The Dispatch.

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 8, 1846.

Vol. 45, No. 325.—Entered at Pittsburg Postoffice, November 14, 1887, as second-class matter.

Business Office—Corner Smithfield and Diamond Streets.

News Rooms and Publishing House—75, 77 and 79 Diamond Street.

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THE DISPATCH is regularly on sale at Brentano's, 5 Union Square, New York, and 17 Ave. de l'Opera, Paris, France, where anyone who has been disappointed at a hotel news stand can obtain it.

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POSTAGE FREE IN THE UNITED STATES.

DAILY DISPATCH, One Year	$8 00
DAILY DISPATCH, Per Quarter	2 00
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WEEKLY DISPATCH, One Year	1 25

THE DAILY DISPATCH is delivered by carriers at 15 cents per week, or including Sunday edition, at 20 cents per week.

PITTSBURG, THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1891.

THE CITY KNOCKED OUT AGAIN.

To say that the latest Supreme Court decision declaring Pittsburg's street law unconstitutional and void is a startling surprise would hardly be correct; for lawyer and layman alike have been lately educated up to a tolerable knowledge of that infinite variety of our Supreme Court decisions which apparently age cannot wither nor precedents check. The case of the city is nevertheless peculiarly unfortunate. In attempting to improve the streets, to make them passable for traffic and comfortable for residence, it has been floored by the Supreme Court with the flail of the Constitution at every turn. The interesting question which now arises is whether legal talent may be found to draw an act of the Legislature on street improvements through which the learned justices cannot drive a coach and four, with rhetorical ease and grace. Three separate statutes, beginning with the famous Penn avenue act and ending with the one now declared invalid, have failed in their purpose. The curious point about the last law is that it was submitted to several leading attorneys and even to some judges before its enactment, and had their approval as meeting constitutional requirements. Even a Judge of the Supreme Court is said to have assisted at its accouchement.

What the Court says, however, must be taken for right. The conclusion that property owners are protected against interference by special legislation with the ordinary processes of law which they might invoke to save themselves from unjust assessment seems reasonable enough; though the hypothetical case which the Court elaborates of frauds being possible under the act by getting up street improvements on forged petitions and perjured testimony, and the whole thing—including, we suppose, the improvement itself—going on without any property owners on the street, excepting the criminal promotor, knowing of it, surpasses not only, we venture to believe, any actual experience but the most extravagant dreams of the fraudulently inclined. However, there are many correct decisions which commend themselves to those even who are unable to follow their reasons given for them. One of the difficulties in appreciating the present declaration against laws which are supposed to be special is that the Supreme Court itself seemed to open the door to them when it affirmed the constitutionality of legislating especially for cities of the "first," "second" or "third class," though the same thing could not be done if the cities were designated simply by name. It appears to have been the affirmance of this device by the court which has led the Legislature into those excesses of power which the Court has ever since been kept more or less busy trying to correct.

The local men of the law must have time to get their brains in fresh working order, we suppose, before the actual effect of this decision will be fully apprehended. In what shape it leaves the partially finished and unpaid-for streets is a fine problem. For the present it looks as though the general treasury may have to foot the bill; but this is not absolutely sure since a later act, that of 1889, corrected some of the points which are declared unconstitutional in the act of 1887. Again, the bulk of the improvement under the act of '87 has already been paid for by the abutters who have mostly been perfectly satisfied to defray the cost of the original improvement of their property. Another source of consolation is that the Legislature is in session; and if anyone is able to prepare an act on street improvement which can hold water it can be presented and passed before spring, so that the city need not, as heretofore, stay in the mud for years at a stretch, because of having no law for opening, grading or paving new streets.

CIVIL INDIAN AGENTS DISMISSED.

There is encouragement in the advices from Washington that President Harrison has acted upon General Miles' suggestion and appointed army officers to take charge of the Indian agencies. This will not remove the injuries done in the past by unscrupulous Indian agents, but it may enable Miles to secure the surrender of the savages without further warfare. Had this remedy been applied as a preventative many lives would have been spared and the Government would not have suffered the disgrace it has. It is not by any means certain, yet, that the Indians can be induced to surrender peaceably, but the cessation of active hostilities and free intercourse established between the hostiles and the military gives room for strong hopes.

THE IDIOCY OF HOARDING.

The banking house of Henry Clews & Co. issues a circular on one feature of the financial situation, which is referred to in the following incisive manner: "With the rapid increase of population in this country there are unmistakable signs also that a large number of this great mass of people are idiots. An evidence of this is the hoarding of money during the last few months. No sane man or woman certainly can take a retrospective view of this country and be guilty of the narrow-mindedness and meanness which hoarding implies."

THE DISPATCH has already expressed its opinion as to the foolishness of hoarding, so that it will not be understood as supporting that practice when pointing out in reply to such a radical deliverance from Wall street, that there are other idiocies which precede hoarding. If there had been no stock manipulations, which afforded occular demonstration to stockholders that they held their properties subject to the raids of the money kings, or no wrecking of banks by financial adventurers to disturb public confidence, there would have been no hoarding.

The Clews circular tries to find other causes than this by attributing the hoarding of gold to the distrust of the people in silver legislation. This THE DISPATCH has already pointed out to be an unfounded view, because there is no distrust of Government securities which if any unfavorable effect results from such legislation, will be the first to suffer. Beyond this, if silver legislation is expected to send gold to a premium, all other property will rise with it, and the hoarding is needless. The man who invests in houses, or merchandise, will gain just as much by the rise as the one who stacks away gold without half the danger of loss.

With a finishing touch given to this view by attributing the hoarding to those bloated capitalists the United States pensioners, it is necessary to say that while Messrs. Clews & Co. are entirely right in criticising the hoarders, they might look nearer at home for very salient illustrations of the causes which produce it.

ENFORCEMENT BEFORE AMENDMENT.

The agitation in favor of a new constitutional convention has taken the form of a bill providing for a vote on that point at the November election introduced yesterday by Senator Robinson. It has chiefly made itself apparent in the columns of journals whose independence and sincerity is beyond question, and whose arguments deserve to be judged on their merits. Still there are many reasons why the necessity for such a convention is still open to debate, and some very solid considerations on the other side.

The movement for a convention took its rise from the supposed necessity in order to establish ballot reform, of repealing the ballot numbering clause of the Constitution in the interest of the secrecy of the ballot. But the bill which the Ballot Reform Association has framed and sent into the Legislature affords a practicable demonstration that this secrecy can be practically maintained without destroying the safeguard against the ballot box substitution and stuffing which the present provision affords. Of course election officers might violate the provision requiring the lists to be sealed before the vote is counted; but they could do the same with the provisions of the Australian law, pure and simple; and detection and punishment is hardly more likely in one case than in the other. We do not think that the cause of ballot reform makes a constitutional convention a necessity.

The Philadelphia *Record* suggests other matters on which it is desirable to have the action of a constitutional convention, such as an educational qualification for suffrage, the requirement of a personal registration, and the amendment of the provision that "no elector shall be deprived of the privilege of voting by reason of his not being registered." The first matter is one of such importance that it can only be properly considered by itself.

THE DISPATCH has always looked with favor on the idea of an educational test; but it recognizes clearly that the question of limiting the suffrage can only be properly discussed or fully decided when mad: a single issue, and voted for as a single amendment to the Constitution. The other two changes are presented by the *Record* as a cure for the vice of padding the election lists. But this raises the decided question, first, whether the vice is due to these provisions, and as we find it to be rife in cities where personal registration is required, we are led to the conclusion that unscrupulous officials can pad the lists about as easily under one system as the other; while there is the further question whether the alteration of these provisions might not open the door to other abuses without remedying the first one.

There is another consideration which ought to have some weight in the popular decision of this question. The present Constitution, which was the product of some of the brightest minds the State ever produced, has been in force for nearly seventeen years; but some of its important provisions have never had a fair test. So far as the Constitution has been enforced in good faith, experience has shown its provisions to be wise and beneficial. But the exigencies of politics, the interests of corporations and the uncertainties of judicial construction have brought about the remarkable result that, after seventeen years, some of the most vital provisions of that instrument are still unenforced. It is a somewhat suggestive point in this connection that the bill looking toward a new convention is introduced by the very legislator who, in a famous speech against a bill to prevent railroad discrimination some years ago, declared that he was not ready to give his support in legislation to the provisions of the Constitution under which he held his seat.

Apart from the possibility of a body assembled under such auspices repealing the salutary provisions of the Constitution which regulate corporations, forbid special legislation and restrain a great number of abuses that were notorious before its adoption, the state of the case presents a much more urgent duty than that of tinkering with the instrument; that is to start a movement for its enforcement as a whole according to its letter and spirit. When an opportunity has been given for the public to learn by experience what the effect will be of living by the whole of that instrument, instead of nullifying some portions of it, then the work of amending it can be done intelligently. Till then, it is better to enforce the Constitution that we have than fly to others that we know not of.

FORCE BILL OPPOSITION INDORSED.

No mistake can be made about the sentiments of Senator Teller's constituents regarding the ill-fated elections bill. The Senator's speech and action against that measure have gained him, not merely the unanimous support of the Republican members of the Colorado Legislature, but their enthusiastic commendation as well. There is little doubt but the same general sentiment prevails among the constituents of other Senators. There never was any real good in that measure, and its sleep should be undisturbed.

NEW RAILWAYS AND IRON INDUSTRY.

The fact that the yearly addition to railway mileage by the construction of new roads has been steadily decreasing of late years is shown by a comparison of the construction for the past five years. The total of new track constructed in 1886 was 8,471 miles; in 1887, 12,667; in 1888, 6,679; in 1889, 5,095, and in 1890, 5,981. This shows that while the most rapid growth of railways was reached in 1887, there has been a marked falling off since then, although last year exhibited a gain of nearly 900 miles over the construction of the previous year.

It is a rash conclusion to draw from these figures that the period of railway extension is drawing to a close. If all the country that can be profitably occupied by railways is taken up, the last year would have shown a continued decrease instead of an increase in the building of new tracks. The fact is that there is a vast section between the Mississippi and the Pacific where an immense amount of additional track will not only be possible but necessary as its population increases. The same thing is true, to a less extent, of the South, and while some of the factors which have been prominent in stimulating railway construction, may be eliminated in the future, there is reason to expect that there will be periods of activity in railway construction as pronounced in the future as in the past.

There is, however, an interesting feature in this exhibit to a community like ours which has so keen an interest in the subject. While railroad construction has fallen off during the past three years and was last year one-half of what it was in 1887, the output of iron and steel has shown a steady and almost as decided an increase. It was formerly considered accurate to take the railway demand for iron and steel as the governing factor in the market. So far as new railway track is concerned, this is no longer the case. The immense mileage of railway already in operation requires an annual amount of iron for renewals and repairs, that makes a steady demand on the iron industry independent of that required for new track. Beyond that the fact appears in the statistics that new uses for iron and steel, and what may be called the private demand, outside of the consumption of railways, is so great that the industry is almost independent of the railway demand.

While, therefore, we uphold the probability of new periods of increasing railway construction, we have back of that issue, and independent of it, the assurance that the industrial consumption of iron and steel will keep our industries active so long as our manufacturers can produce and distribute them most economically.

THE last street decision leaves matters in such a shape that the one method to get streets improved without danger of complications is to have property owners meet and work out their assessments on the roads.

THE Philadelphia *Press* undoubtedly touches the nerve in the Indian trouble by saying that "no man or men however well intentioned can get good agents through political appointments." It is beyond all question true that, as our cotemporary asserts, the President, Secretary Noble, and Indian Commissioner Morgan are earnest, upright and sincere, but is there no responsibility on the administration which, having been elected on the pledge of extending the principle of removing public offices from political influence, keeps on making political appointments where they will do the most harm?

REPORT comes from Paris by way of Mr Abbey that the divine Sara, who is to come to this country soon, has grown stouter and looks better for it. She must be now nearly as fat as a match.

ANOTHER blow is delivered at dress reform by the discovery of another woman out in California who was preserved from the shots of her desperate lover by her corset turning away the bullets. If these cases are not directly inspired by the corset manufacturers they must be taken as proving that when woman dallies with the tender passion to that extent she had better keep on her armor until the desperate lover has killed himself or been lodged in a lunatic asylum.

A BAD state of affairs is reported from Silesia and other districts in Germany. The peasants are starving, freezing and dying of disease generated by their privations.

COL. WM. R. MORRISON'S Presidental boom is alleged by the Washington *Post* to be "not so horizontal as some people affect to believe. Is it possible that it was buried standing up like those Picts who, according to old English fable, received that sort of sepulture because their feet were so large that the grave would have to be dug deeper, if they were pushed over?

TWENTY-FIVE millions for a canal which will unite the Ohio with the lakes and make Western Pennsylvania the industrial center of the world, is dirt cheap.

LET us hope that the reports of a compromise between the Irish factions is well founded. The Home Rule party cannot be too prompt in abandoning the present suicidal fighting in its own ranks, and uniting to work solely for the advancement of the cause of Ireland.

THERE is certainly nothing unconstitutional in limiting a common carrier's compensation to a percentage of the value of the commodity transported.

THE subscription in a single day of the entire stock of a new traction company in Philadelphia to the tune of $6,000,000, shows that monetary circles are not so much troubled by lack of confidence as a lack of investments where confidence is possible.

The Republican managers can now reflect how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to manufacture thankless United States Senators from new States.

"THIS seems to be a good time to renew the proposition to pay our Senators and Congressmen by the hour," remarks the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. Does our esteemed cotemporary wish to have the national legislature in perpetual session?

IF we must burn coal it will be better to have the smoke consumed than to send half of the combustible matter up the chimney.

AT least one mitigation to the Republican leaders for the funeral of the force bill is that it will permit Ingalls to go back and resume his arduous task of inducing a minority of the Kansas Legislature to elect him Senator.

BOY bandits rarely achieve glory. They are far more likely to bring up where the Ohio gang did yesterday, in the reformatory.

SUGGESTIONS about the park entrance archways are taking practical form. No doubt handsome and useful arches will be provided without cost to the city. At the same time public interest will be increased.

MISSISSIPPI PROHIBITIONISTS.

They Are Disappointed at Recent Results and Will Act Politically.

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 7.—A conference of the Prohibition party of the State will be held here to-morrow. Chairman Ware said the party was disappointed at the failure of the Legislature of 1890 to enact statutory laws, and were again disappointed at the failure of the late Constitutional Convention to insert a prohibition article.

This meeting has, therefore, been called for the purpose of considering the advisability of organizing the party for the election of members of the Legislature this fall. On the other hand, it is stated that the present movement was inspired by the Chairman of the National Committee, who will be here to-morrow.

C. & P. STOCKHOLDERS.

They Hold Their Annual Meeting and Elect Several Directors.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 7.—The annual meeting of the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad stockholders was held to-day. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: J. N. McCullough, R. F. Jones, Pittsburg; George B. Roberts, Philadelphia; Charles Lanier, William C. Egleston, New York; F. A. Ferguson, Cincinnati; J. V. Painter, F. R. Perkins, F. R. Ranney, F. E. Smith and M. A. Hanna, Cleveland; W. W. Holloway, Bridgeport, O.

The annual report for the year ending November 30, 1890, was submitted, and showed that the receipts were $1,300,000.

SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

SOME people who step into dead men's shoes furnish the world an object lesson of a misfit.

DID you ever hang between the light and the shadow—between Here and There? I hope not. But if you did I don't believe you knew it. Surely the closer we get to the mystery the mistier it seems when we retrace our steps—are pulled back by the strong arms of the doctor and the tender hands of the nurse. But no matter how tenaciously we hang on for dear life, the grip does not tire after the opening struggle. When the first bout with pain left you weak, worn, helpless, a soothing something came to your aid of course. And there you were—slipping, sliding, gliding, quietly into the dreamy, docile, dreamlike state of serious sickness. In the faces of those around you you read fear and hope. Their hearts beat with your pulse, their spirits rose and fell with your temperature. When they thought of the End you were thinking of the Beginning. When you slept they watched in silence. You scarce breathed and they bent low to feel for the faint spark of life which by some magic was kept alive. When you awoke from the dreamless sleep you merely opened your eyes, nothing more. Down to the turning point, into the cloudy region where life and death fought for the spirit, memory doubtless deserted you. Only a faint, fading picture was brought back by it when you re-entered the land of the living. Then the hours dragged along leaden-heeled. With strength came unrest, fretfulness, perverseness. Then you wanted to know why you had been made to suffer—wondered why you had been led to the bank of the river and then blindfolded. Then you think—think hard in the hope of getting some slight clue to the Secret. But in vain. When you slept on the edge of the mystic land you dreamt not; when you opened your eyes you saw not; when you put out your hand you felt not. Still some say they have brought something tangible from the shadows, hold in their eye a picture caught between a rent in the veil, carry in their memory a link of the chain which connects earth with heaven. Perhaps they do. I didn't. Did you?

JAY GOULD is the most successful stock raiser of modern times.

SOME of the creeds which flourish now have found that temporal argument secures more converts than spiritual comfort.

THE Indians must have smallpox. They are breaking out all over.

THE Harrisburg House did nobly yesterday. It met and adjourned.

DELAWARE held a wake over the Force bill Tuesday. Its Legislature denounced the corpse. The members evidently forgot that it is meet and proper to speak well of the dead.

GOVERNOR CAMPBELL'S epistle to the Buckeyes is a sort of original package.

SPELL Congo with a "K" hereafter. This is according to Uncle Sam's new geographical dictionary. Newspaper offices will have to sort up on "K's" if the rear guard breaks out again.

In the Breakers.

Everywhere there's consternation in the halls
of legislation,
And the leaders are perplexed,
For they fear the agitation will lead to disintegration,
Hence they're vexed.
They regard the honest granger as the canine
in the manger,
And they fear him.
Will they treat him as a stranger, and increase
the present danger,
Or revere him?

He is very democratic, but in language autocratic,
Might demand the richest plums.
He may prove to be phlegmatic, grow exceedingly emphatic
Over crumbs.
This honest, earnest son of toil, this splendid
product of our soil
Is in the swim,
And you will see a red-hot broil unless a fair
share of the spoil
Goes to him!

THE thief does not let his left hand know what his right hand doeth.

GIRLS, there's a real live genuine Count in town. He's a good fellow, too, but he's married.

THE druggists are kicking because drugs are going down. Blame it on the doctors.

SPEAKER THOMPSON promises a working session of the Legislature. If he can deliver the goods he will be called blessed.

LOOK at your $20 bills. A Colorado national bank note worth $5 has been quadrupled by clever rogues. You will have to raise $20 before growing nervous, however.

CONGRESS is going after the bucket shops. This will make the dealers in options turn pale.

A BALTIMORE bank cashier who allowed a friend to overdraw his account claims he was hypnotized. At all events he closed the eyes of the directors.

THE wily Indian warrior stoops to conquer.

A STATESMAN who cannot draw a bill can draw his salary with neatness and dispatch.

THE Parnell-O'Shea scandal is to be reopened. Canon O'Mahony seems to be loaded with mud.

THE spiritualists are struggling to obtain substance from shadows.

A Neglected Lassie.

Singers sing of love and flowers,
Pretty faces, finger tips;
Some have wasted precious hours
On a sonnet to the lips.
But as yet no song or story,
No sublime poetic pearl,
Has resounded with the glory
Of the willful hired girl.

WHEN you have a secret talk it over with yourself, but nobody else.

IT is easier to call a man a liar than to nail a lie.

THE ghost dance has been transformed into a rifle ball.

THE first business in order after the Legislature met on Tuesday, was a raid on the Treasury by Philadelphia members who wanted to draw their pay in advance. Money is very tight and campaign expenses are heavy in the Quaker City.

A TENNESSEEAN 107 years old has just been married to a spry old girl of 80. This is a wonderful age.

THE thicker the smoke the longer the payrolls.

THERE are two things which a Legislator will take without a murmur: Recess and pay.

BANKS have tellers, but when the cashier doctors the books they never tell on him.

NATURE'S laws are harmonious, and human laws should be.

IT was a cold day in Harrisburg after Allegheny county got left.

THE Canton watch firm may keep their works moving, as the creditors are lending it a helping hand.

THE hotels of the city are full to overflowing, and cots are at a premium. This is a healthy sign.

A BILL for the condemnation of some of the levees is ready for the Legislature. It it passes some people will have to hunt new quarters for their old wagons, scrap and lumber.

OCEAN vessels always carry some tip top fellows.

YOU cannot judge a note by its face, but the back tells the story.

THERMOMETERS work under a sliding scale.

WILLIE WINKLE.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW is said to carry $600,000 insurance on his life.

GENERALS GIBBON and Benet are soon to be retired from the army, having both reached the age limit.

MRS. CAROLINE LE CONTE, an accomplished student of Columbia, S. C., has been appointed State Librarian.

MRS. ANNA LOUISA CHESEBOROUGH INGALLS, wife of the Kansas Senator, gives it out that her husband is engaged in his spare moments in writing a novel.

MAJOR POND expects to make from $75,000 to $100,000 out of Stanley's lecture tour. The explorer is paid $50,000 for 50 lectures and his traveling expenses in addition.

GUSTAV FREITAG, the famous German novelist, is dangerously ill. His physicians have ordered his removal to a resort for invalids in the southern part of Europe.

BARRETT WENDELL, novelist, and Assistant Professor of English at Harvard College, has a biography of Colton Mather in press. He devoted his whole summer vacation to the preparation of the work.

MR. SPURGEON gives but little time to the preparation of his sermons. He sits in his study a couple of hours with his face buried in his hands, then goes to his desk, jots down a few head lines, and then he is ready for the pulpit.

DR. HANS VON BULOW has decided to give up his public piano recitals. It is said that the state of the great pianist's health will not allow him to do more than attend to the direction of the Philharmonic Society of Berlin.

MRS. BURTON HARRISON, the novelist and magazine writer, is a Virginia woman of ancient lineage. Her maiden name was Cary and she grew up at Vaucluse, a home of the Fairfaxes in the county that bears the family name. She was a young girl when the war broke out and she heard the battle of musketry at Bull Run.

MISS MILDRED FULLER, daughter of the Chief Justice, who has just become Mrs. Wallace, is a dainty little woman. She is slender and a perfect blonde, with short, curly hair worn in ringlets on her shapely head, and in a soft coil at the nape of the neck. She is undeniably pretty and her manners are gentle and graceful.

ODETTA TYLER, the actress, who is Bessie Kirkland at her home in Nashville, is considered a beauty on or off the stage. General Kirkland, her father, is a West Point graduate, and made a fine record in the Confederate army. Miss Kirkland is a niece of General Hardee, author of the famous work on military tactics.

HORSE DOCTORS IN COUNCIL.

The Inter-State Veterinarians Desire More Legislation Enacted.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

ERIE, Jan. 7.—The inter-State veterinarian surgeons held a meeting to-day in this city. The following officers were re-elected: President, Dr. Irons, of Linesville, Pa.; Vice President, Dr. Bell, of Erie; Secretary, Dr. Meredith, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Treasurer, Dr. Will Meredith, of Corry, Pa. A Board of Trustees was also appointed.

An essay on influenza was read by Dr. Bryce; one on acute indigestion by Dr. Will Meredith, of Corry, and a paper by Dr. Bell on Texas fever. In a series of resolutions they recommended that petitions be sent to the several Legislatures of the States for the enactment of laws requiring the owners of male breeding animals to take out a license, and requiring them to set forth the full pedigrees of their animals; also that a violation of the law shall be punishable by a fine of $5 and costs, and the fine shall be turned over to the school fund. The resolutions were adopted. The next meeting will be held in Jamestown, N. Y., on the third Tuesday in August.

A COMPLICATED LEGAL QUESTION.

The Statutes of Ontario and Illinois Come in Conflict in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—A fine law point, never before raised in the courts of Cook county, was raised in a suit on trial before Judge Grinnell this morning. The case is that of Isaac B. Hanno, administrator of the estate of the late Henry S. Hall, of Illinois, who was killed in an accident on the Grand Trunk Railroad at Hamilton, Ont., in 1889.

The attorney for the road made it a point that the statute under which the suit was brought was in conflict with the public policy and the statutes of this State. The point of difference in the statutes of Illinois and Canada is that it is imperative with a Canadian jury to decide to whom of the surviving relatives the damages shall go. Here the courts have no such powers. Judge Grinnell dismissed the suit. An appeal was taken.

By the accident in which Hall was killed 18 other people lost their lives and suits for damages have been brought in Chicago, New York and Detroit.

An Investigation Called for.

[Youngstown Telegram.]

A thorough investigation of the Indian question made by men of unquestioned integrity would doubtless result in showing that the appropriations made for the support of these wards of the nation has been stopped in transit by Indian agents and others, who have been growing wealthy while those for whom the supplies were intended have been ill-fed and ill-clothed, until forced by their ever present misery to resort to war to secure that to which they are justly entitled. A searching inquiry might be productive of good results. In the meantime, let the control of the agencies be turned over to the War Department.

Bacilli Versus Basilisks.

[Baltimore American.]

One of the patients who was treated with the lymph announces that he feels like a new man. It is hoped that he will not injure this new man by treating him so extensively with a certain liquid, for instead of bacilli he might find snakes.

When Will Hill Caucus?

[Washington Post.]

As it seems that Governor Hill, and not the Legislature, is to select the successor to Senator Evarts, it is not out of place to inquire as to the date when the Governor will go into caucus.

An Exposition for Chattanooga.

CHATTANOOGA, Jan. 7.—Steps are being taken to inaugurate an annual exposition at Chattanooga. A committee has been appointed to secure a site.

An O'er True Tale.

[Dallas, Tex., News.]

The plunger rarely risks his life to save others from drowning. He is in the swim for flotsam.

Will Go Right On, Too.

[Williamsport Sun.]

The work for ballot reform will begin in earnest next week.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Frank E. Snitger.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BEAVER, Jan. 7.—Frank E. Snitzer, of the firm of Snitger Brothers, of this place, died at noon yesterday. Had he lived until to-morrow he would have been 24 years of age. The disease which resulted in his death after a year of suffering was consumption. Mr. Snitger was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and a leader among its young members. His funeral will take place from the family residence to-morrow at 3 P. M.

Dr. C. W. Buvinger.

Dr. C. W. Buvinger, an old practitioneer of Lawrenceville, died last night. His residence and office is at 4407 Butler street. Besides being a prominent physician of that section he was always active in public movements. He was 56 years old at the time of his death.

P. J. Toole.

P. J. Toole, died yestesday at No. 12 Wabash avenue, West End, aged 29 years. Mr. Toole was a popular young man, was a prominent member of the Young Men's Catholic Club, and had just received the appointment to a clerkship in the County Commissioner's office. He leaves a wife and child.

Captain John M. Baker.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CLEARFIELD, Jan. 7.—Captain John M. Baker, a wholesale beer dealer from Dubois, and who was well known here, died in this place to-day, he having been here attending License Court. He weighed 320 pounds, and died in bed at the St. Charles Hotel.

Samuel McClain.

Samuel McClain, aged 65 years, died suddenly of heart disease yesterday. He was a respected member of Post 183 G. A. R., and will be buried this afternoon from his late residence on West street, Allegheny.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Tough for the Tin Peddler.

The work of a coroner is seldom humorous. But just once in a great while a gleam of sunshine slants across his path. Deputy Coroner Berry—a very capable and industrious official, by the way—the other day related two exceptions to the rule of gloom which he had encountered.

One day Mr. Berry was working on an accidental death case in Lawrenceville, and in the search for a witness came to a little house in which there appeared no sign of life. The door was closed, and the shutters on the windows were fastened. But the Deputy Coroner knew that the man he was looking for lived there and he hammered and pounded away at the door till at last it opened and a brawny man in trousers and red shirt shook his fist in Mr. Berry's face, while he asked: "What in Hades do you want? Speak quick or I'll knock your face in."

Thus admonished Mr. Berry made haste to explain that he was an officer of the law with a subpoena to serve. Then the big ironworker, for such he was, explained that he worked on night turn and slept by day, and that his slumbers were constantly broken by peddlers—especially tin peddlers.

"I swore that I'd kill the next tin peddler who came to my door—and I thought you were one," he concluded. The Deputy Coroner accepted the explanation and departed. He had not gone many steps when he met an undersized Italian with a load of tinware. The peddler was calling at every house, and it struck Mr. Berry that it would be economical for him to remain and see what came of the peddler's call at the ironworker's abode. The peddler presently reached the door of Castle Dangerous and knocked. Nothing happened. He knocked a second time. Still the customary noises of Lawrenceville were on top. He knocked a third time—a regular rap-a-tap-tap! Then the air was filled with flying tinware and glimpses of a rotating red shirt. The population of the entire neighborhood was on the spot in an instant. Mr. Berry looked for the Italian peddler, but found him not. Search as he would he could not find enough of the peddler to hold an inquest on.

Not Exactly the Same.

On another occasion Deputy Coroner Berry was sitting in the office when the news came in by telephone that a rather notorious woman in the East End had died suddenly. The circumstances were suspicious and Mr. Berry went out to East Liberty at once to investigate. The policeman who had telephoned the information could not give the street number of the dead woman's house, but he described the locality, and Mr. Berry was able to find it. While he was looking for the house he espied a knot of crape on a door and made up his mind that there his mission lay. He rang and a nice-looking, elderly man answered the summons, and asked Mr. Berry to step in.

"I come on business," said Mr. Berry.

"Yes, I expected you," said the old gentleman.

"Where is the body?"

"Upstairs," was the reply and Mr. Berry had accepted an invitation to go into the chamber of death when he chanced to ask if anybody knew the cause of so sudden a death.

"Sudden?" repeated the old gentleman, "Sudden—did you say?"

"I understood it was sudden, although of course it may have been due to accident or natural causes," replied Mr. Berry.

"Why, my dear sir, my wife has been sick for 20 years or more, and——"

"May I ask you your name?" interrupted Mr. Berry with an uncomfortable feeling that things were getting dreadfully mixed. He did not feel any more comfortable when he learned that he was talking to a prominent minister who had in turn mistaken the Deputy Coroner for the undertaker.

A Fair Coal Miner.

The gas was very low in a certain residence in one of the hill suburbs of the city yesterday. Unluckily the supply of coal had been exhausted, and a little gas stove, which had been bought as a heating auxiliary, was kept circulating from room to room to keep the household from freezing. Coal had been ordered by telephone, but there the prospect of warmth stopped.

Shortly before lunch one of the young ladies disappeared. Two boys' sleds and a small boy employed about the house were also missing at the same time. In an hour's time the whole party returned in procession. The two sleds were loaded with coal, and on the face of the fair commanding officer, who was attired in a gum coat, rubber boots and some portion of a gymnasium costume, was a fine mixture of coal dust and triumphant smiles. She had reason to be proud of what she had accomplished.

At no great distance from the house there is a brickyard in connection with which a vein of coal outcropping at this point has been worked in a desultory fashion for years. The coal is not especially valuable, for it contains too much sulphur, but it is quite good enough to build fires with when nothing else is to be had. Thither therefore this energetic American girl had proceeded with her two sleds and the small boy. The brickyard is not in operation just now, and there was no one there to forbid her entering the mine. With a pick she loosened enough coal for her needs, loaded it on the sleds, and retired in good order.

After luncheon the coal miner would hardly have been recognized in the young lady who started out to attend a fashionable reception.

A Pretty Cool Thief.

A stockholder in one of the Pittsburg street car lines was riding the other day in one of the company's vehicles, and more out of curiosity than from any selfish motive he watched the conductor ringing up the fares. The car was very crowded, and somehow or other there were 72 persons inside and on the platforms—this the stockholder discovered himself by counting. The number of fares on the indicator when the conductor had collected them all, however, was only 40. This rather dazed the stockholder, and he went out upon the platform and said to the conductor: "Hadn't you better leave something for the stockholders?"

"What do you mean?" queried the conductor indignantly.

"Just what I say—you've not registered much more than half of the fares you've taken."

The conductor was very red about the cheeks and neck by this time, and he muttered something about a mistake having occurred. All the same he rang up 22 more fares—ten short of the right number—and then remarked to the gentleman who had called him down: "I don't know how I missed those fares, I'm sure."

"Neither do I," responded the stockholder, "but I do know how this company misses a good deal of money."

PLAYS TO COME.

SEATS for the engagement of Agnes Huntington in "Paul Jones," at the Duquesne Theater, will be placed on sale this morning. The opera, which is by Planquette, whose "Les Clochers de Corneville" has earned for him a lasting reputation among the lovers of comic opera, has already become almost as popular in this country as it did in London, where it ran several hundred nights. Miss Huntington will be surrounded by very adequate support, among the names mentioned being Messrs. Karl Mora, Herve D'Egville, Eric Thorne, George W. Nichols, Hallen Mostyn, Albert James and George Preston, and Misses Fanny Wentworth, Millie Marsden and Marga.

THE programme which will be presented by A. M. Palmer's traveling company at the Grand Opera House next week is precisely the same as that which ran the entire season of 1889-90 at the Madison Square Theater, New York. Mr. Joseph Haworth, of "Paul Kauvar" fame, sustains two entirely different characters, and appears both in "Aunt Jack" and "A Man of the World." The cast also includes Charles W. Butler, Charles Bowser, Lewis Baker, George Backus, E. A. Eberle, Misses Alice Butler, Bertha Creighton and Folliott Paget, who is an ideal *Aunt Jack*.

ON next Monday "The Twelve Temptations's will open at the Bijou Theater. Manager Gilmore claims to have made some splendid additions to his already successful spectacle. The company has been changed considerably, and Ed Connelly, the well-known comedian, and Sadie Conaway are two valuable acquisitions. The scenery and costumes are entirely new, and a good performance is expected. The sale of seats commences this morning.

ON Saturday evening Margaret Mather will present "As You Like It." Her *Rosalind* has been seen here often, and her artistic worth often praised in these columns. In the wrestling scene Joseph Dunkerly, the local wrestler, has been engaged, and will essay the part of *Charles*.

WINTER PLEASURES.

St. Augustine's Tea Party a Great Success—Two East End Brides Tendered an Afternoon Reception—The Robert Burns Banquet—Society Gossip.

The leading social event of the season in Lawrenceville and one of most successful and enjoyable affairs was the tea party given last evening by the ladies of St. Augustine's in the new school building on Thirty-seventh street. The practical efforts of the ladies interested in the tea had during the day made the school building a place of exceeding beauty with an abundance of well distributed and gracefully draped bunting and a profusion of rare exotic plants, and fresh flowers.

The tables were marvels of perfection and fairly groaned under their weight of good things that were quickly disposed of by the throngs in attendance and as quickly replaced by the ladies in charge. The floral and lemonade booth was extremely pretty and did a thriving business.

The following ladies were in charge of the affair and instrumental in the glorious success: Mrs. E. Frauenheim, President; Mrs. A. Schillo, Vice President; Mrs. A. Frauenheim, Secretary.

Floral and lemonade booth, in charge of Miss Rose Frauenheim, assisted by the Misses Katie Bruggeman, Annie Storm, Mary Zeus, Katie Streiter, Lizzie Baker, Clementine E. Frauenheim, Margie Dietrich.

Fishing pond, presided over by the Misses Bertha Schillo, Jeannette Hager, Cornelia Eichenlaub, Minnie Berger.

Table No. 1—In charge of Mesdames A. Fuhrer and H. Schmidt. Aids, Mrs. Albert Schillo, the Misses Katie Dietz, Theresa Eichenlaub, B. Keane, Mary Kircher and Mary Wald.

Table No. 2—In charge of Mrs. Titus Berger and Mrs. William Helbling. Aids, Mrs. George Pechstein, Mrs. Joseph Vogel, Jr., Mrs. Emanuel Schillo, Mrs. L. M. Heyl.

Table No. 3—In charge of Mesdames M. H. Hager and V. Blank. Aids, Mesdames M. G. Heine, F. Schneiderlochner, J. L. Zinsmeister, the Misses Amelia Bruggeman and Mary Foley.

Table No. 4—In charge of Mesdames John Zinsmeister and J. A. Jacobs. Aids, Mrs. J. Kalchthaler, Misses A. Jacobs, Nettie Jacobs, Celia Snyder, Kate Sauer, Katie Fuhr and Mary Sobl.

Table No. 5—In charge of Mesdames Peter Fey and Charles Schiffhauer. Aids, Misses C. Friday, Morrin Raymore, Kate Raymore, Maggie Zeus, Annie Sperber, Theresa Stack.

Table No. 6—In charge of Mesdames P. Schott and George Schafer. Aids, Mesdames G. Liebler, William Schafer and the Misses Mary Schott, Mary Schafer, Lizzie Schafer and Annie Besterman.

TWO PRETTY BRIDES

Are the Guests of Honor at a Pleasant Tea Party in the East End.

Two of the most popular and prettiest brides of the season, Mrs. Augustus Pettibone Murdoch and Mrs. Jesse Thomas Lazear, were the guests of honor at the charming tea given yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Charles P. Orr, of South Highland avenue. The beautiful home was redolent with the perfume of many flowers, echoed with the mellow, bewitching music of a screened orchestra, and thronged with the fashionable circle of East End, of which both the hostess and the girlish brides are considered