THE CITY.

GENERAL NEWS.

W. W. Everts has sold to A. B. Walker, for $35,000, 56 feet on the east side of Wabash avenue, 354 feet south of Fourteenth street.

Lawrence O'Brien, the old West Town Collector, yesterday paid to the County Treasurer $14,187.7c, the balance of his collections for the last term.

The temperature yesterday, as observed by Manasse, optician, No. 89 Madison street (TRIBUNE Building), was, at 8 a. m., 45 deg.; 10 a. m., 53; 12 m., 61; 3 p. m., 46; 6 p. m., 42; 8 p. m., 39.

At the request of Chief of Detectives Joe Dixon, Dr. Miller, Sanitary Superintendent, and Dr. Brock McVickar, Surgeon to the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, yesterday visited Miss Lizzie Baldwin, who was reported to be in a dying condition from abortion. They found the young lady in a condition very favorable for a speedy recovery.

John C. Schroeder, proprietor of the Malakoff Theatre, who was charged some days ago, by P. G. Adler, with having obtained the sum of $250 from him under false representations, was before Justice Haines yesterday, and, upon examination of the witnesses, was discharged from custody, there being no evidence to establish a case of fraud.

The attempt of detectives to get control of the trunk belonging to James Reed, the deed forger, has been checked by the interference of Judge Booth, and the documents, etc., which would yield $30,000," will remain in the Safety Deposit Company until the time arrives for their examination in the Criminal Court. Yesterday one of the city detectives went to State's Attorney Reed, and represented to him that the trunk should be turned over to the "custodian of stolen property," and Mr. Reed, thinking there was nothing improper in the transfer, wrote a note to Justice Haines requesting him to deliver the trunk to the police authorities. Mr. Barnum, however, hearing of the scheme, applied, with Mr. Reed's concurrence, to Judge Booth, and obtained an order for its retention by the Justice, thus insuring the safety of the contents, and preventing their use for supposed blackmailing purposes.

The April meeting of the Farragut Boat Club was held last evening at the Grand Pacific, the Vice-President, Frank M. Staples, in the chair. The semi-annual reports of the Secretary, Alfred S. Porter, the Treasurer, Edward Palmer, and also those of Capt. Ogden and Downs, were read, approved, and placed on file. Messrs. E. B. Tebbets, Fred B. Carter, and Frank P. Baker were unanimously elected members of the club, and the application for membership received from W. A. Ingham, George W. Stevens, and William Burry were referred to the Board of Admission. Capt. Downs reported that the new eight-oared barge, "R. C. Oliphant," would be ready within a week, and that the four-oared paper shell, "Kenilworth," would be ready about May 1. The Captain then appointed the crews for the ensuing season. As he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Northwestern Rowing Association, he asked leave of absence to attend the meeting for preparations for the coming regatta at Cleveland. The boys are all looking forward to a lively and interesting season, and intend to make a hit when their new uniforms appear.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

A MEETING WITHOUT A QUARREL.

The regular weekly meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held yesterday afternoon, Commissioner Burdick in the Chair.

The following Committee on Printing and Stationery, called for by a previous resolution of Commissioner McCaffrey, was appointed by the Chair: Messrs. McCaffrey, Guenther, Crawford, Holden, and Hertzing.

DIETING PRISONERS.

The Mayor of the City, as Chairman of the Board of Inspectors of the House of Correction, sent in a communication in which it was proposed to enter into a contract with the County Board for the dieting of prisoners belonging to the county, confined in the House of Correction, at the rate of 35 cents per prisoner, per day, the contract to run for two years from the date thereof.

Referred to the Committee on City Relations.

EGAN PROTESTS.

Mr. James J. Egan sent in the following communication:

GENTLEMEN: I would again respectfully beg leave to remonstrate against the action of your honorable Board in having elected to the position of architects of the proposed new City-Hall and Court-House two architects besides myself, notwithstanding the fact that I am, and have been for several months, the duly-elected and sole architect of the county's portion of the proposed structure.

I have filed my bond and contract in good faith, believing that the election of an individual to a position was itself a contract, and implied an obligation upon the part of your honorable Board to sustain me in my position so long as I continued to perform the duties required by the resolutions under which I was elected.

These duties have thus far been confined to the preparation of preliminary studies of a building that may be erected jointly or separately by the city and county. I have made such preliminary drawings as required by the resolutions of July 20, and Nov. 16, 1874, and previous resolutions bearing on the subject, pending the harmonious action of both Boards, and have, therefore, up to the present time, done all in my power to fulfill the agreement with the county.

I now, therefore, respectfully protest against any action which invades my just rights as sole architect of the county portion of the building. Very respectfully,

J. J. EGAN,

Commissioner Holden—That is a game at which two can play. Let us hear the contract read.

The contract was read, but, as the document did not throw any particular light on the matter, the subject was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Holden asked why the Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings (Mr. Clough) had not reported on a resolution bearing on the same subject, which had been long in his hands.

Commissioner Clough said that other matters had pressed upon the Committee, but they would be able to report at next meeting.

The Committee on City Relations made a report, in which they submitted, without recommendation, the proposition of Superintendent Felton, of the House of Correction, to diet prisoners at 35 cents per capita per day.

Commissioner Crawford moved that the Committee be instructed to complete the contract with the city, commencing with April 1, 1875, and continuing until the parties mutually agree to end it, which was carried.

COUNTY PROPERTY.

In regard to the condition of the titles to real property belonging to the county, the Committee on Judiciary made the following report:

Your Committee have been able to find but one abstract of title to property belonging to the county—that is, an abstract of title to the new hospital lot.

The County Attorney informs your Committee that the title to that property is shown by the abstract to be in the county, subject to a judgment from which an appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court, and against which the county holds county bonds in sufficient amount.

Your Committee find all the deeds from the immediate grantors of the property upon which the Jail and Criminal Court Buildings are situated are in the safe of the Clerk of the Board.

Your Committee are unable to find any abstracts of title to the property, therefore the County Attorney has been unable to form an opinion as to the validity of the county title.

Your Committee find but one deed to any part of the County Farm—that is, a deed from Stolwell of 80 acres. In addition to the above-named property the county is believed to own the Reform School grounds and Court-House square, but in the absence of an abstract title thereto your Committee are unable to report as to the condition of the title.

Your Committee recommend that they be authorized to procure abstracts of title to all said property, of which the county now has no abstract.

Commissioner Holden inquired whether the Committee supposed sufficient investigation had been made.

As the reply to this was rather dubious, Commissioner Clough moved that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further action, which was carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Committee on Finance made a report, in which it was stated that they had checked up, registered, and canceled all the fire coupons from 901 to 1,500, inclusive, in accordance with a resolution of the Board. These coupons, to the amount of $500,000, had been destroyed by fire and new ones engraved to the same amount. The report was concurred in.

A report from the Committee on Public Charities stated that seventy-five patients had been selected and removed from Jefferson to the Elgin Insane Asylum. The report further stated that by the removal the County Insane Asylum would be in a much better condition to accommodate the patients committed thereto. All bad cases of insanity will be in the future received at Elgin. The Committee stated that it would soon be here ready to take action on the removal of county patients from Jacksonville to Elgin. The report was concurred in.

The following was presented by Commissioner Johnson:

Resolved, That a Joint Committee, consisting of the Committees on Education and Public Charities, be instructed to examine and report to the Board what action is necessary to be taken to provide the necessary facilities for education of the children at the County Farm.

Carried.

In the matter of the equalization of taxes, Commissioner Crawford moved that the County Clerk be requested to act with the Committee in preparing atlases of Cook County.

Commissioner McCaffrey opposed the motion. He thought the Committee were fully equal to the business.

After some discussion the resolution was carried. The Board then adjourned.

WASHINGTONIAN HOME.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors of the Washingtonian Home held their quarterly meeting last night, at their building on Madison street, near Ashland avenue, Dr. N. S. Davis occupied the chair. There was a full attendance of the Directors.

The various officers of the institution submitted their reports, and they were placed on file. Superintendent Wilkins' report showed that the Home had furnished board during the past quarter amounting to $3,778.74, and had received $1,272.50, leaving an excess of $2,505.94, which is equivalent to thirty-five boarders for the quarter. They had received during this time 120 patients, and discharged 70, thus leaving in the Home 41 inmates. They had furnished 7,020 meals. The regular monthly expenses amounted to $2,362.51. The receipts reached $1,272.50, showing an expenditure over and above the receipts of $1,090. 1.

The report of the Executive Committee stated that, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Board at a former meeting, they had appointed a Building Committee, consisting of W. B. Bateham, Dr. H. Hitchcock, O. N. Holden, C. G. Hayman, and H. C. Morey, to whom the different plans for the proposed new Home were referred. The plans submitted by Architect Holden were adopted after sundry alterations. Bids have been solicited, and it was estimated the new building would cost $12,000. The Committee also submitted a financial statement, showing the available resources for building purposes, and recommending the immediate erection of the building. The Committee further reported that they had secured the building No. 572 West Madison street, for the next six months, for the use of the Home. It will accommodate the Superintendent with his family and twenty inmates. They are negotiating for a hall in the vicinity of this building, for the purpose of Sunday evening meetings, and for the use of the Good Templars and Sons of Temperance organizations connected with the institution.

The Secretary's report showed a cash balance on hand of $2,240.94, and no outstanding bills.

Mr. Bowen offered a resolution to the effect that the Executive Committee be authorized to contract for the erection and completion of the new building at an expense not to exceed $10,000, exclusive of the cost of the steam-heating apparatus, which was left to the discretion of the Committee.

By the reports of the various officers of the institution, its affairs are in an excellent condition, and they are accomplishing much good.

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787.

PAPER BY MR. W. F. POOLE.

The paper read before the Chicago Literary Club last evening was by Mr. William F. Poole, Librarian of the Public Library, on "The Origin and Secret History of the Ordinance of 1787." It was one of unusual historical interest, and the materials on which it was based were largely original and unpublished documents. As the paper is to be used hereafter, we can give only a brief abstract of the points discussed.

No topic in the whole range of our national history has been more obscure, or the subject of more conflicting statements than the origin and authorship of this celebrated ordinance, which fixed forever the social, political, and educational institutions of these Northwestern States. "We are accustomed," said Mr. Webster, in his speech in answer to Hayne, "to praise the lawgivers of antiquity; we help to perpetuate the fame of Solon and Lycurgus; but I doubt whether one single law, of any lawgiver, ancient or modern, has produced effects of more distinct, marked, and lasting character than the Ordinance of 1787." Mr. Webster asserted that Nathan Dane, of Massachusetts, was its author. Gov. Coles, of Illinois, in a paper before the Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1850, claimed that honor for Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Charles King, of New York, has asserted that his father, Rufus King, was the author of the anti-slavery provision which kept slavery out of the Northwestern States. Mr. Poole gave a sketch of the several plans for the government of the Northwestern Territory which were before Congress from 1784 to 1787, from which it appeared that the real ordinance, which passed July 13, 1787, was wholly unlike any of the former plans, and was, in the brief space of four successive days, drafted, put through its several readings, and enacted by the unanimous vote of all the States present. He inquires how this sudden action was brought about, and what was the cause of it. If Mr. Dane was its author, how did he get so much light on the subject so suddenly? Mr. Dane was on a committee to draft an ordinance, which was reported early in May, and took its second reading on the 9th of May. Its third reading was assigned for the next day. May 10, it was called up by Massachusetts, and final action was postponed. It came down to the 9th of July in the same condition. Mr. Peter Force, of Washington, found this draft, and printed it. It had no resemblance to the ordinance finally passed July 13. It had no anti-slavery clause or "articles of compact." Some influence must have been brought to bear upon Congress during the early days of July which changed its whole action.

Mr. Poole has ascertained what that influence was, and, from unpublished documents which he quotes, gives an account of what occurred during the few days in July while this action was transpiring in Congress. On the 5th of July, Dr. Manasseh Cutler, of Massachusetts, arrived in New York, when Congress was in session, and proposed to purchase 1,000,000 acres of land in the Northwest Territory for the Ohio Company. He bought the land, and 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 acres besides for other parties; and the next April the first English settlement of the Territory was made by the Ohio Company at Marietta. The members of the Ohio Company were the officers of the Revolutionary army, mostly residing in the eastern part of Massachusetts. One of the conditions of the purchase was that Congress should enact such laws as would be satisfactory to the parties who proposed to purchase. Dr. Cutler had been educated in the three learned professions of law, medicine, and divinity, and was a person of great scientific attainments and great personal accomplishments. Mr. Poole has the private journal which Dr. Cutler kept during this period, which tells why, how, and by whom this sudden action of Congress was inspired. The Committee appointed July 5 were persons who were probably suggested by himself for the purpose. He gave them in writing what he desired the ordinance to be. The ordinance is mainly an abstract of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780. The Ohio purchase, on the passage of the ordinance of 1787, were parts of one and the same transaction. They were before Congress at the same time. Col. Carrington, of Virginia, was the Chairman of the Committee which carried through both measures; and Dr. Manasseh Cutler was the person who furnished the occasion, the motive power, and the ideas which are embodied in both instruments.

LOCAL LETTERS.

FRIDAY'S ELECTION.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, April 19.—I have been informed that my name has been placed on the Campaign Committee appointed in connection with the special election to be held on the 23d inst., at which time it is proposed to vote "for" and "against" the adoption of the general act of incorporation of cities passed in 1872. I regret to state that business engagements compel my absence from the city the entire week, and hence I can do but little in person. At the earnest solicitation of a few of my personal friends, I hand you a brief statement of my views upon the subject:

The course pursued by THE TRIBUNE in regard to the recent act, commonly called the Citizens' Association bill, has my hearty approval. The result of the vote Friday will in a great measure determine the fate of the act of 1875. While I feel confident the act of 1872 will be defeated, the vote may be light, and hence construed to mean that the people are satisfied with our present organization. This I think is a mistake. I am satisfied that a majority of the tax-payers are anxious for a change, and, in my humble opinion, the act of 1875 is as good as anything we can get under our present Constitution. Then vote down the act of 1-72, with a hundred vote, and it will secure the adoption eventually of the act of 1875.

It is an acknowledged fact that our State and United States organizations have proved a success for nearly a century, and could not be made more perfect. It is also a well-known fact that the act of 1875, for the government or organization of cities in this State, makes similar provisions to those which regulate our National and State Governments. Now, if our National and State organizations are satisfactory, and work well, there can be no reason why an act containing almost the same identical provisions for the government of cities should not produce the same results.

The act of 1872 makes but few, if any, changes of importance as compared with our present organization, and, if adopted, would leave us in about the same condition we now find ourselves, while the act of 1875 makes a number of decidedly radical changes, and which I am satisfied will soon produce beneficial results if it is adopted. I trust, therefore, that the voters will turn out en masse and cast a decided and overwhelming vote against the act of 1872, with the view of adopting that of 1875 at no distant day.

There doubtless are some objections to the act of 1875, but I have neither time nor inclination at present to investigate them. One fact is patent, our present city organization is not what it should be, and the act of 1872, I repeat, will not improve our condition.

Permit me, in conclusion, to state that the subject of our city organization and government is not new to me. Some five years ago, while I had the honor of being a member of the Common Council, I submitted a proposition looking forward to a new organization of our City Government, but many older and more influential members differed with me, and hence no action was taken upon the matter. But I am happy to find that quite a number of those then opposed to a change are now cordially advocating it. My advice to all voters is, turn out Friday and do your duty, if you desire the welfare and prosperity of this great city. Very respectfully, PETER DAGGY.

DELICATE HUMOR.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, April 19.—The Sunday issue of the Chicago *Times* contains what purports to be a brief account of an accident which occurred on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad track, near Western avenue, Saturday morning last, whereby Mr. W. H. Dee, an employe of that Company, met instant death. It is as follows:

"There were several people who went from Chicago yesterday on the forenoon train in a hurry, and no man does his business like he does everything else, in a hurry. There was William H. Dee, who concluded that he would board a train while it was in full speed. Selecting one on the Galena Division of the Northwestern Railway, at 8 o'clock, he tried the feat and failed. The attempt came in contact with him, and he had to back down. It paid no attention to his feeble effort, but passed over his body and cut it in twain. He did not live to speak to the conductor."

As a delicious morsel of humor the above can be thoroughly appreciated only by those who witnessed the occurrence. With the public at large there may be a question as to what feature there was in the accident calculated to provoke mirth. Let us see: Here was a man 50 years of age who from comparative wealth had been reduced to the necessity of daily labor for the support of a large and entirely dependent family. He was while on his way to his office where he had been employed that he was run down by an engine and his body completely severed. There was no fault upon the part of the Railroad Company, and none upon his part, such as would be inferred from the paragraph in question, which, by the way, is inaccurate as a news-item. A momentary absence of mind is the only explanation. With an admirable and delicate spirit of humor that shows its merry influence in a succeeding item,—wherein it is related how a man's skull was crushed by falling brick,—the *Times*, instead of observing that rather old, but not altogether obsolete, custom of treating the grief of a stricken family as something sacred, brings out the telling point of the affair in an irresistible manner.

To one capable of appreciating a good thing it must be a source of regret that the fool of the *Times* staff, with his cap and bells, had not been sent to the broken home when the mutilated remains of the husband and father were taken there, preceded by only a few moments warning, to those who had an hour before bade him good-by. We can guess what funny things would have come of that scene, when so much is made of what seemed to those who knew and respected the quiet old man, and were involuntary witnesses of his death, as really quite a solemn and terrible affair. Not one of them thought at the time how absurdly comical it would sound to remark that Mr. Dee "didn't live to speak to the conductor about it." And yet among the readers of the *Times* yesterday there may be a few sober-visaged people with no eye to the humorous, nor appreciation of quaint humor, who will be inclined to consider the paragraph in question a gross outrage upon the feelings of a heart-broken family, and an insult to every civilized reader. But there are people who have not the element of fun in them.

X.

THE CITY-HALL.

The Finance Committee will meet at 2:30 p. m. Thursday in the City Clerk's office.

Ald. Culleton has called a meeting of the Committee on Streets and Alleys for the West Division for Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Fullerton avenue conduit trial still continues to amuse the city officials during their leisure hours in the afternoon. The defense for the city is being piled mountains high.

Sergt. Charles H. French, of the Union Park Station, yesterday sent in his resignation, to take effect May 1. He is going into business for himself, and will dote on the pensive "peelers" no more.

An enterprising clerk in Otto Peltzer's map department of the Board of Public Works has invented a clothes-pin which is bound to make an impression if handled correctly. It need hardly be added that he is a Yankee.

The City Collector makes his report to the Comptroller of the collections for the six days ending April 17, 1875, as follows: Collected on personal property of 1873, $2,013; personal property of 1874, $9,198; general real estate of 1874, $47,186.12; special assessments, $2,033.51. Total collections, $50,433.34.

"He that calleth his brother a fool is in danger of hell-fire," was the mild rebuke which the rollicking Mark yesterday administered to Mr. Elliott Durand, a reporter, who was kind enough to prefer charges against Officer Riordan for maltreatment. Then he followed with a scathing rebuke of the officer for harsh treatment of a blind young man, who habitually made Commissioner Reno's apples a matter of public importance in the columns of the *Times*. The complainant insisted that the quotation from Scripture was inapplicable to his case, as he had merely called the officer the *Times'* pet word, "dumbhead." But it was of no avail, and he was ruled out of order. Moral: Do not bring charges against a policeman for maltreatment, nor for anything else, for the court sitteth in high places, and should not be made the tool of reporters.

The blood-curdling sound of the Mayor's goose-quill, as he yesterday signed the appointment of John Summerfield as Police Justice in the South Division, made the most instrumental music of all the police official roster. He did not come to his office until near noon, thereby alarming the Summerfield faction, who supposed that His Honor had fallen among honest men. One of their leaders was dispatched to hunt him up, and headed directly for the hotel where the Mayor most delights to dine, and after diligent search they wended their way to the City-Hall, where, shortly after, the deed was done, right under the immortal Washington's placid face in its gilt frame. The battle for Summerfield has been one of the hardest of fights, involving as it did the overthrow of Justice Boyden, the appointment of a man who was distasteful to many of the Judges to the position of Justice of the Peace, and finally the subjection of a Mayor who has time and again said in robust tones and written his paper that "Under no consideration will I nominate John Summerfield as Police Justice."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The sale of tickets for the DeMuraska concert Thursday evening begins this morning at Bauer's Music Store. DeMuraska is the leading *prima donna* in the country at this time, a charming vocalist, and assisted by a good company. Her concert ought to be a success.

The April meeting of the Presbyterian Sunday-School Association will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Hyde Park this evening. There will be an address by the Rev. U. D. Gulick, on "The Importance of the Scholar's Conversion Before Leaving the Sabbath-School."

All ladies interested in the work of the Athenæum are invited to attend a meeting of ladies in the rooms of the Society, at No. 114 Madison street, to advise in regard to the fitting up of a parlor and reading-room exclusively for ladies in the new rooms to which the Society will remove on the 1st of May.

Comrades of Ransom Post No. 1; G. H. Thomas No. 6; Whittier, No. 8; Wyman, No. 9; Lyons, No. 14; and Bob McCook, No. 21, of the City of Chicago, are requested to meet at the Grand Pacific Hotel Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. sharp. A full attendance of the members is expected, as matters of importance will be brought before the meeting touching the forthcoming reunion.

Especial attention is called to a free lecture which is to be given in Lower Farwell Hall this evening, at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. M. C. Kelley will lecture on "Co-operation." Mr. Kelley is one of the managers of the only co-operative store that has ever succeeded in Chicago. Workingmen, women, and all persons of moderate means will find it to their advantage to attend the meeting. There is no admission fee.

SUBURBAN.

HYDE PARK.

The annual election for a Board of Trustees for the Town of Hyde Park occurs to-day. There are two tickets in the field, one known as the Regular and the other as the People's. The former is composed of John R. Hoxie, John R. Bensley, George C. Custer, Hamilton B. Bogue, Dr. J. R. Flood, and Alexander R. Powell, and the latter of Messrs. Howe, Arnold, Gillette, Calhoun, and C. M. Hardy.

A strong circular has been issued to the voters and tax-payers, setting forth the expenditures of the town, as reported by an investigating committee which examined the books, and which was published in these columns at the time. The circular shows that Charles Creighton has been paid from the Prairie avenue improvement fund $4,871.20; from the Wabash avenue fund, $6,550.40; and from the Indiana avenue fund, $4,272.70; and, further, that he has been paid $5,772.15 over and above the estimates for the work done, including interest.

The circular goes on to say that the "People's ticket" to be voted for is in the Creighton interest; that Hardy, one of the candidates, was attorney for Creighton at the investigation; that the tickets were concocted in a saloon, and is really of "Waite-Healy-Creighton-Hardy" origin; that its supporters and grooms are G. W. Waite, C. Straite, G. H. White, C. Creighton, Boston Creighton, Daniel Healy, and Nat Hastings; that Creighton is spending his ill-gotten gains for its election; and hopes by the election of the ticket to squelch any proceedings against him to compel him to refund the $5,772.15, due by him to the village. The fact that there are two competent engineers in the Waite family, is why the Waite's support the ticket. Healy demonstrated his capacity as Superintendent and Handlon as Town Clerk, the latter being deposed as Cashier of the Water-Department for an irregularity amounting to $.04.70, and now is a candidate for Village Clerk; and concludes by pledging the "Regular" ticket to "reform all abuses, to preserve order and decency, to an economical administration of public affairs, and to proceed with the collection of all moneys due the village from Creighton or others."

If the voters of the village will only turn out, there is every hope of the defeat of the Creighton set.

OAK PARK.

The Redowa Club will give a very large and elegant party this evening at Temperance Hall.

A sociable, under the auspices of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, will be given in the church lecture-room Thursday evening, April 29. Coffee, cakes, speeches, and a general good time is the programme for the evening. The public are generally invited.

A new morning train is to be put on the road the 3d of May. The supplies a want that has long been felt, and will add much to the convenience and pleasure of the citizens. The train starts from Maywood, leaving there at 7:05, reaching the city at 7:45 a. m. Authoritative rumor says that the afternoon's train which now leaves the city at 6:10, is to be ten minutes later, thereby greatly accommodating gentlemen confined to business until 6 o'clock p. m.

One prominent real-estate dealer of Oak Park has disposed of every one of the fifteen houses placed this spring in his hands for rental. This fact tells its own story as regards the popularity of the town. It has already won the reputation of being the liveliest suburban town on the Northwestern Road.

Miss Jessie Hardy, a young aspirant for musical honors, gave the members of Christ (Episcopal) Church the benefit of some fine vocal selections Sunday morning.

A lecture will be delivered in the Dime Course at the Congregational Church this evening by the Rev. H. Cherry. The subject of the discourse will be "Ancient India." The lecturer will speak directly from personal experiences and knowledge, and will be pleased to answer any inquiries at any time during the lecture; in fact, such questions are courted. The proceeds are to go to the Onward Mission Building-Fund.

Mr. Buchanan and family move this week to Chicago to their elegant residence on Ashland avenue. Mr. Buchanan is at present lying dangerously ill in Chicago.

WHEATON.

Buildings, residences, and stores have been erected here during the past year to the amount of $70,000, which is evidence that the citizens are not asleep, to say the least.

The "Busy Bees," at their recent fair for the benefit of the grasshopper sufferers, cleared $90.66, $33.65 of which was sent to Yankton, D. T., for seeds.

The friends of Miss Wheeler, the gifted Wisconsin poetess, made her *bon voyage* as she started for her home Thursday.

The building formerly on the site of what is to be the "Central Block," have been moved away, and now the work is being started preparatory to the commencement of the largest and finest brick block in Wheaton.

Miss Pratt, daughter of Dr. Pratt, announced a parlor concert to her circle of friends for Friday evening of last week, but on account of the inclemency of the weather the affair was postponed until next Friday evening.

Prof. J. R. Greenhalgh' series of readings at the Universalist and Baptist Churches was not a happy effort. The gentleman announces himself in written lead-pencil posters, and represents himself as a citizen of New York City. He found no enthusiastic admirers of his manner of murdering Shakespeare.

The Wheatonites have got it bad,—the spellomania,—and the college chapel was the scene of downfalls on the part of many and victory on the part of one, Prof. Fischer, who stood the last on the floor.

THE COURTS.

Ruling in Favor of Plaintiffs in the State Insurance Case.

The South Park Cases---Judgments and New Suits.

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A DAY SPENT IN ARGUING.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WHEATON, Ill., April 19.—The State Insurance Company case was resumed before Judge Cady this morning.

Mr. Packard, of the counsel for the plaintiffs, proceeded to argue in favor of the admission of the evidence of George Gilbert in relation to the conversation had with G. W. McMullen when selling him his policy in the State Insurance Company. He made two distinct points in a three hours' speech, and the presentation of a long list of authorities. His first reason for the admission of the evidence was that it would show that McMullen was engaged in accomplishing the same object in the purchase, and employed the same means, as Van Inwagen and the other defendants, representing that he was acting as the agent of the Company in settling its losses, and that it could only pay 10 cents on the dollar; that really he was not representing the Company, but one of the defendants, J. Bradner Smith, which would establish the "conspiracy" alleged. Second, the evidence ought to be admitted, because it would lead to an exposure of the fraudulent intent of the defendants in the purchase or procuring of the policy of Lord, Smith & Co.

Messrs. Herrick and Valletto closed the argument for the defendants in labored efforts, reviewing the position taken Saturday, when the question was left to the Court.

The Court decided to admit the testimony conditionally, after remarking upon the importance of the points involved. He said if the evidence connected McMullen with the other defendants in like transactions, and the Gilbert policy could be traced so as to show it had been applied by the National Loan and Trust Company as a "set-off" against the deposit of the State Insurance Company, it would be admissible, otherwise it would not.

The counsel for the plaintiffs were elated at the decision, and are confident that they can prove all they claim, and that they can complete their evidence Thursday.

Pending the reading of the deposition of J. Bradner Smith, the Court adjourned until to-morrow morning, when the clerks of the National Loan and Trust Company are expected to be called.

CHICAGO COURTS.

THE SOUTH PARK CASES.

The argument on the motion for a new trial in the case of the South Park Commissioners vs. Frances Dunlevy et al.—a suit growing out of the condemnation of 80 acres for park purposes, the jury having assessed the value at $5,750 per acre—was resumed before Judge Rogers yesterday morning.

Judge Lefflingwell, for defendants, continued his remarks in answer to Mr. Ayer's point that the verdict was not supported by the evidence. He claimed that it was not only sustained by the testimony, but by outside facts,—at actual sales in the neighborhood, prices which would amount to $20,000 an acre having been paid for land. As to the argument of inconvenience, he urged that the only inconvenience would result to the individual property-owners by putting upon them the burden and expense of another trial, the cost of that already had being between $12,000 and $15,000.

Mr. Sidney Smith closed for the complainants, dwelling, at first, upon the known corrupting of juries, and then arguing from the evidence that the land was not worth more than one-third of the value fixed by the twelve, the enormous sums testified to by the witnesses for the defense being based upon the retail price with park fronts (which the Court instructed the jury to disregard), instead of the wholesale value.

The Court will give his decision Wednesday morning.

H. B. METCALFE.

An order was entered yesterday by Judge Moore, disbarring from practice the lawyer H. B. Metcalfe for a period of six years. Metcalfe is the attorney who forged to a summons, in the case of Fox vs. Fox, the name of a Deputy-Sheriff, H. B. Galpin, whereby Mrs. Fox was enabled to get a divorce from her husband without service on him, though he lived in the city, and was at the time in the employ of the Adelphi Theatre. Metcalfe left the city as soon as his forgery was known. This is the first instance in which a Judge has exercised in this county his right to disbar a lawyer for unprofessional conduct.

VOTE IT DOWN.

The Wards Organizing to Defeat the Incorporation Act of 1872.

THE TWENTIETH WARD.

A meeting of the voters of the Twentieth Ward for the purpose of forming a ward club, was held yesterday evening at the North Side Turner Hall, near the corner of North Clark street and Chicago avenue. There were about seventy gentlemen present. The chair was taken by the Hon. H. F. Waite, and Mr. C. R. Corbin was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. White, on behalf of the Committee appointed at the previous meeting to confer with the Common Council as to the appointment of judges of election and to take measures for the forming of a ward club for the protection of the interests of the ward voters, reported that before they had time to wait upon the Common Council and advocate the appointment of men of unquestionable integrity as such judges the names of three appointees were published. Under the circumstances the Committee deemed it best not to question the appointments, and agreed to content themselves simply with the appointment of challengers who should attend at the polling-places, and see that the interests of voters are protected. The Council had selected only one polling-place in each ward, and that which had been chosen in the Twentieth Ward was considered highly objectionable. The Committee had therefore prepared the following remonstrance to be submitted to the Council:

As a Committee appointed by a mass-meeting of legal voters of the Twentieth Ward, we respectfully request that the voting place of the ward, for the approaching election, be changed from the northwest corner of Michigan and Dearborn streets to the northwest corner of Michigan and Clark streets. Our reasons for the request are, on the one hand, that the first-mentioned locality is very ill-adapted to the purpose proposed; especially as there is but one voting-place for the entire ward. As now assigned, the voting-place is on the north side of the building, at a small window of perhaps 6 feet square, thus requiring for its approach a temporary platform or gangway. That fact constitutes a sufficient objection. But the outside surroundings are also objectionable, consisting, as they do, of fire debris covering the ground on which the voters must gather, and of noisome refuse immediately adjacent. On the other hand, the northwest corner of Michigan and Clark streets, the place which we hereby offer free of expense to the city, is a vacant store with glass fronts, and affording every possible facility. The adjoining sidewalks are broad and clear; the location is especially convenient to the residents of the ward, and the surroundings are unobjectionable. For these reasons, and in the name of the hundreds of legal voters whom we represent, we request that the change be made. Respectfully,

I. A. WHITE,
L. T. CHAMBERLAIN,
HERMANN LEIB,
JOHN H. DONLIN,
GEORGE H. FERGUS,
Committee.

Mr. White then proceeded to read the Constitution of the Twentieth Ward Citizens' Club, which was adopted by the meeting, and subsequently signed by about fifty of the voters present.

In accordance with an article of the Constitution, the Club proceeded to elect its officers, as follows:

President, Julian S. Rumsey; Vice-Presidents, Joel D. Harvey, M. O'Byrne, Peter Hahn, M. A. Devine, Horace F. Waite; Secretary, H. N. Munn; Treasurer, Y. Chevalier; Executive Committee—First Precinct, L. L. Wadsworth, Henry Laubenheimer, August Schoeppe; Second Precinct, Hermann Leib, Theodore Purple, William Kellner; Third Precinct, C. R. Corbin, J. H. Donlin, Adam Bear; Fourth Precinct, Henry W. Ring, F. H. Winston, Ira P. Bowen; Fifth Precinct, J. A. Kirk, H. N. Munn, George H. Fergus.

On motion, a Committee consisting of L. L. Wadsworth, A. M. Pence, C. R. Corbin, Washington Heeling, and George H. Fergus, were appointed to take charge of the future conduct of the contested-election case of Kirk vs. Corcoran.

During the progress of the meeting the following pledge was circulated among the members of the Club for the purpose of securing signatures:

We, the undersigned, citizens and voters of the Twentieth Ward, hold ourselves personally and publicly pledged as members of the Special Committee of 200, to put forth at the polling-places on the days of election, and at other appropriate times and places, our individual and fearless efforts for the prevention of political illegality and fraud.

The following gentlemen signed the pledge: Henry A. Mann, 285 Indiana street; George W. Fergus, 354 Indiana street; W. H. Esty, M. A. Devine, Daniel McBain, Frederick H. Purple, 102 North Clark street; James A. Kirk, No. 31 Pine street; Charles D. Hamlee, 363 Ohio street; Horace F. Waite, Clarendon House; M. Gross, 238 Chicago avenue; P. F. Larabee, 363 Ohio street; F. Heide, 99 North Clark street; James W. Tagney, 143 Illinois street; Ph. Groll, 191 Ontario street; Chas. Bruckman, 143 Illinois street; George Atzel, 95 Illinois street; C. H. Corbin, 171 North State street; J. W. Jenkins, 264 Ohio street; Charles Roach, 244 Ohio street.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE FIFTH WARD.

The Committee of the Fifth Ward, in opposition to the City Charter of 1872, met at the corner of Cottage Grove avenue and Twenty-seventh street, on last night, and organized by the election of John Hise, President, and R. H. Forrester, Secretary.

The Committee proceeded to complete their number, which now consists of the following names: John Hise, President; R. H. Forrester, Secretary; A. P. Sharp, R. T. Crane, W. F. Jackson, L. Goldsmith, A. L. Dumont, J. B. Stewart, Conrad Seipp, Paul H. Dennis, J. H. Bodlitte, Jr., John Downs, W. H. Berryman, D. W. Hoffman, Harris Jennings, Ald. Clark, H. L. Saulsberry, George Hotaling, George Houghton, Ald. Stone, Thomas Furlong, John B. Gartenman, E. F. Queen, Jacob Falkenburg, James Runnion, P. McGuire, John Ryan, James McIlahon, Frank Diaz, Peter Daggy, D. S. Covert, W. H. Fharo.

On motion of A. P. Sharp it was

Resolved, That each member of the Committee exert himself until and up Friday next to defeat the adoption of the Reincorporation act of 1872.

It was also

Resolved, That mass-meetings be held Wednesday night, the 21st inst., at 8 p. m., at Gallhardt's, corner of Cottage Grove avenue and Twenty-seventh street; and at Falkenburg's, corner of State and Twenty-ninth streets, Thursday night, the 22d inst., at 8 p. m.

On motion, the Committee adjourned to meet at the corner of Cottage Grove avenue and Twenty-seventh street Wednesday night.

MILWAUKEE.

City Finances—Burdensome Taxation.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MILWAUKEE, April 19.—According to law, Mayor Ludington will deliver his inaugural for the coming year to-morrow to the new City Council. He will express the startling opinion that at present far greater benefit will result from a reduced rate of taxation than from any improvement, whether for appearance or permanence. The total bonded indebtedness is $2,581,301; interest secured for bank deposits, $6,715; borrowed from banks, $130,0 0; interest paid thereon, $11,147; licenses produced, $17,753. Owing to the system of temporarily borrowing from banks, city orders have always been paid at sight. He next speaks of the practice grown up of late years of lobbying special and questionable legislation, to apply to individual grievances and interests, and says that, whilst, no doubt, the Legislature has power to pass such laws, their wisdom and justice are questionable, the Aldermen, conversant with the wants of every ward, being competent alone to deal with such matters; and he will recommend that the Board discontenance all legislation affecting city interests not originating with them.

In conclusion he reviews the question of taxation, characterizing it as oppressive, and saying it is impossible to prosper under a tax of 3 per cent; that we have engaged in a too costly scheme of improvements, and must wait for increased population and manufactures. He concludes with a savage dig at our too expensive and numerous bridges and school-houses, in which utility is sacrificed to elegance.

BORDER RUFFIANS.

Another Raid into Texas by Mexican Freebooters.

GALVESTON, Tex., April 19.—A Corpus Christi special says: Saturday night a report came in that a company of men, disguised, had attacked Mr. Blain's ranche, in the neighborhood of Habana, burned that and four other ranches, and were coming on in this direction. William Hale, a passenger in the stage from Brownsville to Santa Gertrude's ranche, reports a band of thirty-five or forty Mexicans approaching that ranche, robbing and burning houses as they come. All communication by telegraph with Brownsville is cut off. The wire is supposed to be destroyed. Firing was heard at Bareges last night, 8