BROOKLYN CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

Alleged Conspiracy to Defraud the Revenue.
Before Commissioner Jones.

The United States vs. Charles W. Moyer, L. Leppman and Jacob Schloss.—The examination in this case was resumed yesterday, the defendants being under examination on a charge of conspiring to defraud the government of taxes due, as alleged, on certain tobacco manufactured by them. One of the defendants, Moyer, as appeared in evidence, is a manufacturer of tobacco in Williamsburg, and the defendant Schloss was the Revenue Inspector in Moyer's district, while Leppman was a tobacco dealer in New York. Through this latter party a Mr. Paine, of Albany, purchased in October last 1,160 pounds of tobacco, having on the boxes Moyer's label (manufacturerers of tobacco are required to put their own labels upon their manufactures) and the brand purporting to be that of Schloss, the inspector. It appeared in evidence that Moyer returned but about 700 pounds of the tobacco purchased by Paine, and Schloss returned but the same abount as having been inspected. The testimony showed further that the brand that Schloss was in the habit of using was not the brand which the tobacco was marked that Paine had purchased, and Schloss was accordingly discharged. The further examination of the other two parties was adjourned until the 21st.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.

Liabilities of Telegraph Companies.
Before Judge Gilbert.

Charles Shay vs. The Western Union Telegraph Co.—This was an action to recover damages growing out of an error in the transmission of a message sent through the defendant's line from Great Falls, N. H., by the plaintiff, who is the proprietor of the "Monster Quincuplexal Troupe." The message was addressed to the agent of the Athenæum, a public hall in Brooklyn, to engage the hall for the use of the troupe of monstrous name. The message sent to Great Falls in reply to the application of plaintiff was:—"Can't have the hall." The message received at Great Falls by the plaintiff was:—"Can have the hall." On the strength of this message, plaintiff had a large number of posters printed, which proved of no value, and he suit was commenced to recover the cost of these, some $400. When the testimony for the plaintiff was all in the counsel for the defence moved to dismiss the case on the ground that a person sending a message by defendant's company becomes party to a contract, by which the company is not liable, unless the message is "repeated" and a sum paid by the sender of the message equal to one-half the charge of its first transmission.

The motion was denied.

The evidence was all put in and the case adjourned till to-day for argument.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.

Suit Against the Sheriff.
Before Judge Gilbert.

Thomas Breakspeare vs. Thomas Campbell.—The defendant in this action, as Sheriff of the county, seized certain distillery property in a building corner of Summit and Van Brunt streets, South Brooklyn, to collect the rent of the building in which the distillery was operated, and alleged to be due by one Goodwin, the supposed owner of the property seized. The suit was brought by Thomas Breakspeare on the ground that the property seized belonged to him and not to Goodwin, who simply held it on a lease, and had acted as plaintiff's agent in its purchase. The value of the property in question was about $1,500. The defence set up was that the property belonged to Goodwin, and not to the plaintiff.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Nos. 40, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 100, 100½, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 54 and 46.

BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

ROBBERY.—Mr. S. T. Howard's residence, in Herkimer street, was robbed of $100 worth of property on Wednesday night.

A CONFIDENCE GAME.—A female, described as being about thirty or thirty-five years of age and rather stout, called at the house No. 296 Myrtle avenue yesterday and pretended that she wished to hire some apartments. After she had left it was discovered that she had stolen a valuable silk dress.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT.—Officer Doyle, of the Forty-eighth precinct, arrested Samuel Riley on Wednesday night on a charge of having committed a felonious assault on Samuel P. Griggs, by stabbing him in the left arm. The complainant and accused are carpenters, and got into a quarrel in a new building in which they were at work. The accused was locked up to answer.

WILLIAMSBURG DISPENSARY.—The new Board of Trustees of the above institution met last evening and elected officers for the year. Captain Samuel Groves was elected president, Vice Hicks, who declined a re-election. J. J. Hicks and Gardner S. Harding were elected vice Presidents; John McCann, Secretary; John Broach, Treasurer, and Hiram P. Hardcastle, Apothecary. The latter official has been in the institution since its formation, and has been instrumental in bringing it to its present state of efficiency.

ELECTION IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Charles E. Dower was last night re-elected President of the Board of Representatives of the Eastern District Fire Department; Charles E. Curtis was elected Vice President, Michael J. Lee Secretary, D. D. Winant Treasurer, Barney Woods Fire Warden and P. McGinn Collector. In the contest for Fire Warden Mr. John Courtney received 16 votes and Mr. Woods 41. The assets of the department are $21,829 51, a falling off from last year's exhibit.

A POLITICAL QUARREL.—The members of the Union Republican Association in the Twelfth ward have had some trouble, and a few evenings since one faction got into the meeting room, as alleged, with false keys, and locked out the other faction, including the president of the association. The party who had secured possession of the room formed a new association and passed resolutions striking the names of the president and others from the roll. Yesterday three of the members were taken before Justice Riley on a charge of malicious mischief, in forcing an entrance to the meeting room. They gave their names as P. D. O'Sullivan, F. C. McKean and Christian Vogle. The examination was adjourned.

ALLEGED SEDUCTION.—Mr. John M. Flynn, Counsel for the Superintendents of the Poor, appeared before Justices Voorhies and Eames, at the Fourth District Court, Eastern district, yesterday, to prosecute James Weeks, a young man twenty years of age, a clerk by occupation, residing at No. 19 North Third street, E. D., on a charge of seduction. The complaining witness was Anna Watt, a genteel looking girl of seventeen, who testified that she gave birth to a child of which Weeks was the father, on the 30th ult. It appeared in evidence, that the young man and his alleged victim became acquainted three or four years ago in a Williamburg Sabbath School, and that Miss Watt resided in Newark, N. J., since the acquaintance was made. The Justice discharged Weeks on the ground that Miss Watt was a non-resident.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Much excitement and anxiety were occasioned yesterday among the members of the Fire Department on its becoming generally known that the Chief Engineers of the Western and Eastern District Fire Departments had influenced the Board of Estimates and Disbursements in the long talked of reduction of the number of fire companies. The Board has decided to request the Commissioners to effect the necessary reductions, and thereupon the Board will make a pro rata allowance to each remaining company, and leave a balance sufficient to pay the contingent expenses of the department. The engineers contend that the increase in the number of steamers in Brooklyn admits of such a reduction being made, while the expenses are at present so great as to urge a more economical rate of expenditure, which can only be reached by the adoption of the proposed measures. The subject was broached several months ago, prior to the election for Engineer, but it was not urged, for certain prudential reasons.

BURGLARIES.—The pork packing establishment of George Kelsey, in Classon avenue, was burglariously entered on Tuesday night and robbed of some hams and pork. Yesterday a butcher named Christian Wolf was arrested by officer De Clue, of the Forty-fourth precinct, on suspicion of having committed the burglary. When taken before Justice Riley he was honorably discharged.

Officer Wormell, of the Forty-fourth precinct, discovered burglars at work in the coal office of Sidell & Finn, at the corner of Dekalb avenue and Navy street, about two o'clock yesterday morning. They succeeded in making their escape over some fences in the rear. When the officer discovered them they were about to blow open the safe, having charged it with powder.

The office of Mr. Frederick Hornby, in Hudson avenue, near Tillary street, was feloniously entered on the night of the 12th inst. The thieves attempted to blow open the safe, but failed to accomplish their purpose, and left without taking any property.

Mr. Van Liew's coal office, at the corner of Gold and Johnson streets, was feloniously entered on Wednesday night, when the safe was blown open and robbed of $60. The thieves escaped without detection.

The Salem *Register* says that last week a lady in that city lost about a dozen yards of velvet, which took fire from the rays of the sun passing through a globe in which an ornament was floating in water. But for the timely discovery of the fire the house might have been burned.

NEW JERSEY INTELLIGENCE.

Hudson City.

BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS.—A meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders took place at the Court House yesterday, when the report on the boulevard scheme was presented. The Committee on Consolidation have completed their bill, except in the provision for Water Commissioners and some details of minor importance. A protest was sent in from the Mayor and Common Council of Hoboken against the proposed consolidation, in which they state that they will not submit to any scheme of annexation, at least for the present. A copy of the protest was sent to Mr. Besson, member of Assembly from Hoboken at Trenton, with a request that he will exert all his influence to defeat the measure when it comes before the Legislature.

Bergen City.

A MAN BURIED UNDER A PILE OF BRICKS.—A bricklayer named Daniel Cunningham was pulling down some bricks at a building in Halliday street, on Tuesday morning, when the whole pile tumbled down and buried him out of sight. The workmen hastened to the rescue and it was found that the man was saved from being crushed to death by some boards which fell over him crosswise, forming a bridge which supported the pile over him. Though severely bruised he is now past danger.

Bayonne.

A CHARTER DEMANDED.—A meeting was held on Wednesday night at Carragan's Hall, Bayonne, to take into consideration the proposition for incorporating the township. Mr. Meigs was appointed chairman and Mr. F. J. Smith secretary. The provisions of the bill to be presented to the Legislature were explained, but the measure was opposed by several gentlemen as unnecessary and impracticable at present.

Paterson.

PASSAIC COUNTY COURTS.—The summing up in the Carrick will case was finished yesterday and the matter referred to the Judge for his decision, which will be made known on February 6. The trial of Offner, receiver of stolen silk, is now on.

RUNAWAY ACCIDENT.—Harry Wayward, residing at the "Goffle," was severely, although not dangerously, injured by his team running away on Wednesday night. He was thrown from the wagon, and foolishly holding on to the reins was drawn for nearly a quarter of a mile before he let go.

HORSE THIEVES.—A fine bay mare, valued at $300, was stolen from the premises of Harmon Tice, in Saddle river, on Tuesday night. Measures are being taken by the Bergen county farmers to form a protective union against these horse thieves, and some of the more excitable are strong in favor of organizing a vigilance committee and taking the law in their own hands.

NEW JERSEY WESTERN RAILROAD.—This company has elected C. A. Wortendyke, of Godwinville, President and Treasurer; D. A. Wortendyke, Vice President, and F. A. Miller, Secretary. This proposed road is to run from Paterson to Pompton, connecting with the Erie Railway at Riverside. The route has already been surveyed and the work of construction will, it is promised, be commenced in early spring.

Jamesburg.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday afternoon while a brakeman named Theodore M. Packer was engaged in a stooping posture pressing down the brakes he accidentally fell between the cars and was instantly killed. The unfortunate man resided in Trenton, whither he was conveyed on the same night.

Trenton.

EDITORIAL STATE CONVENTION.—The annual business meeting of the New Jersey State Editorial Association was held in this city yesterday. Only twenty-five members were present, although the association numbers 139. Twelve papers have been discontinued during the past year. The following members were elected officers for the current year:—President, Charles Tomlinson; Vice Presidents, George F. Nixon, Charles Wills, U. M. Osborne, Alvan Webb and Z. K. Pangborn; Secretary, George F. Babcock; Treasurer, James S. Yard; Executive Committee, F. S. Mills, E. Winter, John Hood and J. Vannotie. The meeting was brought to a close at three o'clock, when the association sat down to a sumptuous dinner in the American Hotel.

THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

Both houses met yesterday morning at ten o'clock. No business of interest was transacted in the Senate. In the House Mr. Whalen offered a resolution limiting the amount of stationery to fifty dollars' worth for each member, exclusive of that required for the officers of the House, which was referred to the Committee on Stationery. A concurrent resolution was adopted that when the Legislature adjourn to-day it adjourn to meet on Monday evening at eight o'clock. A quorum is not expected to be present this morning, so that the Legislature virtually stands adjourned till Monday evening, when it will further adjourn to meet in Taylor Hall, at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning, for the inauguration of the Governor elect.

The following Standing Committees were announced in the Senate yesterday:—

Judiciary.—Messrs. Hopper, Nixon and Wolverton.
Finance.—Messrs. Gaskill, Cobb and Brinkerhoff.
Education.—Messrs. Anderson, Bettle and Rice.
Corporation.—Messrs. Robins, Clarke and Edsall.
Municipal Corporations.—Messrs. Taylor, Hayes and Bowne.
Agriculture.—Messrs. Wildrick, Torrey and Anderson.
Elections.—Messrs. Bowne, Warrick and Hopper.
Claims and Pensions.—Messrs. Rice, Plummer and Wildrick.
Militia.—Messrs. Edsall, Gaskill and Adams.
Engrossed Bills.—Messrs. Cobb and Anderson.
Unfinished Business.—Messrs. Brinkerhoff, Bettle and Robins.
Miscellaneous Business.—Messrs. Edsall, Kayes and Taylor.
Joint Committee on Engrossed Bills.—Messrs. Wildrick and Adams.

[The other committees of the Senate have not yet been appointed.]

The following are the standing committees of the House announced yesterday:—

Judiciary—Messrs. Conover, Valentine, Jones, House and Beach.
Corporation—Messrs. Jones, Williamson, Clarke, Lippencott and Beasley.
Municipal Corporation—Messrs. Whelan, Bevans, Winton, Copperthwaite and Shinn.
Ways and Means—Messrs. Probasco, Brown, Purcell, Sheppard and Kennedy.
Election—Messrs. Sharp, Besson, Probasco, Keim and Spear.
Education—Messrs. Smyth, Lanning, Lippincott, Lord and Harding.
Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Maxwell, Hough, Doremus, Peck and Norris.
Militia—Messrs. Whelan, Kunkele, Valentine, Shinn and Statts.
Banks—Messrs. Hunt, Bergen, Brown, Bonsell and Gurney.
Agriculture.—Messrs. Vleit, Cox, Hering, Coles and Wooley.
Claims and Pensions.—Mesars. Lippincott, Peck, Coogan, Spear and Bonsall.
Unfinished Business.—Messrs. Bergen, Van Mater, Hawkins, Van Voorhies and Sheppard.
Incidental Expenses.—Messrs. Sharpe, Bevins, Van Mater, Jarrard and Bonsall.
Miscellaneous Business.—Messrs. Vleit, Hunt, Irwin, Price and House.
Stationery.—Messrs. Herring, Smyth, Irwin, Beasley and Coles.
Joint Committees—Treasurer's Accounts.—Messrs. Clarke, Sharpe, Brown, Jarrard and Mackin.
State Prison.—Messrs. Nelson, Vleit, Besson, Phœnix and Harding.
Lunatic Asylum.—Messrs. Hough, Lanning, Coogan, Beach and Alcott.
Library.—Messrs. Lanning, Probasco, Vliet, Gray and Copperthwaite.
Public Buildings.—Messrs. Williamson, Gurney, Sharp, Peck and Norris.
Printing.—Messrs. Smyth, Cox, Hawkins and Van Mater.
Passed Bills.—Messrs. Lippincott, Coogan, Lair, Hemmingway and Reeves.
Commerce and Navigation.—Messrs. Bergen, Doremus, Sharp, Jarrard and Beasley.
Federal Relations.—Messrs. Valentine, Winton, Besson, Conover and Bonsall.
Soldiers' Home.—Messrs. Whalen, Hunkell, Doremus, Lord and Beach.
Soldiers' Children's Home.—Messrs. Lippincott, Nelson, Doremus, Norris and Van Voorhies.
Reform School.—Messrs. Sharp, Vliet, Cox, Mackin and Coles.

THE MAKE-UP OF THE NEW STATE ADMINISTRATIONS.

[From the Springfield (Ill.) Journal—Republican.]

The Hon. Sharon Tyndale formally retired from the office of Secretary of State yesterday, and was succeeded by the Hon. Edward Rummel. In parting with Mr. Tyndale, we take pleasure in bearing testimony to the promptness, accuracy, ability and uniform courtesy with which during the last four years he has administered the manifold and perplexing duties of the Secretary's office. Thrown in contact, perhaps, with more people having business with the State than any other officer, and being compelled by the nature of his duties to deal in such details and routine as are always more or less embarrassing, and yet calling for prompt action, he has ever exhibited a uniform courtesy and an equal willingness to accommodate all who have had dealings with his office. He has been a faithful and excellent officer, and in retiring therefrom he enjoys the personal esteem of all our citizens.

His successor, Mr. Rummel, goes into office under the most promising auspices, and we are sure he will make, in every respect, an able, efficient and most acceptable Secretary of State. We have already announced that he has secured the services of Colonel Harlow, heretofore private secretary to Governor Oglesby, as his assistant—a selection which will be heartily approved and endorsed by the people of the State.

SWILL MILK.

The Business in Brooklyn—The Animals that Produce the Article—Where they are Kept—Their Condition—Orange County Milk from the E. D.—Adulteration.

The old adage which states that "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise" may very easily and with equal truthfulness be transposed so as to read with altogether opposite meaning. With regard to matters of food and drink the remaining in ignorance as to their quality, however blissful such a state may be, can never make it foolish to be wise as to their composition or the good or evil effects upon the system which may be produced by the different constituents which are contained in them. The reason that so many articles which are really injurious to the human system are, nevertheless, daily sold and used for the diet of man is easily traced to this one cause of ignorance. It is so much easier to take for granted that an article is a good one than to take the trouble to test its quality and so determine its real merit, and, as a consequence, the guarantee of a tradesman is considered sufficient by purchasers to assure them that what they are buying is, indeed, what it is represented to be—

ADULTERATION.

The article of milk is one which is used by everybody, and that, too, very often in the preparation of food for those who above all others require wholesome sustenance, viz., invalids and young children, and yet there is scarcely any article of food with regard to which so little care is shown in the selection. Orange county and Westchester county milk have for a long time been considered as the best sold in New York and Brooklyn, and as a consequence the fashion has now become general among housekeepers to order their milkmen to furnish them with lacteal fluid from one of these two counties. Whether they really are served with it or not we shall try to to show in the course of this article. That milk is easily adulterated every one will be ready to admit, but the extent to which this adulteration is carried on is not generally known. The fact is the best cow a milkman has is almost invariably an iron-tailed one—the pump—and from it as much milk is daily gained as from an entire dairy. To repeat the various stories about the use of water in preparing milk for the market would take up more space than we can give; to tell of the verdant countryman, who when shown a frog, vigorously disporting himself in the just served milk, innocently thinking only of the water, exclaimed "Sure isn't it its natural element," or of the conscientious dispenser of the lacteal fluid who never watered his milk but was caught one day putting milk to his water, or further of the nervous milk vender who believed pure milk was too strong for the stomach human, would only be to commence a series of milk and watery stories that might be carried on *ad infinitum*. The fact is, the adulteration in this way is not by any means the worst part of the milk business. If the milk be pure the addition of *aqua pura* does not make it deleterious, and if the milk is impure the use of the pump has a salutary effect in lessening the impurity. And this leads us to the worst feature as to the milk served in these two cities, which is that large quantities of it are produced by diseased cows, and are consequently totally unfit for human food. In the city of Brooklyn are several large cow stables, where hundreds of these milk producing animals are continually kept tied up in the closest proximity, nothing being given them in the way of food but the swill which is made in distilleries. The produce of this large number of animals is sold in both cities, and generally without the buyer knowing that he is purchasing swill milk. Some description of the condition of these places should be interesting to the public we will therefore endeavor to describe the largest of these

COW STABLES.

The largest establishment in Kings county which can be classed under this head is situated between North Fourth and Fifth streets and on First street, Williamsburg.

Some time before reaching the stable its nearness was made painfully evident by the unpleasant odors with which the nasal organ was greeted, and the visitor was in this way prepared to find a large number of cattle herded together, but by no means prepared for such a sight as met his eyes during actual inspection. Arrived at the spot the block between Fourth and Fifth streets was found to be occupied by four buildings, with outhouses, used in preparing the swill for the cattle which are imprisoned within them. Opening the door of these prison houses some six hundred oxen and three hundred milch cows were discovered confined in stalls varying from about thirty inches to sixty inches in width, as they were used for one or for two animals. On opening the doors it was found that no windows supplied light or ventilation of any kind, the only air being admitted through the doors, which were almost generally closed. The scene was one of filthy wretchedness which beggars description. The poor animals all appeared cramped up, some being actually tied up as if to prevent them from moving, even to the limited extent which the space they occupied would permit. A noxious and almost suffocating vapor filled the buildings, the perspiration of the poor dumb brutes escaping from their bedaubed skins in the shape of visible steam. The floors were covered with excrement, and here and there might be seen some poor creature wallowing in the filth. The buildings can scarcely be more than eight feet high, and in these the cows from which New York and Brooklyn are supplied with milk have stood until in some cases their tails have rotted away. In the troughs before them were large quantities of the only food ever supplied to them, which, as said before, consists of distiller's swill, a watery substance having as a sediment a sort of discolored meal. In and out among these distressed and disgusting looking animals were circulating the "milkmaids" of the establishment; and even these failed to add any redeeming feature to the disgusting scene; for instead of being such domestic creatures as are sung of in "Five o'clock in the morning" and kindred songs, they were dirt-be-smeared, high-booted, red-shirted, unshaved, unwashed men, who seemed but little removed in wretchedness from the unfortunate animals among which they worked.

The whole picture was in every sense a disgusting one, and the only wonder was that under such circumstances the milk yielded should be white at all. Amid the surrounding filth one could but expect the nutritious fluid to partake in color of its nauseous surroundings.

Leaving these buildings and wandering towards the river, if possible to get a breath of fresh air, to cleanse the nostrils of the sickening stench, the visitor finds a gang of men busily engaged in removing the swill from canal boats lying at the dock. Some idea of the immensity of this establishment may be gathered from the fact that four large canal boats filled with swill from New York distilleries are daily emptied into the tanks provided to hold the supplies, and that sometimes a fifth is needed in the advanced hours of the night.

Leaving the pestilential spot by the plank road which leads out opposite North Fifth street, the mysteries of the milk trade are opened to the uninitiated. Standing about, waiting until they shall receive their daily supply of cans, are carts of all shapes and sizes, bearing as signs, in large letters, the popular words "Pure Orange County Milk," "Hempstead Milk," Ridgewood Grass Fed," "Long Island Mill," and other equally fictitious inscriptions, but nowhere can be seen the honest words "Sweet Milk." Near the entrance, too, stands a large pump—the only redeeming feature in the whole premises—the only article which speaks of a purity drawn from depths below the accumulated filth which runs rampant on every side. With the scenta still hanging round our olfactory nerves we leave the vile establishment, wondering how it is that, after so many complaints have been made to them, the Board of Health has as yet taken no step to prevent the sale of the milk drawn from such cows and to destroy an institution which is a pest to the whole neighborhood. The place is run by a Jew, who lets out stalls and swill.

ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT.

Near Flushing avenue, running through from Franklin avenue to Skillman street, is located a similar though somewhat smaller cow stable. The buildings which constitute this establishment are tumble down frame shanties, with interiors not unlike the buildings already described. Here some 100 or 150 cows are kept imprisoned in narrow stalls and are fed with swill supplied by Williamsburg distilleries. The same filthy sight may be seen here as at North Fourth street. The floors covered with excrement, the cows covered with filth, the men dirty and begrimed, and a sickening stench pervading the whole place. The pump exists here also, and does good service. One old milkman stated that a third part of water was not thought too much to be used by milk servers, while store milk was often "half and half." "Where ignorance," &c., will not do, no housekeeper should be ignorant as to where the milk she purchases really comes from.

MINOR ESTABLISHMENTS.

In addition to these two, which may fairly be considered the largest establishments in Brooklyn, there are some scores of smaller ones, where the cows are fed with swill.

In Monroe street, near Lewis, is a frame shanty some twenty-five feet wide and sixty feet long, where thirty cows are kept. This place is a nuisance to the neighborhood, as the swill and excrement drain out into the street.

On Madison street, near Lewis, is a similar frame building, containing about the same number of cows huddled together in the same manner.

Another swill milk establishment is located between Lewis and Stuyvesant streets. It is a frame shanty erected in some vacant lots, and contains about thirty-five cows.

On Gates avenue, between Lewis and Stuyvesant streets, running through into Quincy street, and near the above mentioned, is another prison house for about forty beasts. This place is in a filthy condition, as also are the unfortunate cows, they having scarcely room enough to lie down. On the lower side of the avenue, nearer Lewis street, is yet another of these prisons, accommodating (?) twenty-five cows.

In addition to these there are swill stables for cows on Van Buren street, between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues; on Gates avenue, near De Kalb; on Bedford avenue, near Fulton—a very nasty place; on Atlantic avenue, near Schenectady avenue; on Maicy avenue, between Myrtle and Flushing avenues—an extensive prison house; on Flushing avenue, near Throop avenue, and in several places smaller establishments, providing accommodations for from five to a dozen head of milk-producing animals.

As the Board of Health has determined to investigate this matter of diseased milk these facts will perhaps be interesting to them. We commend them to their careful study.

COCK FIGHTING.

New York vs. New Jersey—Eleven Battles $40 a Side and $300 the Main—Rare Pluck—New York Victorious.

Again the recognized breeders of game fowls in New York and New Jersey have come together in a regularly agreed upon battle of their birds, the object of which was to test their relative superiority of adroitness, their respective staying qualities, their "better blood"—in fact, which breed of chickens could whip the other according to the rules set down for such contests.

The fight took place on Wednesday night, at the "old place," and was arranged for forty dollars a battle and $300 the odd fight. The crowd to witness the encounters was very large, and the old pit—the scene of many extraordinary jubilees of this nature—fairly groaned beneath the weight of humanity, who became excited beyond degree and good naturedly bet their money on the grand result.

THE BIRDS.

The New York chickens were mostly of Irish strains, with an occasional cross of Connecticut birds, known as the "Purdy Lines," who have remained unadulterated for the past fifteen years.

The New Jersey fowls were to an extent the extraction of an old "Tartar" cock—a black red—who suffered his descendants to "walk the yards" about Harrisburg, Pa., for many years unmolested.

The weights agreed upon were from four pounds four ounces to five pounds four ounces, and that fifteen birds should be shown, to fight all that fell in. Eleven couples were matched, and no better fighting has been seen for many years.

THE FIGHTING.

It was fully half-past ten o'clock, the hour when the major portion of the community are in bed, when the fighting commenced.

First Fight.—The struggle began with the light weights, two four pound four ounce birds, and New York was the favorite, for the first battle and also for the main, at $100 to $60. The Jersey boys showed a black red with blue hackle, well made and seemingly in good condition. New York presented a red pyle. Before the birds were put in the pit one of their handlers cautioned the other party by shouting, "If any man flies heels tonight he loses the fight." Both worked in earnest. New York jumped and sparred well, and at the outset did a great deal of cutting, so that at times ten to three was offered on him and refused. But soon Jersey revived and cut the pyle handsomely in the throat, which demoralized him so frightfully that after nine minutes he ran away, not only defeated but disgraced. The betting fraternity, or rather that portion of it who thought they had the "points" from the first to the last battle, quit on this, evidently disgusted.

Second Fight.—The heavy weights, two five pound four ounce birds. New York showed a spangle with blue red wings, which had won ten battles during last season. Jersey had a brown red. The former sparred well, but he had a foe hard to fight against. There was cut for cut, until each had slashed the other almost to pieces; and, after apparently dying, they revived and began again to fight. New York held on better than his opponent, and at last so mangled Jersey's throat and breast that he was compelled to quit. Although defeated the brown red had in his dying moments many friends, who felt that their lost money was not thrown away on such a game chicken. It was a fight exhibiting extraordinary powers of endurance considering the punishment received. Time, thirteen minutes.

Third Fight.—The excitement was now intense, but New York had the call ten to seven. Before the birds were introduced hundreds were invested at this rate. The favorite showed a pyle with white hackle; a handsome fowl. Jersey presented a spangle. Each weighed five pounds. The latter proved "low headed," which caused his defeat. Yet he received frightful gashes on the throat, breast and head before he succumbed to his valiant opponent. The betting before Jersey died was ten dollars to fifty cents against him, so badly was he cut. His game qualities were of no avail. Time, five minutes.

Fourth Fight.—A hundred on New York for the main, and the betters were very clamorous. The light weights, namely, two four four chickens again. York showed a black red and Jersey a black gray, larger, apparently, by half a pound than his opponent. It was uphill work for York, but at the first buckle he demonstrated his sparring and game qualities, as he hit Jersey repeatedly and retreated in time to save himself. The gray was badly punished, and at last died with his face to the enemy. Time, thirteen minutes and ten seconds.

Fifth Fight.—It was now three in favor of New York to New Jersey's one, and as a consequence there was much excitement and betting. Each weighed four pounds twelve ounces. Twenty to twelve was offered on the former, with many takers, the previous losers thinking that such propositions were capital opportunities of hedging. New York handed in a pure black red, while New Jersey showed a similar bird with white hackle. It was cut for cut at the outset, but New York was badly wounded at the first buckle. He had his throat cut; but even in his gurgling, dying moments he fought with desperation, wounding and almost killing his opponent. His strength, however, failed him and he was at last forced to give in, although the old sports in this amusement concurred in the opinion that he was a true fighter. Time, eighteen minutes and seven seconds.

Sixth Fight.—New Jersey was more sanguine. Her partisans felt hopeful that she would win the main, and the bird they handed in had the appearance of being able to whip any fowl of his weight. Each were black reds and weighed four pounds eight ounces. The betting men seemed almost furious, and one known adventurer, whose face is familiar upon every trotting park in this country, invested on New York some $300. For him it was exciting, and his mania for investment proved contagious, until, perhaps, there were some $1,500 upon this one contest. It was soon over; but it is difficult to recall a more game fight. New York was badly hurt at the first buckle, but his condition told in his favor, and, after resting, he cut his opponent almost into pieces. They were raspers indeed. At times they would meet in the air, and it would be throat for throat. Down they would fall, and up again and at it in a manner that made the cry ring out from the pit that "the birds were good stock and hard to beat." At last New York sent out a blow that caught his opponent in the neck, and it was such a desperate thrust that Jersey laid down in his agony and expired. Time, four minutes and fifty seconds.

Seventh Fight.—Weights, New York, four pounds, fourteen ounces; New Jersey, four pounds, thirteen ounces. The former was a black red and the latter a pure white, handsome and hardy looking. The Jerseymen seemed suddenly infused with confidence that the white would be the bird upon whom they could invest with safety and get "square." And he was a fighter. He had the best of the struggle from the outset, cutting and maiming his antagonist in such a manner that the cry went forth, "New York's going to run." If he had the throng would not have blamed him, for it certainly was a very "hot place." Yet he did not lack stamina but tried to give Jersey as good as was sent, but he seemed to be incapable of inflicting punishment. Here his handler's experience and cunning came in play and, in his judgment, the bird was a game one, as every ingenious device known in the cockpit was resorted to to aid the chicken in "saving his powder." And he did it, as when each was frightfully cut in every portion of the body New York suddenly jumped from his stooping posture and dealt the apparently victorious white a blow in the head that killed him instantly. It was a serious thrust for the Jersey boys, but they handed over the money without murmuring. Time, seventeen minutes forty-three seconds. The dead bird was carried out quite tenderly by his owner, who did not seem to regret his death under the circumstances.

Eighth Fight.—This might decide the main, as the New York boys had won five battles to New Jersey's two. The betting was thirty to twenty on the former. Their weights were:—New York, five-four; and New Jersey, five-three. Both were black reds. The hope that New York had of their bird winning the main was ill founded, as after a very abortive attempt to fight he received several thrusts that sent him spinning about the pit and eventually culminated in a trot that told of his cowardly blood. He was taken up by his handler, not much hurt, but badly whipped. Time, thirty-eight minutes. The New York members of the dense throng were disgusted at this result.

Ninth Fight.—Weights New York, four-eight; New Jersey, four-seven. The friends of the former were now bent on investing their every cent, and probably bets to the amount of $1,000 were offered and taken at the odds of ten to seven. New York showed a black red and New Jersey a brassback. The former was a true fighter and set to work in such a style that after he had received many dreadful blows he killed the brassback in fifteen minutes. The fighting was excellent, and those that lost their money paid it without a regret. This gave the main to the New York birds.

Tenth Fight.—Considerable of the excitement had now been allayed, as the main had been decided, yet the crowd remained, and when it is understood that the hour of four o'clock, Thursday morning, had been reached the outside world may imagine the attraction was of a superior nature to keep them further from their rest. Weights, New York, five pounds one ounce; New Jersey, five pounds two ounces. The former was a red pyle and the latter a blue-red. When brought to the scratch Jersey had the call in betting. They fought finely, ending after great mutual punishment in New York killing New Jersey in three minutes.

Eleventh Fight.—This was the last fight, and as the birds were brought into the pit daylight streamed through the skylight of the retired place. Weights—New York, four-eleven; New Jersey an ounce heavier. The former was a blue red with gray hackle and a bouncing bird. His opponent was a pyle, pretty and with more powder. The York boys were sanguine that they won'd win the fight, but were badly mistaken, as Jersey killed their favorite in gallant style in four minutes and twenty-one seconds.

RECAPITULATION.

Battles.	Won by.	Time. M.	Time. S.
1	New Jersey	9	—
2	New York	13	—
3	New York	5	—
4	New York	13	10
5	New Jersey	18	7
6	New York	4	50
7	New York	17	43
8	New Jersey	33	—
9	New York	15	—
10	New York	3	—
11	New Jersey	4	21

Number of battles won by New York 7
Number of battles won by New Jersey 4

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

A Block of Buildings Destroyed by Fire in Philadelphia—Heavy Loss in Jewelry and Other Property—Narrow Escape of Seven Clerks—Two Lives Probably Lost—Particulars of the Calamity—Total Value of the Property Burned and the Insurance.

[From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of yesterday.]

The most serious conflagration known in Philadelphia for a long time occurred this morning, and at the hour of writing this, though the spread of the ruin is checked, the firemen are still at work endeavoring to extinguish the flames.

The block of three marble stores at the southwest corner of Ninth and Chestnut streets, running through to Sansom street, was the handsomest of its kind in the city, and among the costliest. The corner store was occupied by Messrs. Howell & Brothers, manufacturers and dealers in paper hangings. The second, or middle one, was occupied by James E. Caldwell & Co., jewellers. The third one was occupied by Messrs. J. F. & E. B. Orne, dealers in carpets. The Chestnut street fronts were of pure white marble, and of beautiful architecture. The Ninth street and Sansom street fronts were of pressed brick, with trimmings of white marble and granite. The stores were erected about eight years ago, by the estate of Edmund Burd, on the site of the former mansion of the Burd family. Howell & Bro. and the Messrs. Orne have occupied these stores ever since. The middle store, formerly occupied by J. M. Harfeigh, was leased by Messrs. J. E. Caldwell & Co. in 1867, and altered to suit their purposes. They moved into it a little less than a year ago, having opened there on the 2d of March, 1868.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

A little before one o'clock this morning fire was discovered coming from the rear of Caldwell's store, on Sansom street, and it is said that an explosion was heard about the same time. In an amazingly short time the flames spread through the interior of the beautiful establishment, invading the art gallery in the second story and filling all the space with dense volumes of smoke.

Six men, clerks of the store, slept in it. These were Frederick A. Davis, cashier; C. Gedney King, James F. Andrews, James F. Polk, Edward Hagan and Charles Hardy. Two of these, it is feared, perished, and the rest are more or less injured. In another paragraph there will be information concerning all.

SPREAD OF THE FIRE.

The firemen were early on the ground, but there was difficulty in getting water into the interior. The wind was blowing from the southwest, and Howell's store was soon on fire, while volumes of smoke and quantities of burning timber was carried over to the Continental Hotel Girard House and other establishments on Chestnut street, creating great consternation. Orne's carpet store was also soon ignited, and in a couple of hours all three of the large establishments appeared to be doomed.

SCENES IN THE GREAT HOTELS.

The consternation in the Continental and Girard became general, all the boarders, servants and others being aroused and prepared for a hasty departure. Mme. Parepa-Rosa, who had rooms on Ninth street in the Continental, and the other members of her troupe, removed to other quarters, and boarders and servants with trunks and bundles were ready to leave also. Fortunately there was no real occasion for this, as the fire has been kept within the limits of the Burd block of stores.

The heat of the blazing interior soon told upon the beautiful white marble front of Caldwell's store, and the cornice and upper stories cracked, crumbled and fell in with heavy crashes. The fronts of the others are not so much hurt, and the outer walls on Ninth and Sansom streets and to the westward, which were very thick and solid, appear to be as sound as ever.

CALDWELL'S STORE.

The store of J. E. Caldwell & Co. is completely destroyed. The value of their stock is estimated at about $350,000. Of this about one-half—consisting of diamonds, watches, &c.—was deposited every evening in fireproof safes, and it is hoped that these will all be found in good order, or at least not materially damaged.

THE LOSSES AND INSURANCES.

The building No. 902 (occupied by Caldwell & Co.) was owned by Wm. C. Houston. It cost, when built, $58,000. The insurance upon it, as furnished by M. D. Evans, insurance agent, No. 431 Walnut street, amounts to $50,000.

Messrs. Caldwell & Co. had four large safes in their establishment. Two of these safes were in the front part of the store, and contained all the gold watches and diamonds. The safes were all found in good condition this morning. The value of the stock of the firm which was outside of the safes is estimated at $250,000, on which there is an insurance of $136,000.

The corner store was owned by Mr. George Howell. It cost $83,000 and was insured for $40,000. Messrs. Howell