The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer.

VOLUME XLV—NUMBER 160. WHEELING, W. VA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897. PRICE TWO CENTS.—{ ON TRAINS FIVE CENTS.

WATER-SOAKED

Towns, Villages and Cities Down the Ohio River,

A MILLION DOLLARS WERE LOST

By Lumbermen and Others in the Monongahela Valley.

AND ENORMOUS DAMAGE DONE

To Property Throughout the Ohio Valley—Cincinnati and Vicinity Experiencing an Old Time Flood—Huntington and Point Pleasant Suffer—The Worst Over in the Kanawha Valley—Railroad Traffic Badly Interfered With—The Poor the Worst Sufferers.

CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 24.—The presence of a destructive flood was felt here very positively to-day. While estimates have heretofore limited the flood to sixty feet, the developments of to-day begin to make it appear that that figure will be exceeded. One of the evidences of the flood's presence is the effect upon the railroads. The incoming passengers on roads that use the Grand Central depot were compelled to debark at the Eighth street transfer depot, where fortunately an electric street car line made the change less troublesome. The Chesapeake & Ohio, however, has its Fourth street station, which is far above any possible flood. The Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and the Pennsylvania tracks are not likely to be involved.

Up the Mill creek valley one of the saddest sights is the utter destruction of the vast areas of hot beds, where innumerable vegetable gardeners earn their living. All the labor of weeks and months is destroyed, and after the waters subside a long time will ensue before their slender income can be reestablished. Many gardeners view the desolation from their houses, which are accessible now only by boats. The back water up the valley has reached South Cumminsville, and is near the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton tracks at the station. Every foot of the rise from now on only adds vastly to the discomfort and loss that must ensue from families driven to upper stories or out of their houses and from the removal of property from the water.

At 10 o'clock the stage was 58 feet 11 inches, and in the next half-hour it had risen to 67 feet. The rise has been almost uniformly two inches an hour.

Over in Newport, Ky., the flood has stopped many manufacturing establishments and has flooded the houses of numerous families. Street car communication between it and Bellevue and Dayton has been stopped, and passengers are transferred in flatboats. In Covington the low lying houses are being deserted.

Below at the Lagoon, a pleasure resort, the water is already on the floor of the dancing pavilion and the club house is endangered.

Great anxiety has been felt and still continues at Lawrenceburg, Ind., where during the flood of 1884 the water ran through the main street and carried away many houses. Since then a big levee has been built for the protection of the city. The fear that the levee would break under the effect of the waves caused by last night's high wind kept half the town awake. A force of men patrolled the levee all night. No breaks occurred. The levee can fairly withstand from 65 to 68 feet, while rivermen at that point do not exepet more than 61 feet.

The problem now is how soon will the rise end. It has ended at Pittsburgh and in all the tributaries of the Ohio, and the cold weather is most favorable for a rapid decline. It is estimated here that it must continue to rise here until Friday at least, though of course at a lower rate. Observer Bassler, of the weather bureau, says it will reach 60 feet by Thursday, but will not go much beyond that mark.

A Million Lost in Monongahela Valley.

At 9 o'clock to-night the river here was fifty-eight and one-half feet and rising steadily an inch and a half an hour. Everywhere the Ohio valley above here the weather is clear and cool. Above Wheeling the Ohio river is falling at all points. In the region of the source of the flood the streams have been going down for twelve hours and the damage is past.

No less than a million dollars loss and damage to lumbermen and farmers is the rough estimate for the Monongahela valley. On the Ohio there was more or less loss and damage to railroads all the way down to Portsmouth. More or less loss in some business houses was suffered in Steubenville, Parkersburg, Gallipolis, Huntington, Catlettsburg, Ironton, Hanging Rock, Portsmouth, Aberdeen, Maysville and several smaller towns, either in actual loss or inconvenience of moving goods.

To-night in Portsmouth alone, over 1,500 persons have been driven from their homes. Much the same sort of suffering exists in the other cities and towns mentioned, but Portsmouth is the greatest. School houses, town hall, churches and all other available buildings are used for lodging these sufferers and public charity feeds them. At Newport, Ky., opposite here, one hundred and fifty poor families are driven from their homes, but they are well sheltered. In East Cincinnati, about an equal number of families have been temporarily driven from their dwellings. Coney Island, an up-river summer resort, is under water deep enough to float the largest river steamer. In Ludlow, Ky., below Covington, the grounds are deep under water, and it is feared that the dyke that retains the great lake will be softened so as to break and drain the lake when the waters go down.

The backwater in Mill creek, west of the city, has destroyed many thousand dollars worth of garden stuff.

At Lawrenceburg, Ky., there have been fears for the safety of the big government dyke, built since 1884 for the protection of that city. At Portsmouth, washouts have stopped the use of two railroads; the Norfolk & Western and the Cincinnati, Portsmouth & Virginia.

Here in Cincinnati exposed business houses have secured themselves against further inconvenience. All railroads here are running from their depots except those using the Grand Central, and they now start from Eighth street. It is believed now the rise here will not go much over sixty feet.

KANAWHA VALLEY.

The Waters Subside, but There is Much Distress Among the Poor.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The water in the Kanawha is falling slowly, and by morning it will likely be off the streets in Charleston. No great damage to property along the river is reported, though there is a great deal of distress and suffering among the poorer people, who were driven out of their homes. Traffic is entirely suspended on all railroads in the Kanawha valley, with the exception of the Chesapeake & Ohio, and that is running only passenger trains. All freight trains are stopped in consequence of the difficulty in supplying the engines with water.

GREAT DAMAGE DONE

At Point Pleasant—Large Part of the Town Under Water.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The greatest flood since 1884 is at present causing Point Pleasant great loss of property and much inconvenience. Boats are going to and fro through the main streets of the town, and all the people in the flooded district are living on the second floor of their residences, or have moved to the upper end of town, out of the water's way. Merchants have suspended business and moved their stock to places of safety. Although much loss has been their share, small dwelling houses, outhouses, fences and driftwood are afloat in plenty. The Kanawha & Michigan rilroad has annulled trains south of here, but No. 1, east-bound, left for Columbus at 8:25 a. m. The Ohio River railroad also annulled their trains. Their east-bound passenger No. 7, has been here since 11 a. m., and the prospects are that it will be here all night, perhaps to-morrow morning.

The flood occupies one-half of the portion of the town east of the Kanawha & Michigan bridge, and has been fed by the Kanawha river until yesterday very early, when the Ohio river's raise helped swell the danger line. The Kanawha is reported from Charleston to be falling fast. Main street here registers six feet, and the river 52 feet and rising an inch and a quarter per hour. The prospects are for three feet more.

DISTRESSING SCENES

In Huntington and Nearby Towns—Hundreds of People Homeless.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The scene in Huntington and nearby towns is indeed a distressing one. Water is running five feet deep on Second avenue, and at Rockwood, Ohio, opposite here, the water is in the second stories of most all the buildings in town. The river is now almost 56 feet and is still rising.

At Central City, Ceredo, Kenova and Guyandotte the loss will run far into the thousands. Water is six feet deep in all mills and industries along Front street, and all the schools in the city closed to-day, and to-night hundreds of poor people are being cared for in the school buildings.

The Ohio River depot has almost six feet of water on the first floor, and no trains are running on this end of the line. Street car traffic is suspended and all motor trains have been annulled. The town is in darkness, as the electric plants are flooded.

NEAR THE DANGER LINE.

The Ohio May Go Beyond it at Parkersburg—Lower End of the Town will be Submerged This Morning.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Feb. 24.—Ohio is thirty-six feet to-night and rising three inches an hour. Thirty-eight feet is the danger line. All day it has been rising one and one-half inches an hour, but late this afternoon increased to three inches. Residents in the lower end of the city will move out to-night, as the lower part of Ann street will be under water by morning. A number of residents in Riverside and South Side have been chased out by the water. These two suburbs are lower than the city proper. The Parkersburg mill suspended to-day, water coming in on them.

The Little Kanawha is falling everywhere but here, and it is prevented from doing so by the rising Ohio. It is the back water of the Kanawha that is troubling South Siders.

The Ohio River railroad is open only to Ravenswood, as the tracks are covered at Clifton and between Point Pleasant and Huntington. By morning it is expected that transportation will be carried on only between here and Wheeling. No freight trains will be sent over the lower end of the road at all.

There have been no mail trains in from New York for about thirty-six hours. The rise is increasing here each hour and the lower end of town will be submerged by morning without doubt. That is the way it looks tonight. River men counted on the water running out faster than it has, so that the present swell from the last Pittsburgh rise would cause no damage, but their hopes and calculations did not pan out.

AT SISTERSVILLE.

People on Low Ground Preparing to Move Out.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

SISTERSVILLE, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The river is still rising here at the rate of about 7 inches an hour and some of the streets in the lower part of the city are already under water, and the people are moving out on the south side. In the bottoms there is about eight feet of water and some of the houses are inundated almost to the second floor. The pavilion at Coney Island, a pleasure resort located about a mile below the city, went out this afternoon, and several tanks and rigs have been washed away. It is estimated that there will be five or six feet of water yet before the river commences to recede and those living in low portions of the city are preparing to move out.

M'KINLEY'S ILLNESS.

He is Rapidly Improved—Senator Penrose in Canton.

CANTON, Ohio, Feb. 24.—While Dr. Phillips insists that the President-elect must not receive visitors, but continue resting from the unceasing work of the past fourteen months, Major McKinley continues to gain in strength, although not yet fully recovered from the lassitude after his attack of the grip.

Senator-elect Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, was in Canton, this morning. He was accompanied by his brother, R. O. Penrose, of Chicago. Senator Penrose said his call was not of a political nature. He had been in Detroit and was on his way home to Philadelphia. He said he had learned in Cleveland that Mr. Hanna was in Canton and came here to see the national chairman.

Mrs. Beecher's Condition.

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 24.—Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher showed no signs of improvement this morning. She passed a quiet night, but she has gained no strength and is exceedingly weak.

Died of His Injuries.

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio, Feb. 24.—Richard Yoder, who was assaulted a month ago by Michael Needham, died this evening as a result of his injuries. Needham, who was out on bond, was rearrested.

TOBACCO TRUST

Under Fire by the New York Investigation Committee.

THE COAL TRUST COMES TO-DAY

The American Tobacco Company's Official Shows That They Have Increased the Employment of Labor—Thurber Says Combinations are a Benefit to the Public and to Labor, Because They Reduce Prices—Wholesale Cigar Dealer Accused of Being a Prejudiced Witness.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—James B. Duke, president of the American Tobacco Company, was one of the first to appear today in the room of the joint legislative committee on trusts. He brought with him the labor statistics asked for yesterday by Senator Lexow. The papers show that prior to the incorporation of the American Tobacco Company in 1890, the several companies gave employment to 5,895 tobacco workers.

To-day the number of employes in the employ of the company is 9,194, making an increase since the date of consolidation of 3,299 hands.

In calling to order Chairman Lexow said:

"It is the intention of the committee to investigate the so-called coal trust tomorrow. Charges have been made that the coal combination is the most vicious trust that exists and certain newspapers have made specific charges of the existence of this combination or trust."

President Duke then took the stand. He said that the capital stock of the New Jersey concern prior to consolidation was $10,000, which, with the acquisition of the various companies, was increased to $25,000,000. This was subsequently raised to $79,830,000.

The witness said that in distributing the stock the earning capacity of the five original companies was increased. The number of the original stockholders was from fifteen to twenty-five; it is now somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000. Two-fifths of the company stock to-day was preferred and three-fifths was common stock. The books of the company are kept in the main office in New Jersey.

An effort was made to have Mr. Duke admit that by the consolidation the trust secured control of competing cigarette rolling machines, but his responses were of a negative character.

Francis B. Thurber was next called. He said he is president of the American Grocer Publishing Company, which office he has held during the last three years. Mr. Thurber said that aggregations of capital ought to receive encouragement and not be subjected to unnecessary obstruction. Combinations intelligently administered were beneficial to the public at large and to the laboring classes.

The profits of capital, he said, have been steadily decreasing and those of organized labor steadily increasing. "At no time," said Mr. Thurber, "could a dealer buy more than at the present time."

Mr. Thurber contended that the centralization of capital was a natural evolution of the time.

George D. Wheeler, a wholesale cigar dealer in Syracuse, was the next witness. He said he had been injured by the American Tobacco Company, as a holder of the factor's agreement. This was brought about because he bought cigarettes of the National Cigarette Company. The American Tobacco Company refused to consign him goods because he dealt with the National Cigarette Company.

During Wheeler's testimony, W. W. Fuller, counsel for the American Tobacco Company, elicited the fact that Wheeler until a year ago had been a salaried employe of the National Cigarette Company.

"I desire to say," said Mr. Fuller, "that this witness is but the mouthpiece of the National Cigarette Company, who brought all the litigation against the American Tobacco Company."

GOVERNOR'S PALACE BURNED

At the Capital of Crete—A Grave Situation. Mussulmans Aroused.

CANEA, Island of Crete, Feb. 24.—The governor's palace, with all the archives, was destroyed by fire to-day, and as fires broke out elsewhere in the town at the same time, it is suspected that incendiaries have been at work.

The situation is most grave. Armed and excited Mussulmans are parading the streets, full of indignation at the news from Selinos, where Mussulmans are besieged.

The Benghazi Arabs threaten to burn the whole of Canea.

While the palace was burning a strong box containing 7,000 pounds fell into the ruins and broke, whereupon there was a wild rush of Turkish soldiers and Mussulmans to secure the treasure. The foreign marines were obliged to fire blank cartridges to restrain them and for a time a serious conflict between the Turks and Europeans was threatened.

The admirals are about to issue a proclamation in all the towns and villages, explaining the reason for the presence of the foreign fleets in Cretan waters and exhorting tranquility.

This view is spreading with the population which is divided in inveterate hatred that schemes for reforms are futile. The best plan, it is urged, is to permit the Greek troops to occupy the country and escort the besieged Mussulmans abroad, for the Mussulmans cannot remain in Crete.

The suggestion of the consuls that a foreign force be landed at Selinos in order to cover the retreat of the beleaguered Mussulmans has not been adopted, owing to the available number of Marines being insufficient. In view of the large force of the insurgents the admirals have decided to confine their action to the dispatch of warships to Selinos.

The attacks of the insurgents continue at various points. The insurgents have descended into the plain behind the convent of Chrisopighi and have set fire to Mussulmans houses.

The Powers Will Act.

COLOGNE, Feb. 24.—The Cologne Gazette publishes a dispatch from Berlin saying that all the powers have agreed in the event of Greece not wielding promptly to moral pressure that the proposal to blockade the Piraeus will be adopted.

More Greek Troops Land.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 24.—The Turkish government has received a dispatch saying that 600 Greek troops, three guns and a quantity of ammunition, have landed at Chersonesus, in the province of Candia, Island of Crete.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Three Important Cuban Resolutions in the Senate—Mr. Bryan Visits the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—Attention was recalled to the Cuban question in the senate to-day, by the presentation of three resolutions on that subject. One of these came by unanimous vote from the committee on foreign relations, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of Julio Sanguilly, held at Havana. Mr. Morgan, who reported the resolution, will endeavor to secure action on it to-morrow. Another resolution by Mr. Allen, (Neb.), calls on the President to effectively protect American citizens in Cuba, and for that purpose to send battleships to Cuban waters. This resolution, also, comes up to-morrow. A third resolution, by Mr. Hill, (N. Y.), was agreed to requesting the secretary of state for all correspondence with Consul General Lee relative to Americans imprisoned in Cuba.

A sensational episode occurred late in the day during the consideration of the Indian bill. Several of the New England senators had criticised various items. This aroused Mr. Pettigrew, (S. D.), in charge of the bill, to some caustic recitals of barbarities practiced against Indians in Massachusetts in the early days.

Mr. Hoar, (Mass.), defended his state, and amid impressive silence arraigned Mr. Pettigrew, a New Englander by birth, for "befouling the nest in which he was born."

Little progress was made on the Indian bill, and Mr. Allison warned the senate that the status of appropriation bills was most dangerous. Beginning to-morrow the senate will sit until 12 p. m.

In the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—The feature of the session of the house today was the appearance of William Jennings Bryan, late Democratic candidate for President, on the floor. He had come to the city to attend a dinner given in his honor by John R. McLean, of the Cincinnati Enquirer, and as an ex-member entitled to the privilege of the floor. He came into the hall with Mr. McMillin, of Tennessee, Mr. Maguire, of California, Mr. Sulzer, of New York, and ex-Congressman George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts. He was given an ovation by the Democratic members and the galleries, and his old Republican colleagues joined in the applause.

Most of the day was devoted to District of Columbia business. The conference report on the bill to define the rights of the purchasers of the Atlantic and Pacific railroad under the foreclosure sale was adopted.

OFFICIAL DENIAL

That Consul General Lee Has Offered His Resignation and That There is a Clash.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Notwithstanding the repeated statements from outside sources to the contrary, the state department officials are firm in the denial of the reported resignation of United States Consul General Lee and the impression is given out that any trouble that threatened between the department and the consul general has been composed and that there is no longer danger of a rupture.

It is now known that there has been some friction growing out of the cases of Americans arrested in Cuba, but the officials refuse to admit or deny this.

EXTENDED SESSION

Of Legislature—May Have to be Called by the Governor.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The resolution providing for an extension of the session for five days of the legislature on account of the delay caused by the flood, will come up to-morrow for consideration, and if enough Democratic votes can be obtained to give it the necessary two-thirds, the resolution will be passed. All of the Republican members will vote for it, because they would rather have an extended session than a session called by the governor, for manifest reasons.

It will be impossible now to dispose of the pending business in the two houses within the time left of the regular session. Assuming that all of the Republicans will vote for the resolution it will require seven Democratic votes to make the two-thirds. The indications are that the Democrats will vote solidly against the resolution, and a called session by the governor will be the consequence.

IRON AND STEEL WORKERS.

Coming Convention of the Amalgamated Association.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 24.—The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Plate Workers is preparing for its annual convention to be held in Detroit during May. In pursuance with a custom of long standing in the organization, the suggestions on the programme begin to come in during February and March. They are tabulated by the officials and then sent back to the lodges for a vote, and from these second returns the programme of the convention is made up.

The suggestions cover all the points of the scales in all departments, questions of revising by-laws, etc., and general topics relating to the good of the order. The scale this year will hardly arouse the interest it did last year. At least that is the general impression, although very little definite information ever leaks out on these topics in the organization. It is thought that the organization will not demand a great many changes.

Miners' Strike in Progress.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 24.—This was the day fixed for the strike of the river miners if the operators refused the advance asked by the men. As all of the mines along the river were forced to close down yesterday on account of high water, no action was taken by the miners. The operators declare positively that no advance will be granted. Should a strike be ordered 7,000 men will be affected.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The committee on organization of the National Sound Money League met in New York yesterday, but has not yet completed its work.

The President has issued the usual call for an extra session of the senate at noon on March 4, to confirm President McKinley's cabinet appointments.

The German-American bank, of Tonawanda, N. Y., closed yesterday on account of a run that was made on it. The officials say the suspension is only temporary.

President Cleveland declines to pardon Editor J. P. Wilson, of Indiana, convicted of sending his newspaper containing obscene matter, through the mails, and expresses his surprise that respectable people should sign a petition for such a pardon.

FIRE BUG'S WORK

In the Heart of the Wholesale District Early This Morning.

A CHICAGO MAN IN TROUBLE.

The Police Are Now Searching For a Fire Fiend.

THE TURNER ESTATE BUILDING

Alleged to Have Been Set on Fire at the Instigation of a Man who Came Here a Week Ago, and Took Out Excessive Insurance in Local Agencies—Very Little Merchandise was in the Building—The Underwriters Suspected Something was Wrong.

This morning at 2:15 o'clock, Will Underwood, a young man, on his way home, while passing along Main street, saw smoke rolling out of the third story windows of the building at the corner of the Stamm house alley, Nos. 1300 and 1302 Main street. He at once turned in an alarm at box 25, calling out the entire fire department, which made a very fast run to the scene.

The chemical hose was first turned into the interior of the building through a second story window at the front, but the smoke was so dense and fire had attained such headway that it was seen the chemical could not master it. Then Chief Klieves had a line of hose sent up into the second story at the front, while another line was introduced into the building at the rear through the third story window.

The fire started from an unknown cause at the rear of the building on the second floor, near the elevator shaft, which made it more dangerous. However, the flood of water that was poured into the building at front and rear speedily had the desired effect and at 2:40 a. m. the fire was under control.

The fire was in the building, No. 1302 Main street, which has been unoccupied since Henry Speyer, the wholesale notion man, vacated it several months ago.

The loss to the building was not very large. The principal loss is that of the wholesale millinery firm of A. L. Rice & Company, located in the upper half of the same building, No. 1300, at the corner of the alley. The smoke soon permeated the entire building and this was followed by tons of water, which soaked through and carried ruin to the wholesale stock of millinery, which is said to be worth from $10,000 to $20,000. At 3 o'clock no estimate of the loss could be made.

The buildings, Nos. 1300 and 1302 Main street are owned by the Elizabeth Turner estate, of which Mr. W. D. Johnson is the administrator. The loss to the building could not be named.

At 3 o'clock the engines were still at work and the Rice stock was rapidly becoming ruined, which means a big loss reaching from $5,000 to the full value, said to be $20,000. The loss on the building will probably reach $2,000.

Was Set on Fire.

At 3:10 o'clock this morning the Intelligencer learns of additional facts which tend to show that the Turner building was set on fire, with the object of securing insurance on a stock that was worth not nearly the amount for which it was insured.

About a week ago a man came here from Chicago, calling himself William Eaton, and representing that he was a manufacturers' agent. Among other goods he received and stored in the second story of the Turner building, was a lot of willow ware. He also said he had other lines of merchandise which he would job in this territory.

One of his first steps was to go to the W. R. Rice insurance agency and take out insurance to the amount of $3,000. This was thought to be fully as much insurance as the stock would stand, so when Mr. Rice learned that Eaton had taken out $4,500 additional insurance in the Morgan and other agencies, he became alarmed and the local underwriters' association placed a special watchman at the Turner building in order to nip in the bud any attempt to burn out the stock. It is also learned that Eaton went to the Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Wheeling, and endeavored to take out $1,500 more insurance, representing that there was no other insurance on the stock. This would have been $9,000 insurance on a stock that may have been worth $3,000, but was probably not worth $1,500.

Eaton is said to have left Wheeling on Monday night for Pittsburgh, and at this hour, (3:30 a. m.) there is nothing to indicate that he fired the building, though the circumstances detailed above would lead the finger of suspicion to point in his direction. The police have been notified, but no arrests have been made yet.

Police After Eaton.

This morning at 3:40 o'clock the police officers are searching the town for Eaton, who was seen in Wheeling yesterday morning. He had returned from Pittsburgh. He was not seen about the Turner building this morning, but the general theory is that he set the building on fire for the insurance money, and it will take a rock-ribbed alibi for him to get out of a very tight hole if the police succeed in landing him.

This morning at 3:40 o'clock the Intelligencer representative saw Mr. S. M. Rice, of the firm of S. M. Rice & Company, and asked him to make an estimate of his loss. He said his stock is valued at $30,000. He had just received a large and valuable consignment of spring millinery from the east yesterday. He has insurance aggregating in the neighborhood of $18,000, which he anticipates will fully cover the loss his firm sustains by the water, which ruins almost all the stock, on the first and second floors. The most valuable portion of the stock is on the first floor, over which a torrent of water is pouring as the Intelligencer goes to press.

At 3:50 the engines have stopped.

Will Arrest Eaton's Pal.

At 4 o'clock the police were informed that the "inside" of the cause of the fire would come out in this morning's Intelligencer, and it was then determined to arrest a "pal" of Eaton, who was in bed at the Howell house, on Water street. It seems that Eaton did not return from Pittsburgh, as reported above. The information on which the arrest was made is that the man at the Howell is in with Eaton on the deal. His name could not be learned. Their game was that the fire was to occur while Eaton was out of the city; they supposing that the underwriters' suspicions had not been aroused and that it was not known that there was the second person "or blind" in the case.

The police discovered at 4:10 a. m. that he "blind" man was not at the Howell. They are now looking for him.

Mr. W. R. Rice, the insurance man, says the stock was not worth $3000.

FIRE AT ST. LOUIS.

Merchants' Exchange Building is Badly Damaged.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 24.—At 2:30 a. m., flames were discovered breaking forth from the roof of the Merchant's Exchange building, which occupies two-thirds of the block on Third street, bounded by Chestnut and Pine. The fire started in the elevator shaft, presumably from defective light wires, and spread to the offices on the top floor. Three alarms were turned in and the large number of engines called out got the flames under control by 3:30 o'clock. The damage is confined principally to the eastern, or office portion of the building, and was mostly caused by the water with which the roof was flooded. All the offices on the top floor was destroyed. The narrow streets and the mass of overhead wires hampered the work of the firemen and had not the building been almost fire-proof the fire would undoubtedly have destroyed it. No estimate of the loss can be made yet.

Guests at the Planter's Hotel, a half block distant, were frightened, and rushed from their rooms, but returned when they learned that they were in no danger.

THE TYLER COUNTY TRAGEDY.

First Reports Correct—Authorities Making an Investigation.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

SISTERSVILLE, W. Va., Feb. 24.—The latest developments in the story concerning the burning of the speakeasy and bawdy house in the interior of the county is that the first report was correct and that all of the parties reported dead were burned, and that in addition some of those injured are in a very serious condition and may not recover.

The county officers have taken the matter up and will investigate thoroughly. The better element all over the county are highly incensed at the high-handed outrage and great pressure is being brought to bear on the authorities in order to compel them to probe the matter to the bottom. So far no arrests have been made, but it is expected that within the next couple of days warrants will be issued, and some very sensational developments will likely crop out, as some well-known citizens are said to have had a hand in the affair.

SEVEN WERE KILLED.

Terrible Fate of a Family Near Sherman Heights, Tennessee.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 24.—Seven out of a family of eleven were killed on a railroad crossing near Sherman Heights, a suburb of Chattanooga, this afternoon. The accident occurred where the Georgia division of the Southern railroad crosses Harrison avenue.

The family, whose name was Woodward, consisted of ten members, mother and nine children, were in the wagon. The mother and six of the children were killed instantly and the other three children were dangerously hurt. They lived eight miles out in the country and were coming to Chattanooga. The father, W. J. Woodward, was already in town.

They failed to notice the signals given by the trainmen and death came before they were aware of their danger.

Both horses were killed and the wagon utterly demolished.

The shock to the train was so severe that all the window glass in it was jarred to fragments.

The bodies of the dead family were brought to an undertaking establishment in Chattanooga soon after the accident. Two of the children who were not killed instantly cannot recover.

Seven persons are dead. Special trains have left for the scene of the accident.

Evidences of an Awful Tragedy.

RIVERTON, N. J., Feb. 24.—While workmen were digging a trench on the property of Henry C. Dreer, near the Delaware river front, they unearthed from the soft mucky soil five human skeletons. The spot where the skeletons were found is near a dense growth of underbrush, which screens the river front. A physician who examined the skeletons said that one gave evidence of comparatively recent burial. This latter was apparently the bones of a white man of mature years. The skull was fractured and seemed to have been crushed in by a blow. No definite theory can be advanced as to how the skeletons came there.

The spot where they were found is just back of the Faunces fish cabin, which is used by shad fishermen in the spring.

Bishop Quigley Consecrated.

BUFFALO, Feb. 24.—The Rev. James E. Quigley, rector of St. Bridget's church in this city, was to-day elected to the position of bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Buffalo. Archbishop Corrigan officiated as consecrator, and his assistants in the ceremony were Bishop McQuaid, of Rochester, Bishop McDonnell, of Brooklyn, Dean Brougham, of Batavia, Father Vanderpool, of Leroy, and Fathers Connoy and Hoelscher, of this city. Besides those named there were present Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto, Bishops Gabriels, Wigger and McFaul, Mgrs. Sparetti and De Regge, and Father Bandinelli, head of the Pasonist order in this city.

Impeached a Witness.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WESTON, W. Va., Feb. 24.—Contestant Lightburn got in some strong rebuttal testimony to-day. The principal witness relied on in the effort to throw out the Collins school house vote, was impeached by his brother. He was shown to have refused to vote because he was not paid for doing so.

Koerner Convicted of Murder.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—William J. Koerner, a newspaper artist, whose home was in Pittsburgh, was adjudged guilty of murder in the first degree late this afternoon. Sentence was suspended, pending a motion for a new hearing.

Koerner shot to death his sweetheart, Rosa Redgate, while she was on the street about a year ago. An attempt to show that Koerner was an epileptic and a slave to drugs was made.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia, fair and warmer during the day; colder Thursday night; westerly winds.

For Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, generally fair, except on the lakes; local snows and partly cloudy weather; winds shifting to northwesterly; colder Thursday night.

Local Temperature.

The temperature yesterday as observed by C. Schnepf, druggist, corner Market and Fourteenth streets, was as follows:

7 a. m.	28	3 p. m.	40
9 a. m.	30	7 p. m.	37
12 m.	35	Weather—Fair.	