THE INDEXES TAKEN BACK.

A COMPROMISE WITH MR. LEAYCRAFT.

HE ACCEPTS THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS—HIS SEARCHERS TO BE RETAINED.

The trouble between Robert J. Leaycraft, formerly chief of the searchers in the County Clerk's office, and the new County Clerk, Mr. Flack, has been amicably settled. Mr. Leaycraft demanded $50,000 as the price of his 200 volumes of indexes of records in the County Clerk's office which he claimed as his private property. The Board of Estimate would only allow $30,000. In addition to this Mr. Flack wanted to appoint seventeen searchers. Heretofore the searchers consisted of Mr. Leaycraft and ten assistants, including one index clerk. The Board of Estimate allowed the sum of $57,000 for searchers. If Mr. Flack appointed the number proposed by him the salary of each would be from $1,600 to $1,700. They have made heretofore, by dividing their fees with the County Clerk, from $3,000 to $3,500 a year. The old searchers declared that they would not accept the salaries offered, and went with Mr. Leaycraft, intending to enter his employ. The 200 volumes of indexes were removed to room No. 202 in the Stewart Building on Thursday afternoon.

Since then friends of Mr. Flack and Mr. Leaycraft have been trying to harmonize matters. Prominent among these was President Coleman, who is a member of the Board of Estimate and fully conversant with all the details. He is also an old friend of Mr. Leaycraft. He saw the latter on New Year's Day and they discussed the matter thoroughly. Mr. Leaycraft said that he thought the offer made by him originally was a fair one. It would cost the city three times $50,000 to prepare a new set of indexes from the records. He had been willing, however, to reduce his demand by $10,000. More than this he could not well be asked to do. Moreover, he was not willing to abandon the searchers who had been with him in the County Clerk's office from seventeen to thirty-one years. President Coleman urged that the Board of Estimate had taken the figure of $30,000 as a compromise. Some of the members of the Board thought that $25,000 would be sufficient, while others favored $40,000. Mr. Leaycraft said that he would consider the matter. He met President Coleman yesterday and they called on Mayor Grace and the Controller and had long discussions. Mr. Leaycraft used the same arguments that he had advanced in his first interview with Mr. Coleman. He finally agreed that he would accept the $30,000 and turn over the indexes to the County Clerk on certain conditions. One of these was that his former assistants should be reinstated at fair salaries. He did not stipulate that he himself should be retained. Mr. Flack desired this, however, saying that he appreciated Mr. Leaycraft's services, and that he wished to retain him as the head of the Searcher's Bureau.

Soon after 4 p. m. Mr. Leaycraft and Mr. Flack came to an understanding. Mr. Leaycraft's terms were accepted. These were that he should receive $30,000 for the indexes; that the nine searchers and the index clerk should be taken back at salaries of $2,500 each with a guarantee that they should not be dismissed during Mr. Flack's term of office, except for just cause. This would not use up all of the appropriation made for the searchers' bureau, and Mr. Flack could appoint one or two clerks on the surplus of the appropriation.

One reason for the delay on the part of Mr. Flack in agreeing to Mr. Leaycraft's terms is understood to be that he was harassed by demands for place by Tammany adherents, while the demand of Mr. Leaycraft that all his corps of searchers should be reinstated interfered somewhat with the plans of certain district leaders for obtaining patronage. Mr. Flack is a business man, however, and understands the necessity of employing experts in work of this kind. The work of searching the records during yesterday was brought to a standstill by the absence of the indexes and the force of clerks who had prepared them and depended on them to facilitate their labors. He decided that even with the indexes in his possession it would take new men a long time to become acquainted with the work, and the consequences of omitting to make a thorough search for liens against a piece of property would be a serious thing for the city, which would have to make good any loss occasioned thereby. Heretofore any loss of this kind would have to be made good by the county clerk.

Mr. Flack said that he wished also to reinstate Mr. Leaycraft, and the latter accepted his old place with a salary of $3,500. As soon as this arrangement had been made, the work of returning the books containing the indexes was begun, and in a short time the volumes were back in their old places. Messrs. Flack and Leaycraft looked pleased that the matter was finally settled, and the force of searchers expressed the opinion that their chief had won a victory for them. Mr. Leaycraft said that he wished to express his obligations to President Coleman for his exertions in bringing about an amicable understanding.

Only preliminary steps had been taken by Corporation Counsel Lacombe looking toward procuring the indexes by a writ of replevin. This delay was caused by the death of Mrs. Lacombe. Assistant Corporation Counsel Scott did not wish to proceed without the advice of his chief, and this, of course, was impossible under the circumstances.

The business of the Register's office is to a certain extent connected with that of the County Clerk. A person negotiating for the purchase of a piece of real estate has to have a search made in both offices. In the County Clerk's office searchers [illegible] made for liens in the shape of judgments, mechanics' liens, etc. In the Register's office search is made for mortgages, conveyances of all kinds, and powers of attorney. Some of the searchers have been connected with the Register's office for more than thirty years. They consist of Charles W. Mack, E. T. Egber, D. F. O'Connor, E. W. Degrove, Nelson Samson, sr., Nelson Samson, jr., William H. B. Ill, Abbott M. Ullman, W. C. Brinkerhoff, P. H. McDonough, S. M. Anderson, D. Lennox, Warren Bell, Gideon Fountain, George F. Bienhan. Register Reilly explained yesterday to a reporter of THE TRIBUNE the working of his office. There are several thousand libers containing in full the wording of all mortgages and conveyances of real estate and powers of attorney. The entries go back as far as the year 1620. Some of them are entered in the Dutch language. Lawyers and others come there and employ any one of the corps of searchers whom they please to make the search against the pieces of property in which they are interested. All of the searchers have their own particular customers who will intrust the search to no one else. The searchers are paid by fees, they taking one-half and the Register one-half. Several years ago the city paid considerable amounts of money in a suit in which it was about $500,000) to index the conveyances in the Register's office. This was brought up to 1856. Copies of this index were printed and are for sale. Since that time no effort has been made to bring up the conveyances to date.

Charles W. Mack, one of the oldest searchers in the Register's office, employed nine men for one year and two men ever since that time to prepare and bring his index up to date. The index to conveyances which was printed has been so much improved upon that what would formerly take probably two days to find can now be done in ten minutes. The index of names, beginning with the letter "S," and references to certain libers fills nine volumes. The searchers have taken each letter of the alphabet and the names beginning with that particular letter they have so classified by the letters succeeding the initial letter as to make the work of finding the transaction sought for an easy one. The Smiths, Browns, Joneses, etc., are distinguished by the initial letters of the given name, carried out in the same manner as the surnames of the less common ones. The visitor to whom the system is shown cannot fail to admire the simplicity and directness of the system. But it has taken these searchers many years to prepare their lists; some of them would fill many large volumes, and it has been done at a great deal of expense. The searchers claim them as their personal property. If they were to take the lists away, the work of the Register's office for a time would be practically stopped. To duplicate these indexes would cost, several real estate lawyers asserted, a sum vastly beyond what the city will probably have to pay for them some day.

BETTER FOR SMART THAT THE DOG WAS LOST.

Lawrence Costello, who keeps a rum-shop at No. 217 Mott-st., and lives on the second floor of the same house, is the happy possessor of a white bull-dog. The animal has been useful to Costello as a guardian of his rooms at night and on Sundays. About a year ago the dog was stolen, and on the Sunday following the theft thieves broke into Costello's rooms while he was attending mass. They stole a gold watch, $300 and some clothing. Not long afterward the thieves were caught and sent to prison and Costello recovered his dog. The dog disappeared again five weeks ago and Costello thought that another plot had been formed to rob his place. Determined to frustrate any such design, he hired Daniel Smart to patrol in front of the rum-shop when it was not open for business. Smart kept faithful watch of the place until yesterday when he saw a dog man walking along the Bowery with Costello's dog. He called Policeman Brierhoff, who took the man and dog to the Mulberry Street Police Station.

Costello soon appeared to claim the dog. The man who had been leading the dog said that he was John Casey, and that a friend had presented the dog to him and that he did not know it had been stolen. Costello was unwilling to make a complaint if the animal was returned to him and Sergeant Horbelt decided to set Casey at liberty. When the decision was announced the bull dog barked gleefully and ran out of the station.

"Hold on! That collar on the dorg belongs to me," shouted Casey.

"Never mound the collar! You're lucky to kape from bein' collared yourself," said Costello. Sergeant Horbelt whistled the dog back and restored the collar to Casey, and Costello went away with the animal, which he said was worth $50. Smart, who had found the dog for Costello, wore a long face. It suddenly occurred to him that his occupation as night watchman might be gone when the bulldog got back to the rum-shop.

CHANGES IN MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

County Clerk Flack yesterday made the following changes in his staff:

Removals—Edward Selleck, county county clerk; Charles J. McGee, mechanics' lien clerk; Dennis Lucas, lis pendens clerk; Edward Kelly, record in index clerk; John J. McQueen, comparing clerk; Charles H. Stromburg, index corporation clerk; Lewis Meyers, clerk to incorporation records; Barth G. Buckley, George H. Meyer, J. F. Murray, Thomas S. Norris, John A. Daly, recording clerks; Charles J. Newman, messenger; Charles E. Baldwin, cashier; John J. Brady, Morris Schlesheimer, James J. McGonigal, E. A. Charlton, Frank Gray, William Adams, E. Leibinger, I. Secor Fisher, William F. Quirk, temporary recording clerks, and John S. Coughlin, law clerk.

Appointments—Thomas F. Gilroy, deputy county clerk; D. L. Holmes, assistant deputy; Sylvester E. Nolan, law clerk; John McGuire, incorporation clerk; Kristian C. Wilson, chief temporary recording clerk; M. J. Deery, comparing clerk. The positions of mech ics' lien, transcript and docket clerks have been consolidated into one clerkship, to which John Kenny has been appointed at a salary of $2,500. The three former clerks received a salary of $3,000. The clerk of records and the mechanics' lien clerkships have also been consolidated into one position to which Edward T. Fitzpatrick is appointed. The new recording clerks are J. H. Demarest, T. J. Donohue, John B. Fossett, Peter Traiber, D. McDonagan, J. B. Leclesine, John McCormack, Charles McIntyre, Andrew DeWitt and Bryan Henry. Michael Whelan has also been reappointed a clerk, and John H. Roberts, chief recording clerk.

In consequence of the reduction in the appropriation for copying old records in the Register's office, Register Reilly has been compelled to inform six of the copyists that after February 1 their services will be dispensed with. One of the clerks who have been told that they must go is a nephew of Mr. Reilly.

DR. NEWMAN'S OLD CHURCH TO BE SOLD.

THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT UNABLE TO CARRY ON THE GREAT BUILDING.

After one year's management of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church, the society has determined to give up the struggle and sell the property obtaining by this means a smaller church elsewhere. The great iron structure will seat more than 2,000 persons. One of the members explained yesterday that on a cold day a ton of coal is consumed in obtaining anything like a comfortable temperature. While the Rev. Dr. Newman was pastor, the church for a long time was filled every Sunday. Since the building reverted to its original owners they have been lost in the large auditorium. The present membership is about 150. The new pastor, the Rev. W. F. Price, is liked by his congregation, but the effort to sustain the church is too great.

"It has caused a disagreement which makes the sale of the property necessary," said another member. "The small congregation could stand the expense of the church, but there is $100,000 in mortgage on the property, and the interest on it is $100 a week. That eats up everything. Last spring a second mortgage of $20,000 was obtained on the property. Mr. Hopkins, it is understood, as president of the trustees, had to sign papers making himself personally responsible in order to secure this mortgage. He is not satisfied and has stayed away from the church for some time. There was an effort made to get up a big choir of 150 persons as an attraction, but after one Sunday that fell through."

Howard Y. Stillman, secretary of the trustees, denied that there was any disagreement between Dr. Ramsey and Mr. Hopkins. He said that the society had decided to sell the property and get a small church. The cost of the land and the building has been $325,000. There are six lots, five in Madison-ave. and one in Forty-fifth-st., for which the society hoped to realize $200,000. That would enable them to start elsewhere. Negotiations have been made for the purchase of the property, but Mr. Stillman was not at liberty to name the parties. An offer, it was said, had come from one person who wishes to transform the building into a theatre. This it was thought could be done at small expense; a gallery placed around the interior making it one of the largest theatres in New-York as well as one of the most central. J. P. Foster, who was one of the church deacons under Dr. Newman, said that he had heard little of the church affairs recently; formerly Mr. Vanderbilt wanted to purchase the property for railroad purposes and made many advances, but since the Grand Central Station had been extended on the east side he had not heard that the church was wanted by the railroad authorities.

FOR SERVING TIME TO GOOD PURPOSE.

A TESTIMONIAL TO W. F. ALLEN FOR HIS EFFORTS IN ESTABLISHING THE STANDARD PLAN.

When Father Time ushered in 1886, the New Year was the third which had opened after the adoption of "standard time" by practically all of the railroads of the country and most of the municipalities. The reform had given great relief to the consciences of watches which previously had ticked in the most irregular fashion, and it had helped to soften the temper of many travellers. So the Southern Time Convention resolved to get up a testimonial to W. F. Allen, manager of the National Railway Publication Office, and yesterday a committee presented a handsome silver table set to him as a token of their appreciation of his services in bringing about the reform. The committee consisted of C. E. Pugh, H. Walters, H. S. Haines and R. M. Sully. Among others who were present at No. 46 Bond-st., where Mr. Allen received a few of his many friends, were Richard Watson Gilder, Professor Rees, of Columbia College, and C. M. Heald, by the Long Island Railroad. Here is a part of the letter that the committee prepared for Mr. Allen:

The Southern Time Convention has assigned to us the pleasant duty of presenting you with this testimonial of their high appreciation of your services in securing the adoption of the existing system of standard time. The railroad interests of this country, realizing the advantages to be gained by a change from the old system to one that would be practically uniform in its operation, entrusted you with its execution. To obtain the co-operation of all the interests involved in a country like this, in effecting such a change, was of itself an undertaking of no small magnitude, but to substitute the new system for the old on a given day and at a given instant over a territory extending in one direction from near the Arctic circle to the tropics and in the other from the Atlantic to the Pacific without confusion, accident or jar was a task involving such labor in the arrangement of details as to render its successful performance impossible except by the best efforts of a man who not only thoroughly understood his subject but one endowed with that spirit of, perseverance and steadfastness of purpose which is said to accomplish all things.

Mr. Sully made the speech of presentation and Mr. Allen responded briefly but happily. Letters of regret were read from many railroad men and then the company enjoyed themselves with viands and beverages.

PLANS FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The week of prayer begins to-day and the Evangelical Alliance has published the following programme:

Sunday, sermons; Monday, praise and thanksgiving; Tuesday, humiliation and confession; Wednesday, home and foreign missions; Thursday, the church and the family; Friday, nations and governments; Saturday, the Christian life; Sunday, sermons.

The meetings under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance will be held in the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, Madison-ave. and Twenty-fourth-st., and the following ministers will lead: The Rev. Drs. George Alexander, William Ormiston, Edward Judson, C. C. Tiffany, J. B. Reimensnyder and G. E. Strobridge. Meetings will also be held at the Central Presbyterian Church and will be presided over by the Rev. Drs. O. H. Tiffany, C. S. Robinson, W. T. Sabine, E. A. Reed, R. S. MacArthur and B. B. Tyler.

Beginning to-morrow there will be held in the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church, No. 44 John-st., a union business men's meeting daily from 12:15 to 1 o'clock. Although organized under Methodist auspices and held in a Methodist Epicopal Church, they are intended to be entirely undenominational in their character and the presence and co-operation of members of all evangelical churches are solicited. During the week of prayer the meetings will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. George F. Pentecost, assisted by George C. Stebbins. The circular announcing the meetings is signed by Thomas L. Jones, L. C. Gillespie, Ira Perego, James McCreery, Geo. J. L. Fleming, Joseph H. Richards, Stephen Barker, James A. Seaman, Bowles Colgate, J. H. Chapman, George H. Raymond, John E. Searles, jr., Oliver Hoyt, John Bently, D. H. Bates, George W. Snieblen, William Hoyt, Robert W. Todd, Joseph H. Stout, John R. Cornell, J. A. Pauderford, John D. Slayback, James Boyd, Clinton B. Fisk, Edward Allen, John M. Cornell, D. T. Stevens, F. E. Trowbridge, George F. Hodgman, William J. Carlton, Lemuel Skidmore, H. M. Forrester, J. Henry Harper, H. T. McCoun, A. H. DeHaven, P. C. Lounsbury, William H. Falconer.

INCREASING THE HOSPITAL FUND.

The following additional amounts from the Hospital Saturday and Sunday collection were received and duly acknowledged by Mr. Charles Lanier, general treasurer of the association, No. 26 Nassau-st., yesterday:

Churches.	1884.	1885.
Holy Trinity, Harlem, Episcopal	$107 10	$122 85
University Place, Presbyterian	.....	733 65
St. John's Chapel, Episcopal	52 17	32 34
Berean, Baptist	45 00	25 00
Potts Memorial, Presbyterian	9 88	24 05
Ascension Memorial Chapel, Episcopalian	17 00	20 00
Eighteenth-st. Methodist Episcopal	5 24	18 00
Nineteenth-st. Baptist	2 00	12 00
Holy Martyrs, Episcopal	6 00	10 00
St. James's, Fordham, Episcopal (additional)	.....	10 00
Bethlehem Mission Church of University Place	.....	3 84
Secular Contributions.		
N. J. Schloss & Co. and employ'rs		$74 50
Rogers & Co.		6 00
Miss Aronson		10 00
Previously reported		12,909 70
Total up to date		$14,012 02

DANGER OF A TYPHUS FEVER OUTBREAK.

A physician sent word to the Sanitary Bureau yesterday that Mrs. Annie O'Conner, age thirty-six, and her daughter Mary, fifteen years of age, were suffering from a suspicious fever in the crowded rear tenement house No. 107 Washington-st. Inspector Chapin went to the house and saw that Mrs. O'Connor and her daughter had typhus fever. Mrs. O'Connor was dangerously ill with the disease and had been in bed several days. Her daughter was just beginning to show the more serious symptoms of the fever. Both patients were removed to North Brother Island and the rooms which they had occupied in the tenement-house were fumigated. Dr. Chapin said that many families lived in the house and some of the rooms were in a filthy condition. A boy in the O'Connor family was sick two weeks ago and got well again without the help of a physician. It is suspected that he had a light attack of the fever. There has been much exposure in the house and the place may prove a dangerous typhus nest.

PLAYING TENNIS IN AN ARMORY.

The singles were finished yesterday in the tennis tournament at the 7th Regiment Armory, and E. F. Ayrault was the winner. He started in to finish his match with W. H. Harrison, and, being in much better form than on Friday, won two straight sets and the match by 5-6, 6-0, 6-3. V. G. Hall, who had been carefully inspecting the play of his future opponent, now engaged Mr. Ayrault in the final contest. Mr. Ayrault, however, had worked hard, wanted the prize, and played just well enough to get it. The score was 6-5, 6-4, 5-6, 6-3.

The final double match was again postponed, this time to 3:30 p. m. next Saturday, when Harrison and Adee will meet Wickham and Webb in what will doubtless be a first-class contest. The tournament has been throughout a decided success and shows that in a place so well adapted to the play as the armory there can be a good indoor game of tennis.

USING A ROLLING-PIN ON A MAN'S HEAD.

While Mrs. George Petty, of West Side, near Port Jefferson, Long Island, was on the way to her son's house at Comsewogue one night last week, she was seized by a man who caught her around the shoulders at the same time saying, "Hello, old woman." She struck the man a powerful blow with a rolling-pin, knocking him to the ground, and then ran quickly to her son's house.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.

Mrs. Hannah Stelwagen, age 104, died in Yonkers yesterday. She had lived in Yonkers for more than fifty years, in a little house in Prospect-st., which she owned, her husband died forty years ago. The only relative she has living is a grandson, age forty-five, who lives opposite the old lady's home. He is employed at the Otis Elevator Works. Mrs. Stelwagen had the best of health until two days before her death.

THE FEELING IN BROCKTON.

ARBITRATION NOT SATISFACTORY.

A MANUFACTURER'S REASONS FOR DISCONTENT—THE WORKMEN TRIUMPHANT.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BROCKTON, Mass., Jan. 2.—The opening of the New Year brings a season of general rejoicing to the Brockton laboring classes. As they have gained nearly every point which they have been struggling to obtain it is natural that the outlook should be satisfactory, but it is a significant fact that the hilarity is all on one side, and this, it would seem, should be food for reflection on the part of the leaders of the labor organizations. A member of the Manufacturers' Association, who has been prominent in shaping its policy during the recent struggle, said to-day:

"We cannot deny the fact that the manufacturers have been beaten in this fight, but the laboring classes are short-sighted, and they will discover when too late that they have killed the goose which has been laying their golden eggs. In the so-called arbitration they gained every point, and have forced upon us prices which, with our moderate profits, we cannot pay, and now the success of the lasters makes the other branches anxious for increased wages and they demand consideration. I have every reason to believe that they, the five or six other associations, will obtain an advance and if you ask about the situation then, I can simply say, 'ruinous.' The fact is arbitration is a safe and sure way for the workingmen to make money, and from the nature of the case we are always the sufferers. We now pay all we can afford to. Some association demands an advance and the matter is 'arbitrated.' We are supposed to have been treated fairly if the workmen are granted half of what they demand. In this arbitration system the greatest victory possible for us (and it never happens) is the negative one of keeping the rates unchanged. This would be well enough if we could get a corresponding increase in our trade prices, but we cannot. Competition is so great that the movement is the other way. Jobbers continually demand more for their money. The price of leather, owing to labor troubles in that direction, has gone up, so there is increased expense in the raw material, and the inevitable conclusion is that our business, as we start to work again, is at an actual loss. The small country dealers have not been troubled yet by the abnormal state of affairs here, and they are prospering at the expense of Brockton. Of course the public will say that if shops are really being run at a loss they would be closed. It must be remembered that the manufacturer's capital is in many cases in his factory and plant, and he can better afford to run a losing business with the prospect of a turn in the tide than sacrifice all he has. A few of the more independent manufacturers, however, are preparing to close up their business. The result of all this is to injure Brockton and all small country towns. We manufacturers will never succeed until we come squarely out and assert the right to hire whom we please and arrange our own prices with our workmen. The theory of the labor agitators is to preserve until the workingmen have access to the manufacturer's books and a share in his business. This seems absurd and almost socialistic, but it is the doctrine taught in Brockton to-day."

The Brockton workmen are delighted over their victory. Local trade is brisk and there is everywhere an air of relief; factories are slowly starting their spring work, and apparently all is moving peacefully, but the actual results of the Brockton conflict are yet to appear.

THERE IS ARBITRATION IN LYNN.

THE QUESTION DECIDED BY THE REFEREES TO WHOM THE MATTER WAS SUBMITTED.

LYNN, Mass., Jan. 2 (*Special*).—The Shoe and Leather Association and the Knights of Labor left to three referees the settlement of the question as to whether a joint board of arbitration existed in the city, it being claimed the Knights of Labor broke an agreement by ordering the strike at Kimball Brothers' factory. The referees yesterday declared in favor of the manufacturers in an exhaustive report, in which they said in substance:

The seven Knights of Labor, members of this joint board who adopted the rules, were a majority of the executive committee elected to meet the committee from the association. They openly and actively participated and assisted in the organization of this joint board of arbitration, making no protest or suggestion as to any limitation of its powers and duties, and this action of the majority of the executive committee must be held to be the act of that committee and of as full force as if done with the actual concurrence of all its members. We cannot doubt, therefore, that this joint board of arbitration created by these representatives of parties to this submission, having full authority in the matter, became by that action the joint board of arbitration within the powers belonging to such a board under the rules and regulations adopted by the parties, by the instrumentality of the members of that board. It was in existence at the time of the adoption of the rules and this was known to the parties; and no suggestion appears to have been made by anybody at that time that it was restricted to any particular matters or duties different from those of a general board of arbitrators, and there is no suggestion of anything of the kind in the rules adopted. It seems to us, therefore, to follow necessarily that the joint board of arbitration by whom these rules and regulations could be carried out was in existence at the time of the adoption of the rules on November 11, and that the rules in fact went into operation at that time. No action has since been taken to abrogate the rules, and no changes have been made, except by the appointment of members to take the places of certain of the persons originally composing the board, for which it will be seen the first article provides. Under the rule each party must be the judge of the mode in which successors shall be appointed, and the award is that the rules adopted have continued to the present date.

Indications now point to the fact that labor troubles will be settled in Lynn hereafter by arbitration, and manufacturers sincerely hope for the success of the plan, which prevents strikes, lockouts, etc., and calls for no cessation of work. Stitchers left the factory of Charles W. Porter yesterday on a strike, and were ordered to return to work by the Knights of Labor Executive Board, pending a settlement.

CARPET WEAVERS TO STRIKE.

DEMANDING HIGHER WAGES, WHICH MANUFACTURERS SAY THEY CANNOT PAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2 (*Special*).—The carpet-weaving interests in the city are on the verge of a big strike, and unless measures are speedily taken hundreds of men will suddenly become idle. On Monday the employes of the Bridesburg Manufacturing Company will strike. The trouble there is in consequence of non-payment of wages. The men say that the company owes them for seven weeks' work. The company will not listen to the demands of the men, but says that if they continue working the arrears will be paid, and if they quit they will never be re-employed. The men held a meeting this morning and decided to go out in a body and on Monday. Four hundred hands will lay down their tools. Stockton Bates, president of the works, said: "Our working capital is somewhat tied up just now, though it is altogether safe, and that is the reason for the delay in paying the men their wages. We have $2 in value for every dollar of indebtedness, and the men need have had no anxiety about getting their wages ultimately."

The power-loom carpet weavers have issued copies of a circular adopted at a secret meeting to each of the manufacturers in the city. In it they make known their demand for set wages to rule during the year. The manufacturers have replied to the circular and ask the Union to appoint an arbitration committee and talk the matter over. At present there will be no strike, and just how long this will be averted depends upon the answer of the bosses. This morning a prominent manufacturer said that an advance in the price of raw material had brought about the strike. "When we resumed operation," he said, "the cost of it was exactly 21 per cent higher than it was when we stopped. These are facts which the weavers cannot fail to see when the evidence is laid before them. I anticipate no trouble. The weavers will see just how things stand; they will see that it is impossible consistently to ask an advance of wages and will, I feel certain, be willing to recede from their demand. One thing is certain, the manufacturers cannot afford to make any advance of wages at this time."

STRIKERS CONFESSING A DEFEAT.

ACTION OF THE MINERS' CONVENTION IN THE MONONGAHELA VALLEY.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 2 (*Special*).—The long strike of the coal miners is ended. To-day's convention at West Elizabeth settled it. Thirty-four delegates, representing as many mines, were present. The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by Isaiah Phillipps and was held under the auspices of the Knights of Labor and with closed doors. No reporters were admitted. Reports from the different mines represented were first called for and showed a majority in favor of abandoning the strike. In the debate a majority of the delegates contended that all lawful means to make the strike solid and to bring out all the miners had failed, and that a complete surrender to the operators was preferable to lawlessness. A resolution to this effect was then adopted by a vote of 23 to 11. The last convention of coal miners in this region for some time, at least, then adjourned, and the delegates filed sadly out of the hall. Even had the convention decided otherwise, a majority of the miners of the first pool intended to resume work on Monday at the operators' terms. The miners now fear that many of those who were prominent in the recent riots will be black-listed and will be compelled to go elsewhere for work. Two strikers were refused work at Neil's pit to-day.

THE TEA AND COFFEE TRADE.

The changes in the firm of Carter, Hawley & Co., tea and coffee merchants, which went into effect on January 1, have caused some comment in the trade. The firm's operations have been extensive and it has been carried on for over twenty-five years. A former member of the firm was asked yesterday for the reasons of the changes. He said: "These changes are merely those that might occur at any time in any trade. Oliver S. Carter, who retired from the firm in the spring of 1884 has again entered business, starting a new firm to be known as Carter, Macy & Co. The members of the firm and many of the employes are old associates of Mr. Carter. The former house of Carter, Hawley & Co. has been reorganized by Mr. Hawley, who has taken new partners in with him.

Oliver S. Carter was then seen and asked his opinion regarding the condition of the tea and coffee trade.

"I do not think," he said, "the condition of business looks particularly encouraging."

"Do you think the tea trade has improved during the last twelve months?"

"I do not see that it has changed for the better materially. People are perhaps a trifle more hopeful—that is all."

"Has the business of firms like yours been affected much by the increase in the number of houses doing business and the consequent great competition?"

"I have been in the tea business since 1860 and I consider it as profitable to-day as at any time during that period if one will only give it his attention."

CHANGES IN BUSINESS FIRMS.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW PARTNERS—NOTABLE RETIREMENTS.

Changes in partnerships are more numerous and are pronounced in business and financial circles to be more important this year than ever before. The most noticeable change is the retirement of E. P. Fabbri from the firm of Drexel, Morgan & Co. G. P. Morosini, George J. Gould and Jay Gould, as a special partner, have all retired from the limited partnership firm of W. E. Connor & Co., and under the same firm name and at the same place Washington E. Connor and Extra S. Connor will conduct the business. Kidder, Peabody & Co. become the special agents in New-York and Boston of Baring Brothers & Co., of London, and Thomas Baring becomes a member of the American firm. Oliver S. Carter, late of Carter, Hawley & Co., becomes the head of the firm of Carter, Macy & Co., for the importation of teas, coffees and other East India products. The new firm is composed of Oliver S. Carter, George H. Macy, George S. Clapp and Arthur C. King. Robert F. Austin has retired from the firm of Austin, Nichols & Co., but the business will be continued under the same firm name by his late partners. John R. Waters, a member of the Stock Exchange, and William F. Lawrence, of the Produce Exchange, have formed a general partnership to do a banking and brokerage business. A limited partnership has been formed for the importation and sale of merchandise by O. D. Baldwin and F. M. Argumbau. John Mathews and Charles B. Vaughn, late of the firm of Whitney & Mathews, with Joseph A. Blum, have formed a partnership for the general dry-goods commission business.

Oliver Harriman has retired from the dry-goods firm of Low, Harriman & Co. and under the same firm name the business will be continued by Joseph T. Low, J. Low Harriman, Charles H. Bebee and John L. Salter. H. D. W. Burt becomes a partner in the old firm of Sawyer Manning, now to be known as Sawyer, Burt & Manning. Henry Dale, of the late firm of Meigs, Dale, & Co., will be associated in the dry-goods commission business with John H. Reed and Martin I. Cooley, lately of the firm of Bates, Reed & Cooley. The new firm will be Dale, Reed & Cooley. The business of Bates, Reed & Cooley will be settled by Mr. Reed, who has power to sign in liquidation. The old firm of Kibbe, Chaffee, Shreve & Co. has been dissolved. Under the firm name of Kibbe, Chaffee & Co. four members of the old firm, Henry R. Kibbe, Edward J. Chaffee, Harry B. Kibbe and Alexander Beach, jr., will continue the same business. The fifth member George H. Shreve, with Andrew K. Adams, forms the partnership of Shreve & Adams. The dry-goods firm of Mitchell Brothers becomes Leavitt & Mitchell Brothers, its members being James T. Leavitt, J. F. B. Mitchell, Ernest Mitchell & Francis H. Cabot. Mr. Leavitt comes in from the firm of R. H. Smith, Leavitt & Co., which has dissolved. Nicholas Albert has retired from the firm of Albert, Hanzer & Waldburger, and under the firm name of Charles Hanzer, I. C. Waldburger and Henry Albert will continue the business. Gordon Wendell has been admitted to an interest in the firm of Jacob Wendell & Co. Nagel, Dale & Co., dry goods merchants, have dissolved. William E. Webb becomes a partner in the firm of Dunham, Buckley & Co. Thomas H. Langford becomes associated in partnership with W. S. Barker & Co. Lowell Lincoln and Thomas Motley, jr., of the late firm of Joy, Lincoln & Motley, dissolved and in liquidation, become partners in the cotton firm of Catlin & Co. William H. Eastman, N. Streeter, jr., and J. P. Streeter have formed a copartnership in the dry-goods business under the firm name of Eastman, Streeter & Co. A limited partnership in the drug and importing business is formed by Edward Kemp, A. P. Dowling and George Massey, general partners, and George Kemp, special partner. A brokerage and commission business has been formed by Henry B. Willard, late of the firm of E. A. Willard & Co., and Conrad H. Kay, late of the firm of Lester, Carey & Roy. S. F. Strong and Emil Schilling, members of the Petroleum and Produce Exchanges, have formed a copartnership in the brokerage business. A similar firm has been organized by James D. Canning and H. P. Russell. The financial firm of Martin, Leask & Co., is dissolved. Its successor is George Leask & Co., composed of George Leask, Julian W. Robbins and Henry S. Warner.

The auctioneering firms of Robert R. Haydock & Co. and E. Russel & Co. are dissolved and a new firm known as Haydock & Russell, composed of the senior members of the dissolved firms, is formed. By the retirement of Daniel A. Davis and the entrance of Thomas H. Cullen, the dry-goods firm of Converse, Stanton & Davis becomes Converse, Stanton & Cullen. The death of George G. Spencer has caused the dissolution of the wholesale grocery firm of Spencer, Stout & Co., which now becomes known as Stout, Spencer & Co. It is composed of William M. Stout, Frederick G. Spencer and William V. Stout.

ONE OF WALL STREET'S FIGURES BACK.

EX-SURROGATE HUTCHINGS RETURNS—FREE AND POSITIVE IN HIS VIEWS ON THE MARKET.

On the steamer which brought Peter B. Sweeny back to this city on last Tuesday was "Monsieur" Hutchings, whose name in the passenger list, when translated was recognized as that of Robert C., at one time Surrogate of New-York. But the return of the ex-Surrogate was conducted with little ostentation and Wall Street has not yet wakened up to the fact that it has with it again (for when any one is in America he is supposed to be in some way or another within the limits of Stock Exchange speculations) a gentleman who once gave the impression that he controlled values largely at his sweet-or-otherwise will. It cannot be stated positively that the news caused an ambiguous declaration of discontent, but some brokers in Wall Street, when asked for reminiscences of the returned traveller, asked: "Well, is he dead?" And when informed that no obituary was wanted, appeared indisposed to make many remarks.

The ex-Surrogate was distinguished in his office by the assistance that he is known to have received from the valuable counsel of Roger A. Pryor. Few of the personal friends of the two men will deny that relations existed between them which certainly were of considerable value to one of the two. The previous reputation acquired at the bar by Mr. Hutchings had not been of the character to attract much notice, but the disposition of the effects of Controller Richard B. Connolly did not tell unfavorably on the fortunes of the former. The Parisian trip which Mr. Hutchings has just ended was not his first. It had marked, however, a withdrawal from the activities of Wall Street that received due attention from the gossips at the time. The ex-Surrogate opened many accounts during his Wall Street career, and like a shrewd speculator, he is said to have been able to conduct directly opposite speculations in offices which were generally supposed to be favorable to one particular movement. Many persons were impressed by his personality. He was positive in his statements, confident of his position and free to declare what his intentions were, and they often embraced movements which in their extreme tendency appalled a good many whiteheads of Wall Street. Once having won the confidence of his broker, Mr. Hutchings is said to have been most emphatic in expressing his views in the face of adverse course of prices, but according to the testimony of some he showed a catholicity of mind which enabled him to view questions of value according to the tone pervading particular offices. At the Hoffman House and other up-town hotels he was lavish in the declamation of his views, his intentions and his ability to effect speculation. Not many months ago it was esteemed a good thing to be able to get a "point" on stocks from the ex-Surrogate and some clubmen, through their reliance on the infallibility of human wisdom, are said to have regretted their susceptibility to Mr. Hutchings's enthusiasm. He was always full of facts that he gave out in the hotel lobbies without diffidence, but his operations were handicapped by his determination to push his investments so far as his broker would let him carry them, even when prices stubbornly refused to respond to his facts or respect his margin. Mr. Hutchings lived freely and, when he decided to make Paris his home, he left many circles that regretted their loss of the generous outgivings of his purse in the various ways of social intercourse.

JUSTICE DONOHUE TO PROTECT THE LAWS.

The hearing in the habeas corpus proceedings by which it was sought to obtain the release from the House of Detention of Mrs. Joicey Marian Murray, the young wife of Gerard F. Murray, whom she charged with threatening to shoot her, was concluded before Justice Donohue in Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday. Her counsel, Wilson S. Wolf, said that he understood she had been transferred to the custody of "a private citizen named Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry."

Justice Donohue replied: "I think you are mistaken about that."

Mr. Wolf argued that the magistrate had no authority to compel Mrs. Murray to make a complaint against her husband, and that there really was no charge against him that was valid in the eye of the law. Justice Donohue here interrupted him saying: "I understand that you complain that persons not belonging to this State, who see fit to violate our law and let it at defiance, can do so with impunity because one will not make a complaint against the other. On that point I differ with you." The lawyer repeated that the woman could not be compelled to make a complaint. To this Justice Donohue answered: "There is an instrument called the Constitution and there are our statutes. Our citizens and laws must be protected. In this case the witness was committed to the House of Detention. The people are the complainants. It would be a pretty bad state of society if crimes could be committed and the parties allowed to go unpunished merely because there was no complaint." The Judge said he understood that Mrs. Murray had gone to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and he presumed that she was in the custody of the society. "If," he continued, "she has selected this place I don't think there is any necessity of doing anything. If she does not desire to remain there longer I will place her back in the House of Detention." Mr. Wolf said that as the habeas corpus proceeding was still pending Mrs. Murray should have been brought to court. Justice Donohue reported that as she had gone to the Society of her own volition it was unnecessary