INQUIRY INTO THE STRIKE.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINERS BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Lee Says it is Not a Strike, but a Lockout—An Operator Quoted as Saying that he Could Net Only Pay 6 but 45 Per Cent. Advance—The Coal Barons' Profits.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The investigation into the Reading strike was resumed this morning by the special committee appointed for that purpose. To estop the Reading Company from setting up any claim that it was not engaged in inter-State commerce, and was therefore not within the jurisdiction of the committee, Mr. Anderson read, and had spread upon the record, a suit in which the Reading Company, by its own plea, admitted that it was engaged in inter-State commerce.

Mr. John L. Lee, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Knights of Labor for the Reading system, was the first witness examined. In answer to questions put by Mr. Parker, Mr. Lee said that he did not consider that there was any strike on the Reading Railroad. It was a lockout on the part of the General Superintendent of the road. Five crews, he said, refused to move cars at Port Richmond, and General Superintendent Sweigert discharged them without giving them a hearing. There was an agreement that no men should be discharged except after a fair hearing. When the superintendent refused to reinstate the men, pending a hearing, a general going-out followed. Subsequently a meeting was held in Pottsville, and it was resolved that a settlement should be effected. Witness and others went to Philadelphia, and on Dec. 26 they called on Superintendent Sweigert and told him they were willing to resume work according to the order issued by General Manager McLeod, stating that all employees who did not report for duty on the morning of the 27th would be dismissed from the company's service. Mr. Sweigert said: "The order be damned! Your committee would not come and see us until you knew you were whipped. I have outgeneralled you. Had I the power at my back that you people have, I could go into this fight and win; but the Knights of Labor leaders have no brains. They are damned cowards, and they are afraid to fight." Witness told Mr. Sweigert that they came to prevent the strike from going further, and asked what were his terms. Mr. Sweigert said: "Well, I want the five crews discharged, never to work any more for this company. I further want the discharge of the Master Workman of 6,285 and of Bernard Sharkey." Witness told him the terms were pretty hard, but that it was better for the Knights to support the discharged men than have the strike continue. They then agreed to declare the strike off, and witness went to the Philadelphia *Ledger* and *Press* offices to give notice that the strike was off. There was no written agreement. Mr. Sweigert was asked to put the agreement in writing, but he refused, and wanted to know if they questioned his veracity. The next day Mr. Sweigert failed to live up to his agreement, and discharged the representative men all along the line. The men went out, as there was nothing else to do. Sweigert, when asked if he did not intend to live up to his agreement, said that he had changed his mind. Mr. Lee denied that telegrams sent to men ordering them back to work had been withheld, and he believed the reason was that the railroad company wanted an excuse to refuse employment to certain of the men it had agreed to take back. The result of Sweigert's refusal to carry out his agreement was the cause of the second strike or lockout.

Mr. Lee then went back to September last and traced the origin of the difficulties in the Lehigh region. He was then a representative of the labor men and was trying to fix things in the Lehigh region—endeavored to have Mr. Corbin to exert his influence in behalf of a settlement between the Lehigh operators and the men. Mr. Corbin told him he did not see why there could not be a settlement; that he was paying the 8 per cent. advance, and the Lehigh could afford to pay it too. Mr. Corbin said he, as a business man, wanted to make money, but he wanted to make it out of the public. He would like to pay the men good wages and the company would lose nothing by it, because coal would advance and the public would have to stand the expense.

On cross-examination as to witness's connection with the strike in the Lehigh region, Mr. Lee said that he was then on leave of absence from the Reading Company, and that Mr. Sweigert had offered to pay him for the period of his leave of absence, but witness declined, saying he was drawing $2.50 a day from the laboring men and could not afford to take pay from the railroad. What Mr. Sweigert wanted him to do was not stated, but the superintendent said that he made the offer because witness had done a great deal for the company.

Hugh McGarvey of the Lehigh region testified that about 8,000 persons, or one-half of all those engaged in the mining business in the Lehigh region, were employed by practically three concerns. The strike in that region began in September. The trouble was simply a continuation of the difficulties existing since 1871. The immediate cause of the strike was that, as the workmen claimed, the basis system of wages was too low. The rates paid were 42½ cents per ton for big vein, while the contract called for 45 cents. The advance demanded by the miners was 16 per cent. Miners would hardly average $450 per annum as their earnings. The operators owned the houses around the mines and rented them at a good figure to the miners, getting from $4 to $7.50 a month, like a $400-rattrap. All of the operators, with two exceptions, owned stores. In some instances the men were directly required to purchase their supplies in these stores, but oftener the thing was effected by means peculiar to employers.

Mr. Stone inquired if employment would be refused the miner in case he did not deal with the stores. The witness replied that he did not mean exactly that, but the man who dealt with the company's stores usually had the best opportunity for steady work, and got the best jobs. As to the actual cost of mining coal, he said he knew that some could be laid down as low as 35 cents per ton, and was confident that the companies made over $1 a ton on coal.

John R. Dawson, a miner from Mount Carmel, told how the operators had managed to reduce the wages of miners by gradually increasing the size of the cars, of increasing the work by widening the breast of coal while lowering the pay per yard.

Mr. Stone sought to learn the cost of producing coal, but the witness could not tell. Thus was what the miners wanted this committee to find out. The operators lived in luxury and had their fast horses. Mr. Pardee was worth $47,000,000. Thirty-five years ago he was worth nothing. He had seen Mr. Lewis, an individual operator of the William Penn mine, quoted as saying that he could not only afford to pay the 8 per cent. advance in wages refused by the Reading Company, but 45 per cent. on top of it.

The committee then adjourned, with the understanding that Messrs. Corbin and Whiting will be examined on Monday, if they appear, and that the committee will go to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

TRIED TO PLUCK MR. CARNEGIE.

A Bunco Man's Attempt to Work the Old Game on the Iron King.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 11.—An attempt to bunco Andrew Carnegie in New York recently was related to-day by Detective Share. A few days after the great Murdock $10,000 swindle here, as Mr. Andrew Carnegie was walking down Broadway, New York, he was overtaken by a handsomely dressed man about 40, who had a foreign air and accent. The stranger glibly addressed Mr. Carnegie, and said he supposed he had forgotten him. He said his name was so and so, and asserted that he had been a telegraph operator in the old Third street office in Pittsburgh when it was under the care of John P. Glass and David Courtney, that he, as Mr. Carnegie doubtless remembered, had a great talent for drawing, and that his uncle had sent him to Italy to study. He had been abroad and achieved considerable success, and upon his return had stored some of his paintings in the Western Union building on Broadway. He also said there were one or two small paintings, scenes on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at the Pack Saddle, near Blairsville, where Mr. Carnegie once did good service for the road in clearing up a freight wreck. Incidents of Mr. Scott and Carnegie at the wreck were recalled and remembered by Mr. Carnegie. The picture was his if he would only deign to accept it.

Mr. Carnegie was pressed for time, but he consented to look at the picture, and was chatting with the stranger when one of Inspector Byrnes's Broadway detectives stopped them.

"Mr. Carnegie," said the detective, as he stood squarely in front of the two, "do you know with whom you are walking? This is one of the most expert confidence men in the city of New York."

The stranger vanished, and Mr. Carnegie looked after him. The detective also vanished, leaving the man who had gone around the world alone in his astonishment.

Chess Champions to Meet at Havana.

Mr. Steinitz, the chess champion of the world, sailed yesterday by the steamship Saratoga for Havana, Cuba, where he will be the guest of the Chess Club of that city for one month, being engaged to play with Judge Delmare and Señor Vasquez, the Mexican Consul-Gen. Mackenzie, the winner at the last Frankfort tournament, is already in Havana, and the chess amateurs of that city have made liberal offers in order to get up a series of games and perhaps even a match between the two celebrities.

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS.

President Charles Francis Adams's Views on the Funding Bills.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Charles Francis Adams, President of the Union Pacific Railway Company, was before the House Committee on Pacific Railroads, by invitation of the committee, to explain the company's attitude toward the various funding bills. Mr. Adams said that he had gone with care over the bills prepared by the Commission and Mr. Outhwaite, and had prepared a statement showing how they would have worked if they had been in force during the four years of his Presidency of the Union Pacific. Had it (the Outhwaite bill) been in force the company would have been able to meet all its fixed charges, including the payments to the Government, and it would have had a surplus over and above applicable to other purposes, amounting to $1,500,000, or 2¼ per cent. on the capital stock.

He was free to say that if a bill was passed by Congress, based upon the general line of the Outhwaite or the Commission bill, with such modifications as he should hope to see, and the burden was anywhere within the company's strength to carry, he would do all that he could in the form of recommendation to induce the stockholders to accept it. He would throw whatever weight he could in its favor, and if they refused to accept it he could say that he had done his best, and it only remained for him to "step down and out."

Chairman Outhwaite—What do you think of the probabilities of the stockholders accepting the bill?

Mr. Adams—I think they would accept it.

Mr. Adams then turned his attention to the sinking fund, pointing out as a curious fact how the fund, under the operations of the Thurman act, had dwindled away, while on the contrary the Company's fund had gone on increasing at the rate of ten per cent. a year, compounded. This was solely due, he said, to the branch lines. The Union Pacific would be bankrupt to-day if it had not been for the branch lines. It could not pay its fixed charges but for them.

"We have got to be nursed for the next five years," said Mr. Adams. "It will require very good and prudent management. After that we will be upon our legs. I am tired to death of this raking over of the dead ashes of the past. The question is what we can do, what we are willing to do, and what we will try to do."

Mr. Outhwaite inquired if the company could not, in the event of the passage and acceptance of the bill, issue a new series of four per cent. fifty-year bonds in exchange for the outstanding six per cent. bonds.

Mr. Adams did not think it could.

Mr. Crain remarked that Mr. Huntington had asked for thirty days' time in which to prepare his proposition, and he inquired how much time the witness wanted for that purpose.

Mr. Adams replied that he would submit it within forty-eight hours. His company was always ready, and had been ready for four years.

This concluded Mr. Adams's examination, and Mr. Story, his attorney, gave notice that if the committee intended to take any action upon the Pattison report looking to the forfeiture of the Union Pacific he would ask the committee to hear him upon that subject another day.

The Senate special Pacific Railroad Committee held a preliminary meeting this morning and voted to enter first upon an investigation of the Union Pacific affairs. It decided to begin its hearing on Feb. 25 and to invite the Pacific Railroad Commissioners and Gen. Johnson, Commissioner of Railroads, to appear on that day. It will bring the Commission bills before the Senate on Monday to have them printed for the use of the committee. Mr. Charles Francis Adams was before the committee for a short time by invitation, and said that the wishes of the people he represents were that the questions involving their interests should be treated in a businesslike way and brought to a final settlement.

STEPHEN J. MEANY'S BODY HERE.

To Lie in State at the Press Club and Then to be Taken to Ireland.

The remains of Stephen Joseph Meany arrived in this city from Waterbury, Conn., at 2¼ P. M. yesterday, accompanied by a delegation of thirty gentlemen, citizens of Waterbury, New Haven, Danbury, and Bridgeport. The delegation were met by the committee of the Press Club, Messrs. A. E. Costello, James and J. J. Clancey, appointed to assist in carrying on the arrangements for the transportation of the body to Ennis, county Clare, Ireland. A meeting was immediately held at the Vanderbilt House, Mr. James Reynolds of New Haven acting as President, and Mr. James Harrigan of Waterbury as Secretary.

It was decided that the Press Club committee act in coöperation with the delegation in raising the necessary fund of $2,000 or $3,000, and sending the body to Ireland for interment. What remains of the fund after defraying the expenses of transporting the body will be given to Mrs. Meany, the mother of the dead patriot, who is now living in Ennis, is 92 years of age, and is in reduced circumstances, and probably a portion to his widow, who is living in London with her daughter and several children.

The body will remain in charge of Undertaker Hart, at 842 Third avenue, until the morning of Monday, Feb. 20, when it will be taken to St. Jerome's Church in 138th street, at which the deceased was for many years a regular attendant. A requiem mass will there be celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. Father Hughes. The body will then be brought to the rooms of the Press Club, where it will lie in state during the afternoon. In the evening it will be taken on board the steamer Wyoming of the Guion line, which will sail on the following day. Mr. Martin Scully, representing the Press Club, and the Naugatuck Valley delegation, will accompany the remains to Ireland.

ONE CENT ON A DOLLAR.

Settlement of the $7,500,000 Failure of the Shaw Brothers in 1883.

BOSTON, Feb. 11.—It is reported on the best of authority that the estate of F. Shaw & Brother, who failed in 1883 for several million dollars, has recently been closed, the firm having paid J. B. Moore & Co., bankers, $75,000, with interest, in full settlement of the claims. This case is one which bade as fair to be as interminable as that of "Jarndyce agt. Jarndyce." It was the most notable of the many failures which caused great distress in business circles in New England in the early part of 1883. First, the great Bay State Company, whose works have recently been sold by auction for $210,000, collapsed, with liabilities of $475,000; then Williston, Knights & Co. of western Massachusetts announced their financial embarrassment, and in midsummer came the failure of F. Shaw & Bros., proprietors of the largest tannery in the world. Many houses in the shoe and leather trade sank with the firm, and for a long time business was in a bad shape.

Shaw's liabilities were estimated at about $7,500,000. An offer to compromise was rejected by the creditors, who thought they would get a better percentage by waiting; but time proved that the delay rapidly reduced their chance of receiving anything more than a nominal dividend, for the great works which were worth so much to the firm were of comparatively little value to other manufacturers. A fire destroyed one of the largest tanneries, and in one way or another the immense property dwindled to almost nothing. Lawsuit followed lawsuit, and it must be a relief to everybody concerned to have the case settled, although the creditors get only about 1 per cent. of their claims.

SHE WILL ACCUSE NOBODY.

Dying Mrs. Fay Trying to Save Her Child from Disgrace.

Dr. John Ebeling of 227 Avenue A notified Coroner Eidman yesterday that Mrs. Stella Fay of the new tenement at 481 East Fifteenth street had been injured, probably by being kicked in the stomach, and that she would die. Mrs. Fay lives with her husband and a child. Fay drives a sand cart. Mrs. Fay is in a delicate condition. She is a rather good-looking young woman, and is 23 years old. Mrs. Fay made this statement to Coroner Eidman:

"I was kicked and beaten on Monday night last in my own rooms, but I will not make a statement, for I do not want to get anybody into trouble. I don't want to have my child disgraced when I am gone, and I will say no more."

Coroner Eidman requested Mrs. Fay to send for him, if she concluded to make a fuller statement. At Mrs. Fay's door last evening Mrs. Fay's mother said that no information could be had.

Mrs. Fay told a policeman yesterday morning that she was hurt by falling down stairs. At the Twenty-second street police station the Sergeant at the desk said that Fay would not be arrested unless Coroner Eidman requested his arrest.

She Says Kahn Must Marry Her.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Henrietta String, who has been living with her sister in a dressmaking shop in Sixty-fifth street, New York, told Judge Kersten that Louis Kahn, a dapper little fellow, who was in the court room, would have to marry her or she would send him to jail. Miss String declares that Kahn deceived her under promise of marriage. Believing he would keep his promise she advanced him money and bought a dentists' outfit worth $1,500. He fled from her and took $600 worth of her diamonds. She tracked him to Philadelphia. There she found he had ordered his property shipped to Chicago. Kahn speaks seven languages. He was released on furnishing $700 bail until next Wednesday.

MRS. ROBINSON CONVICTED.

THE JURY FIND HER GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

The Aged Foreman Announced the Verdict with Choking Voice and Eyes Filled with Tears—The Prisoner's Strong Will Gave Way and she Broke Down Completely.

BOSTON, Feb. 11.—There was a painful scene in the East Cambridge court room this morning, when Mrs. S. J. Robinson heard the verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree pronounced by the foreman of the jury. It was an unexpected blow, and the prisoner was completely overcome when she realized its awful significance. She was brought into court at 9 o'clock. She walked to her seat in the dock as though walking in to take a seat in a theatre. Her composure was in marked contrast to the evident nervousness and anxiety of every one else in court. Her son Charley, who has been by her side throughout the trial, did not put in an appearance, and was not seen in or about the Court House during the delivery of the verdict and the affecting scenes which followed it. The jury came in and took their seats four minutes later. There was little in their appearance to indicate the verdict unless it was the dejected appearance of the foreman. He never looked toward the prisoner, but sat with his head lowered and eyes riveted on the floor. Mrs. Robinson looked at the twelve men who held her fate in their hands as one would look at a play in which she took little interest. Her calmness was simply appalling. Mr. Crane went over and held a whispered conversation with her, during which she smiled once or twice. The Judges came in at 9:05. The jury was polled, and Clerk Hurd, in a somewhat choked voice, told the prisoner to stand up. Mrs. Robinson arose as a queen might rise to receive an ambassador. Unflinchingly and almost smilingly she faced the jury. Her head was held erect and her dark blue eyes flashed with a courage that seemed almost unnatural.

"Mr. Foreman, have you agreed upon a verdict?"

"We have," said the venerable foreman in a husky voice.

"Gentlemen, who shall express your verdict?"

"The foreman," replied five or six members of the jury.

Foreman Holyoke stood with bowed head. The tears coursed down his cheeks and dropped on his white beard. His frame was shaken with deep emotion.

"What say you, Mr. Foreman, is the prisoner at the bar guilty or not guilty?"

"Guilty," said he, in a feeble voice.

"Of what?"

"Murder" (the old man hesitated a moment, and the tears almost choked his utterance, then he said) "in the first degree."

When the dread word was spoken, not a muscle of Mrs. Robinson's face moved. There was not a twitch or a tremor. She stood motionless, her eyes fixed upon the jury. Clerk Hurd motioned to her, and she sat down. She sat erect, with her head poised sideways toward the left. A statue could not have shown less feeling. The aged foreman of the jury dropped his head and sobbed audibly. The other jurymen seemed much affected, but gave no audible token of it. A solemn stillness pervaded the court room. Lawyer John B. Goodrich, who had made such a magnificent effort to save Mrs. Robinson's life, walked over to the dock, and spoke kind words of encouragement, but she did not hear him. She sat there as she sat thus, with no outward sign of feeling, for nearly ten minutes. Meanwhile the counsel and Court consulted, and the Court allowed the counsel for the defence until Feb. 25 in which to file exceptions. Judge Field then adjourned the court without date.

During this business Mrs. Robinson did not change her position. When the adjournment was announced her head began to sink slowly toward her bosom. The woman's intrepid will struggled against the overmastering sense of the horror of her situation, and for the sight was enough to unnerve the stoutest heart. Slowly the dreadful truth came home to her, conquered the indomitable courage, and her head sank upon her bosom. Keeper Fiske, his wife and daughter, and the matron of the jail went to the side of the convicted woman. The first word of sympathy that fell from the kindly matron's lips completed the downfall of the prisoner's will. She burst into tears, and almost swooned. The iron railing which encloses the dock had to be removed to get the prisoner out. She was a pitiful wreck of the proud, self-willed. Mr. Fiske and the matron supported her faltering steps, and, partly carrying her, the procession started for the jail. When they reached the hallway, Mrs. Robinson collapsed completely, and had to be placed in a chair. She showed little signs of recovery, and had to be practically carried to her room. Arriving there she was laid upon the bed, and Mrs. Fiske and other lady attendants rendered all the assistance in their power. Mrs. Robinson's clothing was removed and she was placed in bed, where she remained prostrate and insensible for some time. The efforts of the attendants were successful in partially restoring her. Her son Charley, who had not put in an appearance in the court room this morning, arrived at the jail between 10 and 11 o'clock. He had learned of the verdict, and in an appealing tone of voice he inquired if he could not see his mother. The request was granted, and at about 11 o'clock, in company with Mrs. Fiske, Charley was conducted to the room occupied by his mother. Passing the threshold of the room the door was closed, and mother and son were together. The scene of the interview was painful in the extreme. On the bed lay the grief-stricken mother, her nervous system completely shattered by the shock that she had just received. Standing at the bedside was her only son. As soon as she realized his presence she sat up and raised herself on her bed, and in a feeble voice uttered his name. "Mother! mother!" exclaimed the son, and bending over he wound his arms around her neck. Their tears mingled, and the cries of both could be heard in the adjoining rooms and down the corridor. The meeting was as prolonged as the rules would permit, and when he left Mrs. Fiske went with him to the office of the jail. Mrs. Fiske said:

"Charley, you have no one to render you any support. You are practically alone in the world, and must make your own living. Be a good boy and live an honorable life."

With tears coursing down his cheeks he promised and left the room.

It is understood that the jury took four ballots. The first one stood 8 for conviction and 4 for acquittal, and the second was 9 for and 3 against. The third ballot was taken at 1 this morning and was: guilty, 10; not guilty, 2. The jury then went to sleep as best they could on the table and benches. The last vote was taken at 6:15, and was unanimous for conviction.

The supposed victims of Mrs. Robinson's poisoning were Moses, her husband; Lizzie J., her daughter; Willie J., her son; Prince Arthur Freeman, her brother-in-law; Thomas A. Freeman, his son; Mrs. Prince Freeman, her sister; and Oliver Sleeper, who boarded in her house, and is supposed to have been a distant relative. Sleeper's death was the first, Moses Robinson's the second, and Mrs. Freeman's, whose death occurred in February, 1885, the third. Previous to Prince A. Freeman's death, Mrs. Robinson had his life insurance made over to her. In June, 1885, P. A. Freeman died, his infant child having died in the mean time. Thomas A. Freeman, a son of Prince A. Freeman, for whom there was $2,000 in trust, died a short time afterward; then came the death of Lizzie J. Robinson, and then Willie J. Robinson. Just before the latter's death, Mrs. Robinson was arrested on suspicion of having poisoned her children. She got $2,000 on Sleeper's death, $2,000 on Moses Robinson's death, $2,000 on P. A. Freeman's death, and the insurance of Lizzie J. Robinson's life is still unpaid.

Accidents on the Rail.

LE SUEUR, Minn., Feb. 11.—The eastbound freight on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha road went through the bridge one mile west of Blakely this morning. Eight cars were ditched, and men have been working all day clearing the track. The express is delayed thereby at Le Sueur.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 11.—While nearly the whole train was derailed in the accident on the Manitoba Railroad near Clontarf, no one was dangerously injured. Mrs. J. A. Denis was somewhat hurt in the back; Chris Cass, a bridge carpenter, suffered a dislocated arm, and Baggageman McCumby caught a lapful of live coal from the stove. There were several black eyes.

Der Tolle Wenzel at the Thalia.

"Der Tolle Wenzel," a musical comedy, kept a large audience at the Thalia Theatre in laughter last night. It was the first production of the play, and all the lovers of German comedy were present. The leading parts were taken by Carl Friese, Max Lube, and Johanna Schatz.

Too Many Accidents in a Factory.

So many accidents have occurred recently at the works of the Steam Cordage Company in Elizabeth that public feeling has been aroused. The Knights of Labor have taken the matter in hand, and accuse the managers of neglecting to provide for the safety of 750 men and girls employed. They say that eight serious accidents have occurred in as many days. State Labor Inspector Fell has promised to make an investigation.

Swindler Benson's Long-drawn Out Case.

Before United States Commissioner Lyman yesterday the examination of Charles Benson, alias Bourton, who swindled Mexicans by bogus Pati tickets, was continued yesterday. The Mexican Government closed its case, and Benson's counsel began argument for the dismissal of his client. The case will go on.

Labor and Wages.

The New Bedford mill agents yesterday submitted a new schedule of prices to be paid for spinning, which will advance wages about 8 per cent. The new list is acceptable to the help, will go into effect on Monday.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. BYRNE?

His Clothes on the Deck of a Barge and Nobody Knows How They Came There.

When Richard F. Byrne left his home at 449 West Fifty-first street on Friday morning he told his wife that he was going over to Hoboken on business. He was employed as a drummer by Higgins, the soap man, and canvassed in New York and neighboring cities. He did not return that night, which was unusual, and yesterday morning Mrs. Byrne became alarmed. At 8 o'clock her fears were increased by the sight of a policeman knocking at her door. He told her that an overcoat, a Prince Albert coat, a brown Derby hat, and a pair of shoes had been found at Eleventh street and North River by the police, and that in one of the coat pockets was a letter addressed to Richard F. Byrne.

Mrs. Byrne gave a letter to the policeman addressed to a Mr. Quinlan, her nephew, who, she said, would examine the clothes and see whether they belonged to her husband.

At 4 o'clock in the morning the clothes had been found by Watchman Lawless on the barge Harvest Queen. He could not make out how they had come there, and it is still a mystery. The watchman sits at a window in a room in the house at Eleventh street and Twelfth avenue. When he went there Friday night the snow had begun to fall heavily. A strong electric lamp lights up everything in the neighborhood and a lamp hung at the entrance to the barge Harvest Queen. Lawless on Friday night kept his eyes fixed with particular care upon the Harvest Queen, because it was a dark, stormy night, and favorable for the work of river thieves, and because there were bales of hay on the barge which might easily have been set afire by a tramp with a clay pipe or cigar "butt" going on her to sleep. He watched the barge all night, without seeing any sign of humanity about. When he went over to the barge at 4 A. M. he noticed particularly that there were no tracks in the soft, deep snow. But he found the clothes in the centre of the lower deck. Bales of hay were piled all around and one had been disturbed. This was placed near the side rail on the water side of the barge, and looked as though it might have been placed there by a man who stood on it to jump overboard, but the canvas which went round this side of the barge had not, apparently, been disturbed.

The crew of a tug which lay a short distance beyond the Harvest Queen had heard no noise nor seen anybody jump overboard.

Mr. Quinlan, who came to the station in response to Mrs. Byrne's letter, identified the clothes at once as belonging to Mr. Byrne. The latter, he said, was 51 years old, and had two children. He had had no domestic difficulties nor any business troubles, Mr. Quinlan said, and he must have met with foul play. His theory was that Mr. Byrne had come across from Hoboken on the Christopher street ferry at night and had been waylaid and murdered. His valuables had undoubtedly been taken from him, and the coats, hat, and shoes left there to make it appear that it was a case of suicide.

The police did not agree with Mr. Quinlan, because thieves in that neighborhood would never have left clothes that could be pawned or sold. At first they were inclined to believe that Mr. Byrne had left his clothes on the barge to make it appear that he was drowned, and had then disappeared. Mr. Quinlan would not believe that, because, as he said, there was no reason for such an act. He said that Byrne went on a spree about twice a year, and then his actions were erratic. This made the police think that Byrne might have jumped overboard while drunk. His impression was strengthened by a sentence in a letter that Mr. Byrne wrote to Quinlan. It was as follows:

"I only hope that the long-expected has not come."

At the Byrne residence yesterday afternoon Mr. Quinlan looked particularly calm and serene.

"Was there any reason why Mr. Byrne should have taken his life?" he was asked.

"No," he said, smiling, "none at all. He was in receipt of a good income, making at least $50 every week; he had no family trouble, and his business accounts are all right."

"What made him do it, then?"

"I don't think he did."

"What is your explanation of the finding of the clothes?"

"Foul play."

BERTRAND—DELLAC.

A Fine Wedding at St. Vincent de Paul and Much Merriment Afterward.

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, at the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, in East Twenty-third street, Miss Clara Bertrand, daughter of Mr. John Bertrand of 265 Grand street, and Mr. Marcellin F. Dellac of this city were married by the Rev. Father Humbert.

The bride wore a gown of white faille Française with white beads and Alençon lace. The train was full and square and the dress was decorated down the sides with pearls and orange blossoms. The corsage, cut à la Victoria, was filled in with delicate tulle lace, and the long tulle veil was fastened to the hair with diamond ornaments and bunches of orange blossoms. She wore diamond ornaments around the neck and carried a large bouquet of roses and hyacinths.

The bridesmaids, who were Miss Lizzie McGuire, Miss Blanche Ranhoefer, Miss Mathilde Vianest, and Miss Ella McGuire, wore dresses of white satin under pleat d'esprit, with long gloves of lavender color. They carried bouquets of pink roses.

The ushers were Messrs. A. Bertrand, E. Ranhoefer, William B. Price, and G. Rockwood. Mrs. Bertrand, the mother of the bride, wore a handsome gown of black moiré antique trimmed with white moiré antique and black lace, and with the corsage cut V shape. The mother of the groom, Mrs. M. F. Dellac, wore a black velvet dress, with trimmings of silver and lilac, and a Marie Antoinette waist. After the ceremony there was a reception at the residence of the bride, 265 West 24th street, and at 8 o'clock in the evening a wedding dinner at the residence of Mr. Bertrand, 265 Grand street.

Among the guests were Coroner Ferdinand Levy, Mr. and Mrs. McGuire, Mr. and Mrs. Ranhoefer, Miss Ranhoefer, Mr. and Mrs. Vianest, Mr. and Mrs. Gousset and the Misses Gousset, Mr. and Mrs. Bernadat, Mr. and Mrs. Boimont, the Misses Boimont, Mr. and Mrs. Boinoy, Mr. and Mrs. Bigot, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard and Miss Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. Huerstel, Mrs. Sartier, Mr. and Mrs. Salmoor, Mr. and Mrs. Miguet, Mr. and Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Grapanche, Mr. and Mrs. Boucher, Mr. Louis Lafond, Mr. H. Dubois, Mr. Root, Mr. Joseph Weill and Miss Weill, Mr. and Mrs. Dubie, Mr. Sardenois and Miss Sardenois, Mr. and Mrs. Bigney, Mr. Rossignot, Col. Schilling, Mr. Vianny, Mr. and Mrs. Villard, Mr. and Mrs. Rockwood, Mr. A. Huerstel, Miss Bondat, Mr. G. Huerstel, Mr. Frederick, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Root, Mr. and Mrs. Fessot, the Misses Ricault, Mr. Hessom, Mr. L. W. Tanner, Mr. Villa, and Mr. B. Berrington.

Yale Senior Class Committees.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 11.—The last election of the senior class in Yale College resulted in the election of the following committees, whose duty it is to arrange for the festivities of commencement week in June:

Class Day—Edward F. Ayres of New Canaan, Philip D. Bunce of Hartford, Gard Maynard of Marquette, Mich., Philip Pond, and Frank G. Rhodes of New Haven.

Class Supper—Henry W. Boies of Scranton, Dudley Ferguson of Cincinnati, Charles S. McConkey of Harrisburg, and Lucius S. Palmer of Brooklyn.

Class Committee—Arthur White of Brooklyn, Epraim M. Youmans of New York, and Asher M. Wellman of Friendship, N. Y.

Class Ivy—William A. Parshall and Daniel B. Hardenbergh of Port Jervis, and Bernard C. Stiner of Baltimore.

Promenade—Harold V. Ogden of Chicago, Alfred Hand of Scranton, Dudley Ferguson of Cincinnati, Benj. A. Cheney and B. R. Ward of New Haven, Samuel Cross of Westerly, R. I., William Campbell and Arthur Moore of New York, Jesse T. Boar of Pittsburgh, and Edward S. Thomas of Providence.

Mr. Orlando Sidney Isbell was elected permanent class secretary. He is also class orator.

An Offer to Settle the Light-Weight Championship.

BOSTON, Feb. 11.—A wealthy Boston sport has deposited a forfeit of $500, and in the *Globe* to-morrow morning will challenge any 133-pound man living to fight Jimmy Carroll to a finish for $2,500 a side under London prize ring rules and the light-weight championship of the world. This gentleman, who refuses to have his name mentioned, says:

"There is only one way to settle this championship. Jack McAuliffe still has as much right to it as Mike Daly, and there are several others who think they have a claim on the title. Now, there is $500 that says Carroll will meet any one of them, and when he gets beaten he will be satisfied to let that man take his place. If, on the other hand, he wins he will be satisfied to meet another and so on until he has whipped them all or else got beaten himself."

Natural Gas Flaming in Texas.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Feb. 11.—Northern capitalists prospecting here struck gas yesterday at a depth of 380 feet. Great volumes of gas, accompanied by a cloud of sand, rushed from a well with a roar that could be heard a mile away. James Gabriel, a workman, lit his pipe twenty feet from the well, igniting the gas, burning off his whiskers and hair, and throwing him fifteen feet. The flames soared upward sixty feet, burning the limbs of trees thirty feet distant. Two houses thirty-six feet distant had to be torn down to save them. Stones and gravel, earth and water were thrown up upon the flaming well, but the fire could not be extinguished. A barrel of salt was kept emptied into the well. Earth was thrown into the well and cement on top of it. The gas still presses itself through and burns furiously.

VON DER AHE IS HOME.

THE BOSS MANAGER OF THE ST. LOUIS CLUB GETS BACK FROM EUROPE.

He will Remain in New York Several Days to Learn what has Been Done—Keefe Wants to Play in Boston—Welch for Sale.

President Chris Von der Ahe of the St. Louis Base Ball Club arrived home from Europe yesterday. Mr. Von der Ahe has been on a several weeks' visit to the fatherland with his wife. The party went at once to the Grand Central Hotel, and after a short rest Mrs. Von der Ahe took the evening train for home. The "boss" manager, however, will remain in town for several days to get posted on what has been done in base ball since he left home. He says that he has heard but little about the doings in the national game since he went away. He is feeling well and has had a fine time. Manager Mutrie of the New York Club was one of the first base ball men to see Von der Ahe. He wants to play a series with the St. Louis Club this spring. The matter is not yet settled. Von der Ahe says that he would like to play the whole League, but the shortness of the spring exhibition season will prevent his playing many of his most important games. He says that he would like to take the boys across the water next fall, but he would be forced to take enough players to make up two nines. However, he has a whole season to think it over.

BOSTON, Feb. 11.—Tim Keefe, since he returned to his home in Cambridge, has been quite outspoken in announcing a desire to play in Boston next season. He says he wants to be in the same club with Clarkson, who he is very sure will come here. Regarding his own wishes, Tim says: "The same reasons that Clarkson has for wanting to come here hold equally with me. This is my home, too, and for that reason Boston is preferable to New York for me. Then, too, I believe it is well to change about. I have been in New York a long time, first with the Metropolitans and then with the New Yorks, and it would be better all around for me to make a change and come to Boston. New York is all right, but Boston is better. It is natural for me to feel that way, as this is my home. And what is more, I would like to be on a nine with John Clarkson."

"When Jim Mutrie was here some time ago he said he thought you had been tampered with by one of the three gentlemen who own the Boston Club. He says you have been told that if you hang off and make them believe in New York that you will not play there, so as to help Boston buy your release, you can get big money here."

"That is all the result of some one's imagination. In all the time I have been playing ball neither one of the Boston directors has ever spoken to me about playing with Boston. When I was playing with the Troy Club years ago George Wright asked me one day how I would like to play in Boston. That is the only time any one connected with the Boston Club ever mentioned the matter to me. This does not alter the fact that I should like to come to Boston, and I don't see as they need me in New York. They have got Welch, Ed. Crane, Gerhardt, and Thompson. Ed Crane is a great pitcher. Welch hasn't signed yet. When I heard that Mickey had been there, and that when he told them what salary he wanted this year, Mr. Day advised him to hunt up some club that would buy his release. No, I didn't tell him to do any thing. I advised him to wait awhile and see what may turn up."

"Jim Mutrie says the New Yorks are going to win the pennant this year."

"Yes, so are several other clubs, the way they look at it now. I am afraid New York is going to have the fatal weak spot at third again. There seems to be a fatality about that position in our nine. No one can seem to play it for us. Do you know I think the best man we could find for third would be Sutton, and Boston has no especial use for him either. 'Sut' would be a great player for New York. He hasn't forgotten how to field yet, and he can hit the ball, too. And, by the way, there ain't going to be so much batting this year as there was last. Although the new three strikes rule will make it much easier for me, I am very sorry they adopted it. It is a bad move for the good of the game. We will simply have a pitcher's game again. No one wants that. As I look at it, the batsman is going to be at the pitcher's mercy, and that is exactly the opposite to what we want."

BASE BALL NOTES.

The National Base Ball Club of Long Island City has reorganized for the season with the following players: Murphy, p., Welland, c., D. Leitman, 1st b., Lewis, 2d b.; F. Leitman, 3d b.; J. Spotz, s. s.; L. T. Stevenson, c. f.; McGuinness, r. f.; McCafry, l. f. The nine would like to arrange games with out-of-town clubs. R. E. Kane, manager, Blissville, L. I.

ATHLETES IN AN ARMORY.

Sharp Contests at the Games of the 23d Regiment and Spartan Harriers.

In the armory on Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue, last night, the winter games of the Twenty-second Regiment and Spartan Harriers took place.

Forty sprinters ran in the ten first trial heats of the 50-yard dash, a handicap, with the course laid diagonally across the hall. Three second trial heats were necessary, in one of which R. J. Hussey, Nassau A. C., and J. Davies, Jr., Olympic A. C., burst the tape so evenly at six seconds after the pistol cracked that both were allowed to run in the final. The final heat was a splendid dash, and was captured by N. Linieus, Olympic A. C., by one yard, from Hussey of the Nassaus, in 5⅝ seconds.

The half-mile race brought out fourteen starters. W. Thompson, Manhattan A. C., got first in 2 minutes 7⅜ seconds; P. D. Skillman, Manhattan A. C., second.

In the one-mile walk E. D. Lange, Manhattan A. C. champion, made a splendid race and gained round after round of applause by cutting down a lead of his fifteen opponents one after another, but the handicapper had held him safe. J. C. Korth, Pastime A. C., got to the finish first in 7 minutes 51¾ seconds. Herman Hjertsberg, Olympic A. C., came in second.

In the one-mile run, E. Hjertsberg, Olympic A. C., won from the 20-yard mark, but the audience shouted itself hoarse over the splendid race S. Avery Collett of the Pastimes, 50 yards, made with P. D.