

AS TO NATURAL GAS.

The Sub-Committee will go to Pittsburgh this Morning.

SOME INTERESTING DISCUSSION

Of the Situation by the Committee last Evening--The Genesis of the Present Contract with the City. What it is Desired to Learn and the City's Position.

A meeting of the sub-committee of the special committee into whose hands the City Council gave the investigation of the situation with regard to last evening at the office of the water board, Chairman Farrell and Dr. Caddle, Mr. Hall and Mr. Jefferson, of the sub-committee, were on hand, and Solicitor Riley and Mr. I. R. Moise, who had been summoned as an expert account-ant, were also present.

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order, and asked what was the use of going to Pittsburgh. Dr. Caddle thought it was only an act of courtesy to accept the invitation the company had tendered. Mr. Hall took the same view, especially as the committee had already accepted the company's invitation. He said he understood that the company invited the committee to bring an expert to go over its books, and was willing to pay his expenses and salary to the extent of \$50. Mr. Hall did not know how exhaustive or satisfactory an examination an expert could make for \$50, but he thought a compromise might possibly be agreed upon if a conference was held.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the company had already presented its ultimatum, and the report of the expert would not affect the ultimatum.

Solicitor Riley indulged in some very sensible and businesslike remarks. He did not think the city was concerned with the question as to whether the gas company had made money off the Wheeling gas consumers or not. The city had not given a guarantee that it should make money. It had entered into a contract, and the question was whether the company could fulfill that contract. If it could not, that would settle it. It would be wise to inquire whether it could as things now stood, and if it had not sufficient gas, what efforts it had made to secure enough. What revenue had the company here? If the company could not furnish gas as it had contracted to, it might be wise for the city to agree not to enforce the contract for a part of the year, but the solicitor wanted it distinctly understood that the contract would not be abrogated by the action of the city except against his protest. He thought that if the city would annul the contract the company would soon be charging twenty-five cents or any price it chose per thousand feet of gas. If the contract was abrogated the company would have no restrictions whatever as to price or anything else.

In response to the suggestion that the city suspend the operation of the contract for a part of the year, a member thought that would be entirely abrogate the contract as to give up all claim under it, but Mr. Riley said he would guarantee that the action he suggested could be legally taken without impairing the contract.

Dr. Caddle asked what recourse the city would have if the company refused to make any compromise. The doctor thought the company's ultimatum was intended to ultimat. Mr. Riley said it would be time to discuss the question of recourse when it arose. Dr. Caddle thought that very question faced the committee at this time, but Mr. Riley did not agree with him.

Mr. Farrell asked: "Do you gentlemen know how the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia came to agree to furnish the city with free gas?" The gentlemen admitted that they did not.

"Do you want to know?" asked Mr. Farrell. The gentlemen wanted to know, and Mr. Farrell told them, while the lookers on wondered why the circumstances surrounding the making of the contract, now called by the company "improvident," were not long ago looked into.

Mr. Farrell first read from section 5 of the original ordinance submitted for the action of the City Council by the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia, which contained a provision that the company must not charge consumers more than 25 cents a thousand cubic feet for the gas, and from section 6 of the same ordinance, which provided that in consideration of the company's agreeing to furnish to the city for its own use gas at 12 1/2 cents a thousand cubic feet, the company should have the exclusive right to furnish gas to private consumers in the city. Then he explained that while this ordinance was pending C. D. Robbins & Co., of Washington county, Pa., made a proposition that for the exclusive franchise in the city of Wheeling they would agree to sell gas to private consumers at not more than fifteen cents a thousand cubic feet, and to furnish to all city works on their lines of pipes free gas fuel. In view of this proposition the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia also agreed to accept the same terms, and the ordinance was so amended as to include these two points, and being so passed was accepted by the company, making a legal contract between the city and the company.

In the further discussion of the subject it was remarked that in the present cold spell there has been no complaint of a shortage of gas as has heretofore been the case whenever the weather was a little cold. This was ascribed to the fact that the gas had been shut off of the big factories and the large consumers among the city works, as the water and gas works and crematory.

Solicitor Riley thought the city ought to pay the expenses of the committee, if it was necessary for it to go to Pittsburgh, and that that matter was not an item that ought to figure in the consideration of the matter. He thought it would be much more useful to send a man to the gas wells to examine the pressure and ascertain if all the gas the company has or can get was turned into the Wheeling pipes, or if it is selling gas to Pittsburgh or elsewhere. Of course such an inquiry could only be conducted without the knowledge of the interested parties. Mr. Farrell said that he had tried to have exactly that course adopted, but he could not get the co-operation of those members of the committee who had it in their power to carry out such a plan promptly and effectively.

It was finally decided to go to Pittsburgh this morning and have a consultation with the officers of the company, and to have Mr. Moise accompany the committee, so that if any need for the services of an expert was found he would be there ready to go to work. The reporters of the city newspapers were also asked to accompany the expedition, so that the public could be informed as to

its results reliably and soon, and the committee adjourned till 7:20 a. m. to-day.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Matters of Minor Moment in and About the City.

THE GRAND this evening - Floy Crowell.

The public schools reopened yesterday with an increased attendance.

The Council committee on petitions and remonstrances is called to meet this evening.

There were nine cases in the police court yesterday and the usual schedule of fines was assessed.

The Gaiety club will give another dance this evening at Teutonia hall. Prof. Killmyer will play.

Plans for the construction of the new schoolhouse in Webster district will be opened this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the board of education rooms.

Work on the wing walls of the Main street bridge went right along yesterday, although the snow had to be scraped off to allow the new stones to be laid.

Work is progressing on the rehabilitating of the Arbutus furniture factory, south of the creek, for the company which proposes to occupy it as a rattan works.

The putting of salt on the street car tracks to melt the snow is an awful nuisance and ought to be prohibited under heavy penalties, as it is in nearly every other city.

FAGAN, SHEPARD & Co. announce in another column that they have opened a broker's office in the Public Library building. They will deal in stocks, bonds, grain and oil.

The La Belle mill was off yesterday, as the follower of the piston rod had been broken on Saturday. The works will probably not resume before Wednesday or Thursday.

Last night the power was off the street car line again for some time, and once car was caught just as it came off the Fourteenth street loop and stood for a good while right across half the street.

CHIEF OF POLICE McNICHOL, yesterday turned over his first cash to the City Receiver. He had \$304.59 to the credit of the city as the revenues of the police department since he assumed his office on December 18.

Mrs. ENICER MICK was buried yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence of her son, Rev. Ashbury Mick, on South Broadway. Rev. Dr. Fullerton, of the Thomsen M. E. church, conducted the obsequies.

MAYOR SEABRIGHT lighted the big candle in the Hub window at 7 o'clock last evening in the presence of a large and interested crowd, which cheered him vociferously. The people reached clear across Market street.

JAMES BURT, who entered the residence of Mr. John Frew on Christmas afternoon in the absence of the family, and made such a lively chase for several gentlemen, will have a hearing before Squire Gillespy at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The funeral of Dr. Edward Work took place yesterday afternoon from the residence of his father on Eoff street, near Thirty-first street. Rev. F. N. Lynch conducted the funeral ceremonies. The burial was at Greenwood cemetery.

SQUIRE ANKLE yesterday took under advisement the case of Mike and Mary Crogan, charged by C. A. Reed with trespass. The Crogans have added seven feet to a five-foot fence on their premises, to keep the neighbors from looking into their yard. Reed claims that the fence is his, and that the couple had no right to make it higher.

A CHILD eleven days old, whose father, John Stevens, is a Hungarian, living at 2508 Alley B, died on Sunday and lay uncooled for till yesterday, when Mrs. Fred Kindeleberg, a neighbor, learned of it and notified the police, who sent the father to the county authorities, who will bury the child, as Stevens is in destitute circumstances.

P. L. KIMBERLY, who succeeds the late W. H. Davis as justice of the peace for Union district, will have his office temporarily in the office of John O. Pendleton, on Chapline street below the old court house. He will later have an office in the old Donaldson, Lewis & Co. carriage factory building. He will proceed with the cases docketed where Squire Davis left off.

CHARLES T. ELLIS, who is to appear at the Opera House Friday evening in "Casper, the Yodler," is so great a favorite in Wheeling, as indeed he must be wherever he is known, that the bare announcement of his coming ought to create enough interest to assure a good house. He is the most pleasing of all the German dialect comedians, and he usually surrounds himself with a company which adds much to the enjoyment the audience finds in his performance.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Strangers in the City and Wheeling Folks Abroad.

John D. Cowdy, of Andy, is at the Belcher.

F. R. Stewart, of Mannington, was at the Windsor yesterday.

Thomas M. Spencer, of Keyser, was at the St. Charles yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Martin, of Littleton, registered at the Belcher yesterday.

Misses Emma and Ella Lutes, of Moundsville, are visiting friends in this city.

John A. Bandi and Miss Ella Bandi, of New Martinsville, dined at the Windsor yesterday.

Eph Wells and daughter and E. H. Tabbutt, of Sistersville, registered at the Belcher yesterday.

Miss Eva Henry, of Glencos, Ohio, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Henry Shortz, on South Woods street.

Ed. Kiegel, of Chicago, who has been visiting his uncle, Captain Shockey, returned home last night.

Miss B. Wehrle, of Charleston, and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Buchanan, of New Martinsville, are at the Stamm house.

Arthur Douglas has been spending the holidays at home, and returned to Wheeling yesterday to attend the Linsly Institute.

Mr. Jacob Ahl and family returned yesterday to Pittsburgh. They have been visiting Mr. Ahl's father, Mr. Charles Ahl, of East Wheeling.

S. A. Bell, of Parkersburg; J. Stuck, of Gratton; W. McSnodgrass, of New Martinsville, and P. J. Ernst, of Clarksburg, were among the West Virginians at the Stamm house yesterday.

W. L. McLane, his daughter, Miss Alice, and the Misses Grace and Susie Maxwell, of West Union, stopped at the McLane House last night. The young ladies will go to Mt. de Chantal to-day.

SECK HEADACHE yields to BERCHAM'S PILLS. GREAT Remount Bargains at GEO. M. SNOOK & CO.'S. We have just received the finest line of Holiday Slippers ever brought to this city. L. V. BLOOM.

THE RETAIL GROCERS

Install their new Officers and give a Banquet.

A FLOURISHING ASSOCIATION.

The Association's Membership more than Doubled in Three Years--Receipts and Expenditures--Talk of a Union Banquet of Wholesalers and Retailers.

The Retail Grocers' association has waxed strong since it was organized three years ago. At that time the body had only thirty-nine members, and when the roll was called last night it was found that there were eighty-eight names on the roster. Five new members joined before the evening was over.

Yesterday's meeting was public, and an interesting report was read by Recording Secretary Stroebel. The receipts up to date were \$1,274 10, and \$1,106 41 had been expended, leaving a balance on hand of \$107 69. The receipts came from the picnics held on the three grocers' days and from initiation fees and dues paid by the members. The association is particularly proud of the fact that its members are the representative retail grocers of the city, the most prominent ones belonging to it.

The following officers were installed: President, S. G. Naylor; board of directors, S. G. Naylor, John S. Welty, H. W. Schrebe, John McKee and W. C. Ebberts; first vice president, H. W. Schrebe; second vice president, Jacob Korn; recording secretary, J. C. Stroebel; financial secretary, William Wendel; treasurer (since the existence of the association), John McKee.

After the business of the evening had been transacted, various members were called upon to make speeches. Messrs. Naylor, Schrebe, McKee and Behrens responded to the call, and spoke of the flourishing condition of the association, and how, by proper efforts, the condition could be made even more satisfactory by this time next year.

THE BANQUET.

The retail grocers, as is well known, are a very healthy body of men, and those present last night had been eating anxious looks at a long table, extending almost the whole length of the room, loaded with edibles of all descriptions. President Naylor, taking in consideration the fact that the members had had nothing to eat for an hour or so, let his gavel fall, and announced that supper was ready. No time was lost in gathering around the festive board, and the dishes of food began to disappear with praiseworthy rapidity. The supper committee consisting of Messrs. Schrebe, Stroebel and Ebberts, had engaged Restaurateur A. Hotman to furnish the supper, and the devastation caused by the members proved that the committee had made a good selection of a caterer. A corps of willing waiters hustled around, and allowed no man's appetite to remain unappeased.

During the informal social talk that followed the supper there was talk of preparations that were being made to hold a grand banquet, at which the

WHOLESALE AND RETAILERS

would sit down together and enjoy themselves. The date has not yet been decided upon, but it is proposed to have it come off on Washington's birthday, if possible. Some of the members referred to the advantages enjoyed by the association under its charter, which went into effect on September 3. By the charter a new officer was created, the financial secretary. By virtue of his position this officer is the collecting agent of the association, and slow debts can sometimes be made fast through his instrumentality. Mr. Schrebe is already talking of the Grocers' day, to be held this summer, and as he thinks it ought to be the biggest in the history of the association, he has commenced to boom it.

The Premier banjo, mandolin and guitar club was engaged to furnish music for yesterday's meeting and banquet, and played a number of beautiful airs.

I. O. O. F. Officers Installed.

Franklin Lodge, No. 3, I. O. O. F., last evening installed its officers-elect for the ensuing year. They are as follows: N. G. J. H. Shortz; V. G. J. C. Conners; treasurer, Louis Hoffman; secretary, S. F. Faris; warden, Henry Floto; conductor, Louis Laskaris; R. S. to N. G., C. K. Smith; L. S. to N. G., H. W. Waddy; chaplain, Jacob Taylor; I. G., P. Hamilton. The lodge is booming right along, and is one of the most flourishing in the city.

An Anniversary Concert.

The Mozart Singing society is making great preparations for the proper celebration of the tenth anniversary of the organization of the society. The occasion will be made notable by a grand concert, to be given on February 1. Forty singers will blend their voices in the chorus.

BAD drainage causes much sickness, and bad blood and improper action of the liver and kidneys is bad drainage to the human system, which Burdock's Blood Bitters remedy. daw

FINE DRESS LENGTHS at one-half and less than one-half price. GEO. M. SNOOK & CO.

If you need spectacles, eyes tire or head aches when reading or sewing, consult and have your eyes tested for glasses without charge by Prof. Sheff, the Optician, corner Main and Eleventh streets. The only exclusive optician in the state. TTISAW

SHU ON.

Edward L. Rose & Co. have a few Tricycles and Bicycles left, which they will sell at holiday prices. Call early.

WE offer all Cloaks without reserve at immense reduction, many of them at extraordinary prices. GEO. M. SNOOK & CO.

NOTES ON NAVIGATION.

Stage of Water and Movements of Boats, The River Interests.

The river was falling yesterday, with 9 feet 3 inches in the channel.

The reports from above were:

Morgantown--5 feet 3 inches and falling; clear and cold.

Brownsville--7 feet and falling; cloudy and cold.

Warren, Pa.--2 feet 2 inches; snow.

The Andes passed up for Pittsburgh at 7:30 a. m. The Ben Hur got away for Parkersburg at 3:30 p. m.

The Andes will return to Wheeling from Pittsburgh on Wednesday, and leave the landing for Cincinnati at 8 a. m. on that day.

The Hudson and the Bedford will leave for Pittsburgh to-day at 8 a. m. The Keystone State will pass down for Cincinnati at the same hour. The Courier will get away for Parkersburg at 11:30 a. m.

THE SPELL OF WINTER.

It doesn't happen often and People make most of it.



The children made the most of the snow yesterday, and every sloping sidewalk was covered with coasters. At Jacob and Fourteenth streets there were several narrow escapes from accidents, the sleds dashing across the water street at great speed right in front of vehicles. There was a little ice over the water on the creek, but it was too weak for even the reckless small boy to venture on. It has been so long since there was any need of the "snow ordinance" that everybody forgot there was one. The sleighing was not good, and few cutters tried it. There were a few falls reported, but none of them serious.

A CHANGE IN THE SIGNALS.

The Government Weather Flags Will Hereafter Indicate the Probabilities for Two Days.

Mr. C. Schnepf, the Opera House corner druggist, who is the official weather observer at this point for the United States government, yesterday received a circular of instructions, which changes somewhat the significance of the signal flags displayed by him daily. Heretofore he has displayed the signals which indicated the weather for the day on which they were displayed only. In accordance with the circular received yesterday, however, the flags displayed in the forenoon will predict the weather for the current day, ending at midnight, and those run up at 1 p. m. will indicate the probable state of the weather for the period ending the next night at 8 o'clock.

Hereafter, therefore, the signal flags in the forenoon will show the immediate weather from that time till midnight, and after 1 o'clock in the afternoon the signals refer to the weather the next day.

Virginia Tin Mines.

The Boston Tin-Mining Company will purchase 170 acres of tin-ore property on Irish creek, Rockbridge county, Va., which they now hold under lease. Their lease is good for two years and was secured at a minimum royalty of \$6,000 per year, with the option of purchasing the property for \$200,000. It is now an open secret that the character of the tin ore on the land makes the purchase at that price certain.

Since the company leased the property they have had a force of men quietly but steadily at work opening up mines and have run into the mountain a tunnel 200 feet, and from this opening several side tunnels from fifty to 100 feet. A 100-foot cut has also been made and the workmen found in all places tin ore of sufficient value to be reduced with profit. A reduction plant that cost more than \$50,000 was recently completed, and when they have had at work a crusher with a daily capacity of 200 tons. The force of men at work will be largely increased so as to keep the crusher busy.

The tin in the ore runs from 2 to 69 per cent, and even at the minimum the value of the mines are beyond calculation, as the ore exists in very large deposits, virtually inexhaustible. The deposits are said to vary much resemble those in the Australian mines, and an experienced tin expert, who has spent years in Australia, does not hesitate to declare after a complete investigation of the American mines that they are the most valuable in the world.

In the last issue of the American Manufacturer was the appended editorial on the British tin plate depression:

"Although the opposers of the new tariff declared that the advanced rates on tin plates would result in greater cost to the American consumers we find the foreign manufacturers to-day making unavailing efforts to hold prices. One year ago, as shown by our cable reports of the British markets, B. V. grade coke tin plate 14x20 sold for 16s 9d on board of vessel in Liverpool. The same grade this month sold for 12s 6d. Two years ago the same grade sold for 15s 9d. Thus, while the duty has been increased to \$1.25 a box, in one year the price has been reduced \$1.05."

RHEUMATISM is like sand in the bearings of machinery. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the great lubricator which cures the disease. 11

GEO. M. SNOOK & CO. are selling the celebrated "W" brand Lock-stitch Bucklin Underwear at about the price of materials.

FAGAN, SHEPARD & CO., BROKERS. Private wires to New York and Chicago. Public Library Building, corner Fourteenth and Market streets.

Be sure you get the genuine Bastin's Cough and Consumption Cure for coughs and colds. DIED.

LANCASTER--Sunday morning, January 3, 1892, at 5 o'clock, WALTER L., infant son of James H. and Katie E. Lancaster, aged 1 year, 4 months and 18 days.

Funeral services at residence of J. E. Vogel, No. 137 Fourteenth street, on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends of family invited to attend. Interment private at Pentecostal cemetery.

BRADFORD--On Monday, January 4, 1892, at 12:30 p. m., EARL, infant son of C. G. and Alice Bradford.

Funeral at 2 p. m., January 5. Interment private.

RHINE--On Sunday, January 3, 1892, Mrs. ANNA RHEE, aged 65 years, at her residence, Valley Grove.

Funeral this morning at 9 o'clock from her late residence at Mt. Calvary.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX BEECHAM'S PILLS PAINLESS-EFFECTUAL FOR ALL BILIOUS & NERVOUS DISORDERS, Such as Sick Headache, Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, Constipation, Disordered Liver, etc. Of all druggists. Price 25 cents a box. New York Depot, 106 Canal St.

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LEAP YEAR!

We press our Suits (Parlor and Bed Room) on the public with renewed vigor this year, because it is open to every one to make a

PROPOSAL. We make ours knowing that it will not be REJECTED,

Because we offer the best goods in the market at low and more than reasonable prices, therefore we have

NO Fear of the public refusing such a good chance to buy Furniture of all kinds, and our prices will be warmly

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Geo. E. Stifel & Co.

We are selling our entire line of Wraps and Fur Capes at prices lower than ever mentioned to the trade.

Call and see the stock and we will convince you of the fact.

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STOCK TAKING--D. GUNDLING & CO.

STOCK--TAKING

Begins the First of January, 1892.

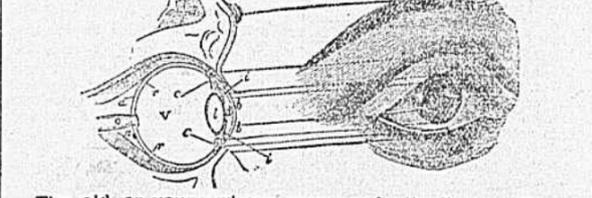
This means that there is a great many broken lots of Men's, Boys' and Children's Suits and Overcoats to be sold at half price in order to clean them out. Those who have LINGERED in their purchases will now find a brilliant opportunity to buy first-class Clothing at fifty cents on the dollar. We mean business on the first floor.



WHEELS OF ALL KINDS--EDW. L. ROSE & CO. ED. L. ROSE & CO.

Wheels of All Kinds. Typewriters in Endless Variety. Sewing Machines, the Best made. Office Outfittings, a Complete Line. Second-hand Bargains in each line. All Goods at Specially Low Prices. J. L. BALLARD, Manager. 51 Twelfth Street.

J. L. BALLARD, Manager. 51 Twelfth Street.



The old or young whose eyes need attention, or Glasses do not suit, can consult and have their eyes scientifically tested for Glasses without charge by PROF. SHEFF, the Optician, at Lash's Jewelry Store, corner Main and Eleventh streets. The only exclusive Optical Department in the State.

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The only exclusive WALL PAPER and PAINT STORE in the city. We give our customers all the advantage of Fine Paper Hanging and Mouldings at the lowest prices. We carry the largest and most complete stock of Decorations in the State. KURNER & CO., PAINTERS and DECORATORS 39 Twelfth Street, Near Market. Telephone 614.