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# INITIATIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL CON-VENTION.

There is opposition to the proposal to hold a constitutional convention, on the ground, or assumption, that it is "the suggestion of reactionaries," who wish the opportunity to destroy the initiative and referendum, and the direct primary system. If this be the object, there is a much simpler and easier way. Use of the initiative can be made at any time for setting aside the initiative and referendum and the direct primary. For such purposes there is no need at all of the long and cumbrous methods of a constitutional convention, whose work, in any event, would necessarily be referred to the electors for ratification, after all was

There are arguments for and arguments against a constitutional vention; but this argument that ought to be refused because the intent o use it to wipe out the reforms that have been secured by the people, can have no bearing, either way; cause, in the first place, the initiative may now be used, directly, to "wipe its own doubtful achievements and its own very existence-if a majority wish to vote that way second, the results of constitutional convention could not scome effective till after had been approved by the popular suffrage, and if the electors desire to preserve these so-called reforms, would vote down any constitution that proposed to abolish them. There is no occasion then for anxiety, one way or another. A constitutional convention is not necessary to an effort to set "the new system," nor could new constitution that might attempt to set it aside be adopted, unless the peo-ple wished to get rid of it. Moreover, they wish to get rid of it they may do so through the initiative itself, in the very next election, or at any time

That "the new system" will some me or other be greatly changed, or modified, we fully believe. The initiative is a risky way of making laws, because the acts proposed can seldom understood by the electors, or ever considered by them. It is the way to get faddist, crude, and even injurious egislation. After the measure is offered there can be no amendment, but it must go with all its crudities to the electors, for yea or nay. The referendum is not so objectionable; for if the people do not like the law that has been enacted they can demand a vote upon it, and the debate will bring out the arguments for and against it.

direct primary system can also be dealt with at any time by the in-itiative, without the intervention of a constitutional convention, and can be repealed or changed by the direct vote of a majority, at any time. This, we believe also, will, at one time or another, be done; for the direct primary, in the form in which we have it, makes unity of action, in and through party rganization, practically impossible: produces dissensions among men which obscure and even destroy the ordinary purposes of political association and use the objects directly in view to be ost sight of, or sunk, in personal and factional contentions; it brings mediocre men, entitled to little or no consideration, to the front; it leads to results in general directly opposite to those intended by the majority of the people, and upsets, consequently, all definite principles and policies.

The primary system, in the form in which we have it, and indeed in any of the forms in which it has been attempted in any of the states, leads to some or all of these consequences. The criticism, therefore, is universal, North and South. In consequence of the numerous examples, states which have not yet employed it are refusing it objecting to political chaos; and none has gone to the length of the methods employed in Oregon. Division and de struction of parties, as political agencles, are certain consequences fatal especially to majority parties; for the system encourages candidates who never would be selected under the representative or convention system, to ome to the front in large numbers; there will be a bitter fight for the now ination to every important office, generating irreconcilable animosities some one candidate, out of many, ob taining a plurality upon a small proportion of the vote, will claim the nomlnation-but the party has been completely divided, great numbers of its members refuse to support the candidate, and the main purposes, or policles, for which a party exists or reason to exist, are lost completely, in these immitigable contentions.

It is not yet, perhaps, that the initia tive could be successfully invoked for correction of these evils and their consequences. But the time will come when it can be. It certainly will come because the people will learn, sooner or later, that it will be impossible to achieve anything in a rational way, through political and party actionthe only way results can be attainedunder a system that scatters all effort and substitutes personal contentions for the general objects that call for political organization. The initiative ultimately will be used to cure the evils has created, including the greatest of its evils-itself.

A man who wants to organize his political party, or help to organize it, and is effective in that line, is bad man. A man who has no recog nizable merits, who can't get on with his party, or obtain recognition from public, turns knocker, strives to defeat his party, and thus becomes a good man. Nothing so hateful as talents, that compete with the pretensions of mediocrity, or so much ad-

mired as talents that distance competition and leave all pretenders behind. But this last advantage comes to but few. "It is as easy," says Swift, "to get quit of numbers as of hell."

## WILLAMETTE WATER.

There is no need of a panic in Portland about Willamette River waterwe were all brought up on it. It is wet as any water, and purer than the water supplied to most cities. But it isn't so palatable as Bull Run, and perhaps not quite so pure. But it's mighty good water-better water than Cincinnati or St. Louis or Pittsburg or Philadelphia or Kansas City gets; and we are told a lot of people manage to live in those towns.

In an isolated community like ours run to notions and cranks and follies. The tendency is apparent in every direction; in political, economc, religious, industrial and educational We haven't experience, but ve have all sorts of loose "advanced hinking." We shall be wiser later. thinking. Just now the imaginary bugs, bac-teria, bacilli, worms and germs in Willamette water bother us, or we alow them to bother us; that is, we are creating our own terrors. Bull Run water is superior, but Willamette water will sustain life.

The supply of Philadelphia is from the Schuyikill basin, where millions of people live, and the wash of the basin pours the drainage into the streama stream much smaller than the Wil-Yet ten times as many peolamette. ple manage to live there. The water of the valley of the Schuylkill, including the supply to the City of Philadelsustains life. Let Portland. therefore, not fall into a panic. amples might be had from Pittsburg. Cincinnati, St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville, New Orleans and many another Here at Portland, therefore, let city. us not be absurd.

We shall fix up the conduits under the Willamette right soon. But don't be afraid of typhoid or other germs. Many people make their living by preaching these fears. Besides, as colonel of the regiment shouted, when the men shrank back under the fire-'Come on, you cowards! Do you expect to live forever?"

## SWINBURNE'S GENTES

Swinburne never was a popular poet, ertainly not in the United States. While his merits were not without appreciation here and his fame was known at second hand by everybody, compared with Longfellow or even Browning he had but few readers Those who speak of him in the casua way of conversation refer most often to the wonderful melody of his lan guage. In the art of weaving words into verses which sing themselves he vas a master of masters. Tennysor undoubtedly knew how to make the melody and the thought harmonize more subtly than Swinburne, but he could not compel the stubborn sounds of the English language to sing and dance at his will nearly so potently as his less gifted fellow-poet. Connected with Swinburne's memory, too, there is a vague suspicion of something risky in matter of the marriage relation. He is supposed to have taught precepts more or less demoralizing to the established order of the family. This may or may not be true. What a poet, especially a symbolist like Swinburne, really means in his verse is not always obvious to the man on the street. gross interpretation of his song is seldom the true one. Like other poets Swinburne is entitled to the highest meaning his words will bear not to

But, aside from all this, there were other aspects of his genius which ought not to be forgotten, now that he has gone to that world concerning which his faith was largely composed of doubts and unanswerable questions. One should not overlook the tender ness of sentiment which appears in such verses as the three pretty ones o a baby's hands. "No rosebuds yet by dawn impearled," he sings, "match ands." Nothing could be more exquisitely simple and at the same time Another song which it would be hard to surpass for genuine delicacy of sentiment is the "Child Song" in the "Poems and Ballads" published in 1878. "What is love worth pray," he asks at the end of the first verse; "is it worth a tear?" At the end of the second verse he answers his question most suggestively: is worth but gold: love's worth love." These charming lines are not exceptional in Swinburne's poetry. The

breathe the very essence of his genius. We must remember, too, that he was powerful satirist. Not only could be lenounce the Czar of Russia in lines which fairly blaze with righteous wrath, but he could touch lightly upon the sins of a beautiful flirt. "Thou whose peerless eyes are tearless, and thy thoughts as cold sweet lilles," he sings to such a woman, "lips that give not love shall live not, eyes that meet not eyes are sterile." Finally let it be recorded of Swinburne that he had one of the noblest faculties of appreciation that any man ever possessed Nothing delighted him more than to praise some other man. Americans re call that he was one of the first to set something like its true value on the genius of Walt Whitman, but Victor Hugo was his idol. It was Hugo whon addressed in this way: "Thou chief of us and lord, thy song is as a sword, keen-edged and scented in the blade from flowers, thou art lord and king." No poet ever received a nobler tribute from another than this

# "NOBODY AXED YOU."

A weekly paper, published at one of the normal school towns, says: "Well we give it up. We have been support-ing our normal school by our donations, but we shall do it no longer. are tired of educating teachers for the schools of the state. We get no sup-port or thanks for it."

Well, brother, who asked you to educate teachers for the state? You have simply been doing your own local work, expecting the state to pay for it There is no greater humbug than this notion that the state must educate teachers. There were good teachers and good scholars before the discovery of this fad. And the product was young people who did something for the corld. A single normal school, at the Capital, or at the seat of the Stat University, to teach something of the technique of schoolroom work, might be well enough. Though even that

isn't Important. Progress in learning lies in the ca pacity of the learner, not in the teacher -though the teacher is necessary for enforcement of regularity in lessonsnor in the name of the school. These fads, humors, whims and crotchets

run to every excess. But the object in each of these cases is to get a lo school at the expense of the state,

## THE HEAVY HAND.

Certainly, the Payne tariff bill lays heavy hand on food and drink and These are the sources of revraiment. Cut them out, cut them off, put the goods on the free list, and where will you get revenue enoug demands upon the treasury? you get revenue enough for the

In income tax and inheritance tax? These sources may well be used, and should be used. But, pressed to the limit, these sources of revenue will soon be exhausted-because inc and inheritances will diminish, and the revenues from them will then di-minish too. Then the sources of supply of wages will be reduced. Besides even for the present time, there is no way to obtain revenue, sufficient for the demands of the Government, without taxes on food and drink and raiment—used by the poor and rich; and of course the masses of the people, being so numerous, pay the larger part of these taxes.

Taxation of incomes and inheri inces is right-though taxation of inheritances should be left to the states; and taxation of property for support of state and municipal governments is as right as necessary. But to obtain the revenue the National Government must have, the chief resource must be taxation of food and drink and raimentin use by everybody-and, therefore, the many small and even infinitesimal

axes producing very targe aggregates. The ideal way would be to eliminate protection wholly, and enforce taxation simply for revenue. Then we should have the direct property tax for use of the state, and taxation of in-heritances with it; and then for the General Government, taxation of inomes and taxation of food and drink and raiment. This would be the way to obtain revenue. Under the present system or policy, it is a mere juggle. Each and every interest is trying to get an advantage, at the expense of the

But if we don't want these taxes, if the system irks and oppresses us, we have the remedy of simplifying the work of the government in all its forms, cutting down its functions, municipal, state and national, and reverting to the economy and simplicity of early times. But would that suit or please any part or class or description of our people? We trow not. All want everything from government, don't want to pay for it.

## THE VOLTARIAN METHOD.

David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford, reproduces in a little book, with some enlargement, an article which he published in the Popular Science Monthly in August, 1888. It is an application of the doctrine and system of the Octroi in France to Pro tective Tariff conditions in the United States. It is a mighty good piece of satire. The octrol, as everybody knows, is a governmental grant or privilege given to some company or person; especially a trade monopoly thus conferred. Notably in France, and to an extent in other European countries, it is a tax levied at the gates of a city on articles introduced for consumption. Jordan's little book is a pretty story, telling how people get rich by taxing each other. But there were unprotected industries, and some them-who got no profit out of the

The story reminds one of Voltaire's method of treatment of like ques tions, of which, however, it is no imitation. The advantages obtained by one class and another are passed on to the lowllest class, who can pass them

no further. Two general lessons, writes Dr. Jordan in his introduction, may be drawn "The first, that history repeats itself, if it be real history ot a succession of unrelated incidents. The second, that the national wealth may be enhanced by taking money putting it into the hands of the rich and powerful, who know how to make money work. Again: "It is a wellattested fact that prosperity will always follow when property can be transferred in a lawful and orderly manner from the many who do not know what to do with it to the few

who know how to use it." There is equal mixture of truth and trony here, For Dr. Jordan is a fighter against privilege and for de-mocracy. His idea is that it is not the function of society to establish eco nomic government, but to educate the people. Yet nobody knows better than he how difficult and arduous the problem is.

# MONEY IS CHEAP.

According to a bucolic axiom, "all signs fall in dry weather." It is never very "dry" weather in the New York stock market, but most of the signs by which its members are supposed to govern their actions, have signally failed within the past three months. A most notable example of this change n the Wall-street line of reasoning was presented last week, when the Government issued a decidedly bullish crop report. Poor crops, of course mean poor business for the railroads and by all the rules of the game there should have been a heavy slump in stocks. They did not slump. the contrary, they joined hands with the bounding wheat market and soared up to higher levels. The surplus reserve in the New York banks for the week ending last Saturday dropped to the lowest figure (with a single exception) reached in fifteen months and money still remains a drug on the market.

A few weeks ago a European demand for gold sprang up and we began shipping liberal consignments by each steamer, but with a lowering of the Bank of England discount rate these exports ceased and there has been no increased activity at home to create demand for the idle money. Not only has England ceased buying gold, bu since the nomination of Mr. Taft the Europeans have again come into our market as heavy buyers of new railroad securities. With the assurance that there would be no more of the bull-in-the-china-shop methods of the previous Administration, London financiers have subscribed heavily to th new Southern Pacific convertibles, and are also reported to be in the market for other new issues of the Harriman

as well as other lines.

This influence, of course, affects what is known as the non-professions element in the stock-buying public, and perhaps accounts for the strength of stocks in the face of an unfavorable outlook for traffic, especially on what are known as the "granger roads."

The public, not caring to loan mone; at the insignificant rates now offered for either call or time loans, may pre-fer taking a chance in a high-priced stock market. It is questionable, howver, whether this speculation can be maintained much longer unless the ac-tual business of the country, the manufacturing, mining and agricultural industries show more signs of improvement than are visible at this Cheap money is far from being a bless-

from the stagnation that is disturbing the East, for we suffered less and recovered sooner from the panic than the Eastern States. We also have excelent prospects for a bumper grain crop At present our lumber industry is suffering more than anything else, the uncertainty in the East limiting orders from that direction to bare necessities and even these must be sold at prices which leave little or no profit.

The Legislature of New York has reected the primary law offered by those who favored the ideas of Governo Hughes. It proposed the so-called committee system; but the Legislature wouldn't have even that. It was a sort of complex compromise between different plans. New York now has a primary law, but it provides for the ection of delegates to nominating conventions. The plan proposed by Governor Hughes would have empowered party committees to nominate candidates, to be approved or rejected by direct primary vote; and the right of enrolled voters to offer opposing candidates, by petition, was to be guar anteed. The Hughes plan was quite like "the assembly plan" in Oregon for which, however, our law does not directly provide. But in New there is determination not to abandon the convention feature.

That scalawag preacher known as Rev. G. S. Summers, who was arrested in Douglas County while in charge of a Methodist church last Summer, and taken back to Texas for trial on the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, has been acquitted of that offense, but deserves punishment for a greater. He deserted a wife and three children down there and came north with his pretty organist. Now young woman and her child are being cared for by her parents, and Summer has the insufferable gall to write to deluded friends a whining letter telling how much he loves his victim. He uses all the cant usually employed by an unwhipt whelp that serves the devil in the Lord's livery, promising to marry her as soon as he secures a divorce and perhaps return to Oregon. Oregon has no room for such pups.

The Parliamentary investigating ommittee has just unearthed a big scandal in the French navy-yards. One of the new battleships is practically useless and the boilers in another cannot be used. Such disclosures are not at all surprising when it is recalled that France is a country which has been held up by the rich shipowners for a subsidy that enables French vessels to sail round the world in ballast and still pay a profit. Almost anything in the way of fraud, deception and theft might be expected in a country where such raw grafts as the ship steal can be successfully worked. It is somewhat surprising the investigating committees found any bollers in these battleships. Perhaps they were borrowed for the occasion.

England, engrossed in the pleasures of a bank holiday following Easter, failed to inform the rest of the world how the wheat market was going yes Chicago was accordingly obliged to set the pace, and prices moved easily up to new records for the July and September options, with May again touching the high mark of the even in lovellest lands, the sweetest from the hands of the poor, who waste season. As these remarkable prices flowers in all the world, a baby's it (the reason why they are poor) and still fail to bring out the big stocks of wheat which the Government found in farmers' hands on March 1, it is hide him from the wrath to come. highly probable that there will be fur-ther advances as soon as Liverpool is heard from again.

The release from the Penitentiary on parole of Ernest Lane, who acquired most uneviable distinction burglar's profession in Portland as the "Pink Domino," a few years ago, is an outrage upon a plundered public. This fellow served about two years of a sentence of fifteen years in prison. which term was at the time, and in view of his criminal record, considered quite short enough. The reasons for the extraordinary leniency shown by this parole of an expert in the burglar's art are not given.

Uptown banks of New York City are imposing a charge of \$1 a month on checking accounts of less than \$200 The object is to get rid of the labor and expense of accounts that can yield no profit. There is a good deal of debate about it-whether on the whole it is the best policy for the banks or not. To enforce the rule might caus the loss, at times, of good business.

"All the men who oppose Simon who stand for direct primary and oppose conventions, are endeavoring get a convention or assembly, to nominate some other candidate." This is the way the statement reads, but it reads closely like a puzzle or juggle, with strong smell of machine politics

A Umatilla man says that under the old bounty law it was common to scalp coyotes and turn them loose. man who scalps a live coyote certainly earns his money. The new law re-quires the hide as well as the scalp, and destroys this industry

Former Senator Fulton probably will not accept the Chinese mission. It is a wise decision. A man who can work in Oregon has no occasion to bury himself in China. Better a single year of Oregon than a cycle of Cathay.

Smoking in a streetcar is less offensive than the sickening odor of a "snipe" which some economical men carry during the ride.

have taken up their abode in Seattle. No need to follow them farther. Easter passed without even "a trace" rain." Now for seven successive f rain."

Gunjiro Aoki and his American wife

oright Sundays. Welcome the winners (the Beavers, of course) today,

WORKS 50 YEARS IN ONE FAMILY. Faithful Mary Grogan, Domestic, o. South River, N. J.

New Bedford (Mass.) Standard.
All honor to Mrs. Mary Grogan—"Big
Mary"—of South River. New Jersey!
More famous are Joan of Arc and Moli
Pitcher and Barbara Frietchie and the
other heroines written in history and
sung in verse, but not more deserving
of honor or emulation.

honor or smulation.
For Mary Grogan, on the 5th of this onth had rounded out 50 years Cheap money is far from being a blessing if it cannot be put to work where
it can earn something for both borrower and lender.

Out here in the far Northwest we
are to a considerable extent immune
from the starnation that is disturbing woman who employed aer, and the seven children, 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who have come into the world since Mary Grogan began her half century of honorable rvice are planning a monster celebration, at which the servant shall be mis-tress and the mistresses the servants, and the crowning event of which will be the voluntary payment to the day's guest of the raise in pay, with all the back accumulations, that she never

asked for.

In was April 5, 1859, that Mary Grogan, with her children, Patsy, Mary and
Bill, went to work for Mrs. Abial Price
on the Price farm, near New Brunson the Price farm, near New Brunswick. She had but recently landed at Castle Garden from the Emerald Isle, and she was then a red-cheeked, brighteyed Irish girl. One hundred dollars a year was the wage for which she agreed to go to work. Mary's once let black hair is touched with white now, and her once bonny brow is bent, but she is still hale and hearty, and she still arises at 5:30 every morning to get the breakfast for her mistress, who is about her own age, and for the other members of the family whom she has helped to rear. In 1889 Mary spent a day off at New Brunswick; prior to that she made one trip to New York during the Civil War, to make inquiries about her son, who had enlisted as a drummer how. Since the price to the street of the stre her son, who had enlisted as her boy. Since the trip to Ne Brunswick she has not asked even for an evening off. All of which constancy and fidelity are to be recognized by the Prices with the biggest kind of a blow-out that the Price farm has ever witnessed.

In these days when the servant prob is so vexatious, housekeepers the over should join with the Prices n doing honor to Mary Grogan, whos example to others should be perpetuat-

#### DRY WAVE LESSENS REVENUES. New Taxes Must Take Place of Thos Raised Lately on Liquors.

Washington (D. C.) Post. "dry" wave continues to gather olume, our tariff tinkers will have to revise their estimates on the probable revenue of the country. A majority of the Southern States have already joined the prohibition column, and now some of those in the North are seriously pointing that way.
In Indiana 62 of the 92 counties of

In Indiana 62 of the 92 counties of the state have already gone dry, and it is believed that ten or a dozen more will be added to the list. Of course, beer and whisky will get into even dry counties, one way or another, but the closing up of a thousand or more sa-cons in one state will materially re-ince the amount consumed, and all this vill have its effect on the amount of revenue raised from the tax on mair and spirituous liquors. Indiana has hitherto been one of the heaviest interal revenue-producing states of Union, standing third or fourth in the list. The state has a number of very large breweries and distilleries, and voting out of saloons will affect their

sales to a greater or less extent.

Indiana has also been one of the best customers for Kentucky whisky, and thus the revenue receipts will be cut in the latter state. If the "dry" wave spreads into other states, the receipts from interest. from internal revenue may fall far short of the estimate made by the ways and means committee, and as the amount of revenue provided by the Payne bill is calculated to only meet the demands of the Government, any serious falling off in one branch will make a hole that will be hard to fill.

Taking everything into consideration the path of Congress in providing a sufficient revenue is beset with greadlifficulties, and it is not beyond the ange of possibilities that if the Payne bill is enacted into law it will have to be revised by the end of its first year. If that should happen, a howi will go up from all the country, and more than one politician will be found crying for

#### Does Harriman Mean Business? Prineville Review.

Only familiarity with the lower Des-chutes Canyon causes the writer to doubt the sincerity of the Harriman officials when they claim that the Reclamation Service is holding up construction. It is true that a car started at Willow Creek would roll by its own momentum on an easy water grade all the way to the Columbia. But don't forget that steam would be necessary to haul it back, either loade or empty, and that it costs something to haul a string of empties up a water grade 110 miles. Here in Crooked Riv-er Valley, where we have no railroad er Valley, where we have no railroad expectations whatever, there is a better proposition for a road than down the deserted Deschutes, for here we have something doing every mile. There are wagon roads here, too, and rail lines, when any are constructed, almost invariably follow the wagon road. The lower Deschutes Canyon consists of 100 miles of sand and sage, with no more than stock trails along the no more than stock trails along the brakes as a means of communication between far-apart sheep herders. There never has been the need of a wagon road there; and while the Harriman system has our permission to get busy there, we think it has no intention o doing so, and never will have.

# Mother, 42 Years, Has 15 Children.

Chicago Dispatch.

Mother of 15 children, all living, and only 42 years old at that! This is the remarkable record outlined by Mrs. Mary Piepenbrink, who appeared be-fore Ninian H. Welch, assistant to Probate Judge Cutting, in regard to the estate of her late husband, John E. Piepenbrink. Piepenbrink and his wife worked together from the time of their marriage, and by their joint savings accumulated a modest estate.

# The Road to Cabinteely

Dora Sigerson Shorter, in McClure's.
Oh, the lonely road, the road to Cabinteely,
'Tis there I see a little ghost, and gally
singeth she.
She plucks the swaying cowsilp, nor stays
for all my calling.
But files at my pursuing, who once did
run to me—
She once did run to me.

I follow ever eager the dancing shade elu sive,
The phantom feet that leave me so lone
and far behind.
Then comes her merry laughter like eißn
music chiming.
She cares not for my sorrow, she once to
grief so kind—
She was to tears so kind.

Her kiss falls swift and tender on breaking bud and blossom. bud and blossom.

Her fitting fingers touch them, fair as white butterflies.

Her slender arm enfolds them with soft and sweet embraces,

Remembered shy caresses she now to me denies—

She all to me denies.

On the haunted road, the road to Cabinteely.
The there a little dancing ghost her merry way doth take.
She sings no song of sorrow, nor knows no pain of weeping.
I would not wish her home again, though my lone heart should break.
Though my poor heart should break.

## IMPROVING LOOKS OF CITIES. Campaign Progresses to Have a Na-

tional Cleaning-Up Process. Washington (D. C.) Star. If this sentiment in favor of city beauty holds out, and there is no reson why it should not increase as the days pass, hundreds of cities no grimy, littered and ill smelling will become charming places of abode. Pub-lic health will be better and real estate values higher. The papers of Birmingham, Ala., are pressing a civic beauty

campaign. One of them says: "A city is kept clean by every man sweeping in front of his own door. A city is made beautiful by each man keeping his home nest and his front keeping his home neat and his front yard in order. Even a rented place is pretty if the tenant has pride enough to keep it neat and trim. Where all the houses and yards on a street are well-kept that street attracts the attention of all who pass. It does not take much money nor much time to make a place neat, and the sight of a neat place raises the estimation the public has for a family. The city is doing something

a family. The city is doing something for its parks and for the streets; the people must do for the 'houses. To have a city beautiful the people who own houses and the people who rent houses must take an interest. Attention to details makes beauty."

Mayor Ward of Birmingham and several hundred of the public-spirited citizens of the "iron town" are busy lending encouragement to householders. The Mayor and his committee, backed by the press, are urging householders, manufacturers, warehousemen and others to beautify analysish to what the pers to be autiful most of the street of the st by the press, are urging householders, manufacturers, warehousemen and others to beautify unsightly walls, chimneys, sheds, etc., with vines, to plant bare lots and urban fields with grass and flowers and to decorate house fronts with window gardens. With the aim of stimulating property-holders or tenants, the Mayor has offered a series of prizes for handsome window flower boxes and gardens. boxes and gardens.

Knoxville, Tenn., has taken up the question of improving its appearance and is emulating Birmingham's example. The Victorian Company of the Victor The Knoxville Sentinel says

ple. The Knoxville Sentinel says:
"There is hope and joy in flowers
and healing for bruised hearts. Try
them. Plant grass and vines. Why
should there be a bare spot in our city?
Why should a single square yard be
given up to weeds and tin cans?"
St. Joseph, Mo., wants to take up the
Birmingham plan of prizes for flower
boxes, gardens and the like. The St.
Joseph Gazette says:

boxes, gardens and the like. The St. Joseph Gazette says:

"It involves but a small outlay of money, entirely within the means of the mass of wage-earners, and the effect of such a movement, if systematically pushed, would be elevating and gratifying to all who take an interest in it. Even if the prizes were only \$5 or \$10 for the most beautiful flower boxes displayed during the months of May and June continuously the expense May and June continuously the expense would depend entirely upon the amount of individual work and study given to art, while the home-beautifier would come to feel his reward in the refining individual of the flowers. tractive city and prouder citizenship should be the logical result."

# SHAD SUPPLY ON THE WANE.

## How the Problem Is viewed by Experts on the Atlantic Const.

Boston Transcript.

In popular estimation the shad is one of the most delicious of food fishes and this accounts for its annual decline in quantity on the Atlantic Coast, though it is increasing on the Pacific. It is in sea son but a few weeks; it is mercilessly caught during that time, and as it is o of our National resources, highly deserving of conservation, it would seem highly ing or conservation, it would seem highly appropriate that all states whose stream the fish enter for spawning purpose should adopt reasonable measures for it protection. Two years ago the Legisla protection. Two years ago the Legisla-ture of Connecticut, owing to the diminu-tion of the catch in the river which bears its name, cut down the open season to the period between May 10 and June 20. This year before that body bills provid-

Inis year before that body bills providing for a longer season have been urged.

If the shad of Northern waters are to
be saved from extinction it must be by
local means. The Connecticut Committee
on Fisheries and Game has asked the
United States Commissioner of Fisheries
why the Government does not distribute
fry in Connecticut waters. His reply is
that the shad fisheries in Delaware Bay
thesapeake Bay and Albermarie Sound
Chesapeake Bay and Albermarie Sound esapeake Bay and Albermarle where the bureau maintains hate have been so extensively carried on by the use of pound nets and other devices in salt and brackish waters that comparatively for salt and tively few fish arrive at their natural awning grounds, and the Bureau te able to save so few eggs that it has been deemed advisable to place such as it ecured in local waters. It is dependent upon these hatcheries for the supply of fry with which to stock the rivers of New Frederick and the stock the rivers of with which to stock the rivers of England and other states of the

The discouraging confession is made that until the states having jurisdiction over these waters take uniform action, or, perhaps better still, turn the whole business over to the Federal Government, the shad hatcheries will continue to de-crease. This proposition is put up to the committee: "If you can stop the catch of shad in the Connecticut in sait and rackish waters, and confine the fist to the fresh waters, and confine the fishing to the fresh waters where they naturally spawn, there collecting the eggs of the ripe ones, the maintenance of the fishery will be assured. Otherwise you may look forward to conditions which now exist in the streams farther south." It seems to be a question of self-heip and self-preservation. A dozen years ago 50,000,000 pounds of shad were caught on this coast, but the industry is declining and well in the self-preservation. and will in time cease to be profitable under the conditions that now exist.

## Blames Red Hair for Trouble. Des Moines, Ia., Correspondence, Phila-delphia Record.

delphia Record.

Lucy Thompson stood with her red hair bowed in sorrow before the Police Judge. They had been talking about her mother and she was weeping. The fudge had told her she was one of the naughtiest girls in Dos Moines; that she was not wanted here, and that she must leave town. Then raising her tear-stained face she startled the court by blaning her auburn locks for all her by blaning her auburn locks for all her by blaming her auburn locks for all her

naughtiness.
"I would have been a good girl if my hair had not been red, judge," she

said.
"Do you have any idea of the humiliation of brick-red hair?" she continued. "Why, ever since I was a little baby I've been ashamed of it. The kids at school used to sneer at it; young fellows passed me up for black and brown and golden-haired girls. Boys only liked me when I did naughty things and I just had to do them or be left out in the cold. I am so glad my mother has left the city. She lives now down in the southern part of the now down in the southern part of the state in a little villiage

find some one who will not hate me for Judge Stewart looked down upon the girl's great mass of brick-red tresses and said:

"Lucy, I have known you for a long time. I believe you have been a bad girl and I hope you will try to be good." Then musingly, he added:
"Do you know, I rather " hair. It's red all right, but it isfine."

# Ira's Contribution to the Party.

Point Pleasant (N. J.) Beacon.
A number of young friends of William Kennedy gathered at his house in honor of his 15th birthday anniversary. A pleasant evening was en-joyed with numerous games and a few selected pieces which were played on the graphophone. Delicious re-freshments were served, after which Ira Thompson fell down into the ceibut fortunately was unhurt.

## HETTY GREEN HAS A RIVAL Mrs. Silverman, of New York, From Poverty to Millions in 15 Years.

New York Press. Clementine M. Silverman classes with Hetty Green. When Mrs. Silverman's husband died 15 years ago she was left with mix children and a pile of debts; today she is a millonaire several times over and one of the largest and most successful builders in New York. When Mrs. Green became a widow she was left with a substantial estate on which to rear the pinnacle of her present wealth. Mrs Silverman staticd her business career with an idea as her single asset. She went out of a small notion shop, which had been operated at a loss, into the real estate business. She was the first builder in the country to put bathtubs in tenements, and the

tenants used them for coal.

The woman has a talent for anticipating increases in realty values. Her first building venture was in an isolated spot on the upper East Side, A factory was going up; the idea came to her that the men to be employed in the factory would turn naturally to homes near by. She bought half a block for little more than a song, borrowed the money for that; borrowed every cant for construction, and a month after the

for construction, and a month after the row of tenements were completed, rented the last flat. She sold the property with a profit of more than \$25,000. Since then she has been buying, building and selling, always with large financial rewards.

Mrs. Silverman is the president of the real estate firm of C. M. Silverman & Son. She manages the company with her youngest son, Milton, and in the last few years the mother and boy have built the Clement Court, Blythebourne, Lorraine, Tuxedo Court and Ambassador apartment houses in Madison avenue, and the Sagnenay, Castleton. Briarcliff and Renault Court, apartment houses in upper Broadway. She is building at One Hundred and Portical and Portic ton. Briarcliff and Renault Court, apartment houses in upper Brandway. She is building at One Hundred and Fortieth street and Broadway. She was one of the first to see the vast possibilities on the long stretch of Brandway along the line of the subway aorth of One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street. Now she becomes a ploneer in elevated apartment house construction in The Bronx, where she is building at One Hundred and Sixty-eighth street and Boston road.

oston road.
This is not the end. Mrs. Silverman This is not the end. Mrs. Silverman has established her two other sons and her three danghters in the building business. Moses Crystal, son-in-law No. 1. is the president of the Crystal Realty Company; Dr. Phil Melrowitz, son-in-law No. 2. is president of the Jumel Realty Company; Charles Gross, son-in-law No. 3, is president of the Times Realty Company. Robert Silverman, a son, is head of the Tomahawk Realty Company, and Arthur Silverman. Realty Company, and Arthur Silverman, the other son, also is in active harness as a builder. Mrs. Silverman is the guiding spirit of all the family corporations. She is a silver-haired, quiet-spoken little woman, with a love for case in living, the opera, and who filts about the unper part of Manhattas. about the upper part of Manhattan and the Bronx in her automobile, keeping watch on reality conditions and pick-ing up corner lots and whole blocks at bargain prices. Mrs. Silverman's ruling axiom is "A contented tenant is nament tendint," and she proved its value

## College Men as Newspaper Workers. Baltimore American.

Baltimore American.

The modern newspaper has become an indispensable feature of our daily life. In its great work of disseminating the news of the world it naturally exerts a powerful influence in the moulding of public opinion. It is, therefore, not strange that there has developed a lively public interest in the press and its functions, and that young men are preparing for journalism as a profession. Of the many utterances on the subject none has been more on the subject none has been more illuminating and editying than the lectures delivered at Yale by Hart Lyman, editor-in-chief of the New York Tribune. They had, primarily, the scal of authority upon them, for Mr. Lyman is one of the country's foremost editors and speaks from a wealth of valuable experience. He undertook no defense of journalism—for it needs none—but religious and the wonderful influence. pointed out the wonderful influence ex-erted by the anonymous articles of edi-tor and reporter that make up the newspaper, and invited the college men to consider it a field worthy the best brains and manhood that education can produce. Such scholarly emphasis of the produce. Such scholarly emphasis of the oportunity which journalism offers the thoughtful, talented and earnest man was seed sown on fertile soil and suggests that colleges and universities may well lay greater stress on this field for public service.

#### Judge Tustes Cheese, for Decision. Cleveland (O.) Dispatch.

Cleveland (O.) Dispatch.

If upon the quality of a piece of cheese rests the decinion of a judge in a case it is up to the court to taste the cheese before rendering his verdict.

"Surely," answered Justice Terrel, when such a question presented itself in his court here. Then he bit off a chunk of cheese and, after eating it carefully and pondering for several moments, he rendered his decision for the defendant.

The case was that of Jacob Bender, who sued the Cleveland Cheese Company for a salary of \$25 a week for a period

for a salary of \$25 a week for a period of five weeks he alleged was due him. Bender was brought here from Germany and was said to be an expert cheesemaker. The company averred that Ben-der ruined \$400 worth of cheese for then and was really of no value to them. Bender prepared for this statement by

bringing a piece of cheese into court. He handed it up to the judge and requested him to taste it in the presence of the spectators. But the indicial palate was not tickled by the morsel so the decision favored the defendant.

# In Good Old Yambill.

In Good old Yamhill.

McMinnville Telephone Register.

One man who had about decided to sell his home in Yamhill County and move to Portland has decided emphatically that if Yamhill is good enough for strangers it is good enough for him. His conversion was brought about by Colonel J. C. Cooper, secretary of the local development league. He got Mr. Cooper to prepare a description of his place for the real estate people to use, and after the description was use, and after the description was made out and read to him it sounded so good without exaggeration that the man decided be did not want to sell the place at any price.

# SUPPOSEDLY HUMOROUS.

"Why did you marry?" "For sympathy"
"Did you get what you were after?" "Yesfrom my friends."—Cleveland Leader. Visitor—How old are you, Waldo? Wat-do Emerson Bostonbeans—Does the sub-ject really interest you, madam, or do you introduce it merely as a theme for polito conversation?—Life.

Recent events at Washington have called attention to the fact, hitherto overlooked, that while promising to carry out the Roosevelt policies, Mr. Taft sid not pledge himself to provide stable room for the Roosevelt hobbies.—New Orleans Times-

"Would you shoot a man who assalled your veracity?" "No," answered the peare-ful citizen. "I'd rather take a chance on his personal opinion than go before a jury with a story that might convince the pen-eral public that he was right.—Washington Star.

Possible Client—And is the district at all majarial? My husband has told me to be careful about that. Agent—Er—what is your husband's business, madam? He is a physician. Hm-m-well—er truth cumosis me to admit madam, that there has been a good deal of it about here of inte years—1.15.

"Yes," he said, thoughtfully, "when I get too bumpilous and haughty and puffed up with the consciousness that I am a clinical of the most progressive Nation that ever existed I have an admirable way of bringing myself back to earth again," "What do you do?" "I so to New York and look at the horse cars."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.