead of patting them on the back, shutting the door against foreign capital, taking outside capitalists and investors by the throat instead of by the hand, killing the goose to get the golden egg—when a city gets in that way it is in a bad rut. Indianapolis was in it for several years, and is not so far out of it yet as to be beyond the danger of a relapse. To prevent such a calamity two things are necessary, viz.: faith and works—unbounded faith in the future of the city and untiring effort for its advancement. The period of greatest prosperity in the history of Indianapolis—and it was one of very great prosperity—was when every resident of the city, joined in singing the same chorus and pulling at the same lever. The chorus was the praises of Indianapolis and the lever was whatever project or enterprise promised most to advance its interests. In those days there was no croaking, no pulling back, no throwing cold water on new enterprises, no damaging insinuations against those who had invested or who proposed to invest money here. It was an era of good feeling and consequently of prosperity and progress. Those were the years of the city's greatest growth. After that came a relapse, and we got into a rut. The remembrance of the latter period ought to make everybody anxious to get as far away from it as possible, and to bring about and maintain an entirely different state of things. To do this we must get to work on the old "co-operative plan," all working together with a common purpose to a common end. During the years that Indianapolis was running in a rut—and they are not so far away yet as to make it ancient history—the city acquired a bad name abroad. It got the reputation of being narrow, grasping and illiberal, of wanting everything for nothing, of pursuing an exclusive policy towards foreign capital, and of never uniting on anything except to find fault. Now that we have got out of the old rut we must try and get rid of the old reputation, and establish instead one for public spirit, enterprise, liberality and fair-dealing. Let it be understood that our doors are wide open for the admission of new capital and new enterprises, and that they will be met by the city government and people in a spirit of cordial liberality. Let there be a stop of washing our dirty clothes in the presence of the public and advertising to the world that Indianapolis is dead unless this or that particular enterprise shall succeed. On the contrary, let us say to all capitalists, and all companies, and all comers, the more the merrier, and let us unite with a common purpose to the common end of getting the city as far as possible away from the old rut. The time is eminently auspicious for doing it. The advantages of the city were never so widely known and appreciated as they are to-day, and its opportunities never so large and inviting. It is only necessary that we improve them, but to do this we must stop wrangling among ourselves and invoke a new spirit of public enterprise.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The fact that the House committee on post-offices has ordered a favorable report on the bill to provide for the erection of postoffice buildings in all towns where the business will justify it, insures for the bill a favorable hearing, and it is to be hoped its ultimate passage. It is founded on good business sense, and ought to pass. The government now rents postoffices in all but the large cities, paying often a large rent and getting poor accommodations. The bill provides for erecting substantial buildings in all towns where the postal receipts exceed a certain figure, indicating that the business will justify the outlay, the cost of the building to be graded according to the business, none to exceed in first cost, \$25,000, and the cost of ground not to exceed \$5,000. If this bill becomes a law, the government and towns where buildings are erected will be alike benefited. The former will save largely in its rent account, besides getting better accommodations in buildings owned by itself, and entirely under its own control. It will also save the annoyance of renewing leases

for postoffice buildings every five years, or less. No leases are made for a longer period than that, and over 1,000 of these have to be passed upon by the Postmaster-general every year. The making of a new lease involves considerable trouble. A postoffice inspector is detailed to select a site, which is often done with more reference to economy than the public convenience, and not unfrequently it happens that the government is victimized by some real estate ring. Then the law clerk of the department and the Postmaster-general have to examine the laws of the different States and see that the lease is drawn in iron-clad form, and when completed they have to be sent back and forth by mail for signatures. All this labor and trouble would be avoided if the government owned its buildings. On the other hand, communities where buildings are erected will be benefited by having the postoffice permanently located, thus avoiding the periodical controversies and fluctuations of real estate which attend a change. The government building would also be a source of local pride and a visible symbol of government authority. The number of towns which would be entitled to postoffice buildings under the provisions of the bill is about 1,500, but it would take several years to supply them all. The cities and towns in this State which would be benefited are Anderson, Attica, Auburn, Aurora, Bloomington, Bluffton, Brazil, Columbus City, Columbus, Connersville, Crawfordsville, Danville, Decatur, Delphi, Elkhart, Frankfort, Franklin, Goschen, Greensburg, Greensburg, Huntington, Jeffersonville, Kendallville, Kokomo, LaPorte, Lawrenceburg, Lebanon, Ligonier, Logansport, Madison, Marion, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Mt. Vernon, Muncie, New Castle, Noblesville, Notre Dame, Peru, Plymouth, Portland, Princeton, Rochester, Rushville, Seymour, Shelbyville, South Bend, Sullivan, Union City, Valparaiso, Vincennes, Wabash, Warsaw, Washington and Winchester. The cities of New Albany, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, Lafayette and Richmond are already provided for by special legislation. We think the people of Indiana would be very willing to see the government erect a \$20,000 or \$25,000 postoffice in each of the cities above named, and we are quite sure the government could not make a better investment.

THE CENTENNIAL ASSEMBLY.

"The Centennial Assembly" will meet in the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on Thursday, May 17, at which time the opening sermon will be preached by the retiring moderator, the Rev. Joseph T. Smith, D. D., of Baltimore. This year marks an epoch in Presbyterianism. This denomination may be said to have begun in America with Rev. Francis Makemie, a young Irishman who came to the new world late in the eighteenth century. The earliest records show that he organized the "Snow Hill Church," of Maryland, in the year 1684. It is altogether probable that other churches of this denomination were already in existence, the records of which were not preserved. In this early church "English dissent," Irish "fervor," Scotch "persistence" and Huguenot "devotion," all seemed to be combined, as these characteristics have uniformly been manifest in the adherents of this faith. The first presbytery was organized in 1705, and was composed of seven ministers. There is a record of their meeting for the purpose of ordaining one John Boyd to preach the gospel. The first synod (composed of a plurality of presbyteries) was organized in the year 1729. This synod had a history of ups and downs until the close of the Revolutionary war, when reorganization became necessary. In 1785 a plan of constitution was prepared, and submitted to synod the following year, and then submitted to the different presbyteries in 1787. The form of government, in the main as it is to-day, was ratified and adopted by the synods of New York and Philadelphia, May 16, 1788. This was the first "General Assembly," and it continued in session until the 28th of May. It is this event which the church proposes to celebrate at Philadelphia within the next two or three weeks. The history of the Presbyterian Church during this century is rich with success, and has contributed largely toward the civilization of which every American is so justly proud. All are more or less familiar with the part which the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, of New Jersey, played in the creation of that most wonderful instrument the Constitution of the United States. His influence at that time was but the precursor of an intelligent factor, which has continuously molded our laws and institutions down to the present day. The aggressive spirit of missions was early manifested in the church. In 1707, only two years after the formation of the first presbytery, it was recommended that the "desolated places" should be sought out and the gospel be declared; appeals were made to the mother country for ministers and means; a fund was asked for and devoted to the cause of "feeble churches" early in the eighteenth century; annual collections for the weaker churches were enjoined in 1719. After the union of the two synods in 1758 the missionary impulse was increased; a more systematic plan for money-raising for missionary purposes was devised in 1774; in the year 1790 plans were matured for sending missionaries to the western frontiers; Nathan Ker, of Goschen, N. Y., and Joshua Hart, of Virginia, were sent out as evangelists to western New York and northern Pennsylvania. The present century opened with a new life in the church as well as in the State. "A revived missionary spirit gave enlarged scope and increased energy" to the church's operations. Missionary societies were organized in New England, New York and Pennsylvania almost simultaneously. The progress of this denomination during the last century may be seen by a glance at some statistics: In 1775 there were some three hundred Presbyterian churches and about 140 ministers in the colonies. In 1800 there were 500 churches, 300 ministers, and 40,000 communicants. In 1850 there were 5,322 churches, 4,204 ministers and 487,001 communicants. This includes

all kinds of Presbyterians in the United States. In 1880, there were 11,103 congregations, 8,588 ministers, and 937,840 communicants. The Presbyterian Church North had the following enrollment one year ago: 6,346 churches, 5,654 ministers and about 700,000 communicants. The Presbyterian body can show but \$186,639 raised for foreign missions from 1830 to 1839, a yearly average of \$20,746, one half century ago. The Northern branch of that same church has raised \$901,180 for foreign missions for the current year, having raised for home and foreign missions alone during the past year, \$1,684,180. Something like a million dollars has been raised for ministerial relief during the year just closing, which is in the nature of a centennial fund—a thank offering for the century's successful Christian work. These sums do not include the amounts given to five other boards of the church, which aggregated last year more than \$700,000. These boards have fared no worse this year, and probably better, making in the neighborhood of three and a half millions given to benevolence the past year. The approaching assembly promises to be an interesting one on other grounds than the fact that it is a centennial year. The question which will be paramount to all others will be that of a possible reunion of the two Presbyterian bodies North and South. The Southern church has something like 150,000 members. The division occurred at the breaking out of the Rebellion. A large majority on both sides firmly believe that the time has come when this gap of more than a quarter of a century should be closed. But there are a few who remember the past and have lost none of the bitterness of war times. The "color line" is likely to stand in the way of union, there being a diversity of opinion as to the desirability of the colored people being members of the same presbyteries and synods with the whites. The probabilities are largely against this desired union. There will be a union meeting of the assemblies at least which will be interesting. The Assembly of the Southern Church will be in session in Baltimore contemporaneously with the Northern Assembly in Philadelphia. On the fourth Tuesday of May, the 24th inst., there will be a joint meeting held in Philadelphia, lasting two days. The morning sessions will be held in the Academy of Music, and during the afternoons and evenings in Horticultural Hall. Leading clergymen and laymen from both assemblies have been selected to give appropriate addresses on these occasions. Our distinguished fellow-citizen, ex-Senator Harrison, has been selected as one of the speakers for Thursday afternoon; subject, "Presbyterianism and Republican Government."

COMMENT AND OPINION.

FULLER'S record as a copperhead during the war would meet the approval even of Dan Voorhees.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND and Senator Ingalls are eminently related and they have each other enough to be brothers-in-law.—Minneapolis Tribune.

SECRETARY FAIRCHILD is a good clerk, but a poor financier. Civil service did not work well in his hands after the resignation of Secretary Manning.—National Republican.

THE Tennessee Democratic State convention did well to ignore the resolution criticizing the President for keeping Republicans in office. Cleveland is most decidedly innocent of any such offense.—Boston Journal.

ALL the way through Mr. Fuller was a copperhead the Dan Voorhees' strips. This pre-arranged account for his roasting the appointment of Cleveland seems to have a fondness for that kind of mgn.—Detroit Tribune.

MR. FULLER'S copperhead leanings appear to have been a recommendation rather than a detriment in the President's eyes. In this connection it may be recalled that Cleveland himself was not a very robust war Democrat.—Grand Rapids Eagle.

THAT the Mills bill would not at once introduce entire free trade, every protectionist admits. It would have not had "the character of their convictions" to that extent. But the changes it proposes in the tariff—with the single exception of the duty on worsted goods—are made for a freer trade, and are in the main only on that principle.—Philadelphia American.

THE Wisconsin Republican convention has taken a good step in passing resolutions that the defeat of the Dakota admission will be an issue in the next campaign. The whole West had an associated interest in Dakota's admission. The West is not in complaint of the admission of politics by the States. While there are vast Territories and valuable interests denied their rights of participation and representation in the affairs of government, the complaint will be a just one.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

TAKING everything into consideration that correspondence between the Hendricks Club of this city and Senator Voorhees was very much in fact—the special committee has been made before the Hendricks Club. The truth of the whole business is the Tall Syracuse was worsted in the debate with Ingalls, and he had no use in Democratic about it. Voorhees knows this and apologizes to the Senate for losing his temper. This "is the God's truth of the whole business"—Saturday People.

THE Republican bill will show on its face that it is an efficient measure for the accomplishment of the good which the whole country desires to attain. The surplus still threatens disaster to the country. The Democrats in Congress have not only made no effort to avert the danger, but on the contrary have increased it. In spite of being a minority of the House the Republicans will make an attempt to avert the business interests of the country from the result of Democratic folly and negligence.—New York Mail and Express.

MR. BLAINE'S CANDIDACY.

THE Question Asked Dir. c. ly of Mr. Blaine if His Name Should be Presented. J. Hal Brewer, of New Jersey.

"I had a talk with Phelps on the day of the convention, and what he told me is as true as it is surprising. I knew that Blaine's friends, I mean those closest to the throne, like William Walter Phelps and White-law Reed, were dumfounded by the Florence letter. In fact, Phelps admits that they were so vexed about it that neither the Teasick statesman nor the editor of the Tribune has corresponded with Blaine, since by letter or telegraph, since the utterance from Florence, of which these men so bitterly complain, as they claim the right to have been consulted before that sinner or foxy political compromiser, as the case may be, gave it its touchment to the 'territorial' congressional and editorial Blaine contingent."

"Something had to be done," continued Brewer, "because Ohio's occupation was given if the flat from Florence was to be regarded as a final decree. In this dilemma Mr. Phelps communicated with White-law Reed, who suggested a conference with Eugene Hale of Maine. It was agreed between the three that Senator Hale should write a letter to James G. Blaine, asking for a categorical answer to the question: 'Shall we present your name to the Chicago convention?'"

"That letter has crossed the ocean, and with reasonable certainty an answer will be received the month, and by that answer the friends of Blaine are willing to abide. And this," continued Brewer, "is one reason why Phelps expressed no sign of a desire to have his own State name him as their choice for President."

POLITICAL NOTES.

MILWAUKEE Sentinel: The Chicago Tribune's first and dearest love is Blaine.

SENATOR HOAR will not present Senator Sherman's name to the Chicago convention. A New York man will be chosen for the task.

PHILADELPHIA Inquirer: Democratic platform. No protection for American workmen. No protection for the home against the alien.

KANSAS CITY Star: Judge Gresham has the united support of the Democratic press, including the New York Sun. This unanimity of Democratic support is one reason why regular Republicans look with suspicion upon his candidacy.

MR. WHITE-LAW REED has been designated as probably one of the four gentlemen whom the

New York Republicans would select for their delegates-at-large to Chicago, but the Tribune announces that Mr. Reid does not wish the honor.

MR. SIMON CAMERON is in his sixtieth year; but there is fight in the old man yet, in his opinion, as he is said to be giving no aid and counsel to the active Republicans of Pennsylvania.

CINCINNATI Commercial Gazette: The constant assertion by those interested in Judge Gresham's presidential candidacy that only the machine is for Harrison in Indiana does gross injustice to the people of that State.

BOSTON Journal: General Boulanger can give points to American political "literary bureaus." The free distribution of two and a half million copies of an electioneering pamphlet implies large pecuniary resources and an extensive organization.

The Albany Journal says: "There can be but little doubt that but for Mr. Blaine's Florence letter he would have been nominated at Chicago on the first ballot, and by an overwhelming majority. There was, therefore, no necessity for his having written such a letter if he did not mean to stand by it."

The Ohio State Journal (Rep.) holds that in the absence of a declaration over his own signature that he will consent to run, "the interests of the Republican party and due respect for Mr. Blaine will not doubt hold that the matter shall stand where the Plumed Knight placed it when he voluntarily withdrew from the canvass."

The result of the recent New Hampshire Republican convention shows that the Hon. Jacob H. Gallinger is growing in popular favor in that State. Dr. Gallinger was for several years chairman of the Republican State committee, and represented the Second Congressional district in Congress. He is an aspirant for a seat in the United States Senate, and his friends say that he will prove a formidable rival to the Hon. William E. Chandler, whose term expires in March, 1883.

PHILADELPHIA Press: The Chicago Inquirer Ocean declares that Judge Gresham is a strong protectionist, and the Chicago Tribune insists that he is nothing of the sort. In view of this conflict of opinion among his immediate friends and supporters, Judge Gresham cannot do for his own and his party's good. The Republican candidate for President this year is going to be some strong, earnest man, who has opinions of his own and the bravery to declare and defend them.

EIGHT favorite sons have so far in the campaign been endorsed by Republican State conventions in as many States. They are: Iowa.....Wm. B. Allison, Dubuque. Indiana.....Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis. Ohio.....John Sherman, Mansfield. Kansas.....John J. Ingraham, Atchison. Nebraska.....William Walter Phelps, Grandwood, Illinois. Wisconsin.....Jere-miah M. Rus-k, Madison. Michigan.....Russell A. Alger, Detroit.

Iowa has 25 votes, Indiana 30, Illinois 44, Ohio 46, New Jersey 18, Wisconsin 22, Michigan 26, and Kansas 18 in the convention. These candidates will meet at a national convention the first or three ballots, as it will take 411 votes to elect who shall be the next President of the United States.

As to the Blaine Revival.

Hon. Frank Hatten, ex-Postmaster-general, passed through the city this morning en route from New York to Chicago, and when he thought of the Blaine revival, he replied: "I didn't know that there was a revival. This talk about nominating him is all nonsense. No, sir, I have not been the candidate for President, and I do not intend to be. I am a candidate. If these people fall they know that hereafter they will be orphans. But I do not think their plans are outlined well. Who are these men? I am a Republican, and they are. There is no use in mentioning names. I do not see how Blaine could accept the nomination after the letter he has written."

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