

his evangelist wanderings have permanently converted sinners from their evil ways is doubtful. He himself has made a large fortune by his travels, assisted by unrewarded ministers who prepare the way and collect his per cent before he leaves for another field.

The annual convention of the California State Bankers' association adopted the following in regard to the punishment of forgers, burglars and counterfeiters: "Resolved, that the best protection against forgers, burglars and counterfeiters is the certainty and durability of punishment." The custom of governors to pardon such criminals is shown in a statement prepared by President Hepburn of the New York Bankers' association. His figures cover a period of five years and show that the executives of the various states, for some reason, are inclined to cut the sentences of safe crackers, defaulting cashiers and betrayers of trust funds in two. According to his tables in the last five years, fifty nine bank criminals sentenced by the federal courts to the penitentiary for the average term of five years and eleven months, have been pardoned after serving an average term of three years and six days. Of course the effect of more leniency to one than to another criminal tends to multiply the number engaged in making a living by robbing banks. But so long as the failure of a bank causes such widespread loss, they should be protected by extra, rather than fewer, precautions. The Financial Review gives this subject due importance in the November number. Perhaps no class of swindlers are more culpable than those who rob banks from the inside. Unlike burglars, bank employes understand finance, they are generally keen, well read men, and they know how large are their chances of escape when they appropriate funds held in trust by the bank which employs them. Therefore they should receive double the sentence given to the lowbrowed, degenerate burglar whose ancestors have stolen as far back as family traditions reach. Yet our notions and practice of justice are so perverted that the courts commonly give the born criminal with the spatulate fingers and thick malformed ears a longer sentence than the man of refinement, taste and knowledge, convicted of a duplicity and treason impossible to the undeveloped man. Though the former knows beforehand that his crime will shake the faith in humanity that has never been steady enough yet for its salvation.

The criminologists who advocate prison reform are not generally those who are ever beseeching governors for the pardon of men who have received a just sentence. They advocate without exception though, the equalization of sentences—the awarding of the same punishment to rich and poor convicted of the same crime. With the more stringent rule contemplated by the bankers of California the prison reformer is therefore in sympathy.

Considering the unnecessary picturesqueness of the meetings of the board of education, which do not seem to be at all affected by the personelle of the board, it appears that the business of the public schools would be facilitated by lessening the number of the fortnightly debaters. Then, a question concerning the action of the board under hypothetical circumstances would not consume the entire time of the meeting as it did last week. Because three men can say what they have to in less than half of the time required for seven men to work up arguments for the benefit of

the morning papers. Last week the debate was over the question whether if an applicant for a teacher's position were a Catholic she would not receive the votes of the board on that account. Disqualification for a secular position on account of religion is, of course, an impossible position for a member of a democracy based on the separation of church and state, and it was therefore curious that the school board, a body supposed to be chosen for evidences of culture and interest in education discovered in them by nominating conventions—should spend a whole evening discussing it. Especially as there was business demanding the board's immediate consideration that evening.

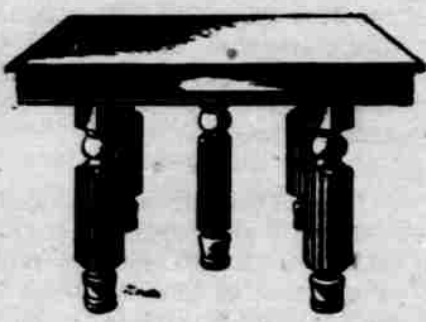
In all branches of the municipal system in all cities of the United States it is being conclusively demonstrated that large bodies, in which responsibility is divided to the point of individual irresponsibility fall in the satisfactory performance of the functions delegated to them by the votes of the people. In the early days when the makers of the republic were planning a government for the people and by the people it was evidently decided that this end was to be reached by dividing one good man's job and his salary among just as many citizens as possible. Accordingly this was done and men of affairs and executive ability are employed by clever corporations, while the public business is commonly, not always, administered by men who have not succeeded in earning for themselves as large an income as the fraction of a salary represented by the subdivided city or state job referred to. That such functionalism is on the decrease may be seen by a reference to old town records. (See Howard's Constitutional History of the United States, page 97.) There were a large corps of officials to regulate local trade and commerce, such as sealers of weights and measures, a tiresome number of inspectors and measurers, overseers, warners of boys, persons to keep dogs out of church, scavengers, viewers of land, judges of delinquents and judges of boundary disputes, branders, of cattle, jurymen, bailiffs, commissioners of small causes and deputies innumerable. Many of these officers, such as hog reeve, disappeared with the practical disappearance of the common land or timber owned by villages and most of the others were absorbed by the constable and police judge and we are slowly approaching the time when city administrations will be in the hands of a few men indivisibly responsible to the people for their performance of their delegated functions. The overwhelming success of trusts controlled by a president and small board of directors, is an example which the people have been slow to follow, but the system will unquestionably be adopted, as it is more necessary that the affairs of the whole people be wisely administered than that a few should receive a pension for services inadequately performed.

Tsi An, the reactionary empress dowager is, after all, not such a credit to her sex. The emperor, yielding to the influence and advice of young men educated in this country and England, planned some measures of reform. He first decreed the abolition of several obsolete and useless departments of the government, employing, if a man can be said to be employed who does nothing, 7,000 or 8,000 men. Other reforms contemplated the conversion of Buddhist and Taoist temples into schools, the emancipation of the press and the right of petition. Reforms of such ancient trial in the occidental world it is in-

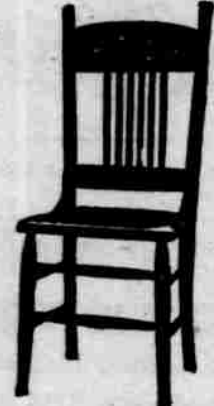
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credible that for proposing them and for getting the emperor under their influence six young men should have been beheaded in the presence of the supreme judges of the Chinese empire, the emperor deposed and many more indirectly responsible for his favorites and their designs imprisoned or exiled. It may be said for the empress, however, that in order to carry out these reforms it was necessary that she should be isolated in one of her distant country palaces far from the forbidden city, that her nephew, Jung Lu, be removed from his position as commander in chief of the naval and land forces of the emperor, and Yuan Shih-Kai substituted in his place. It is plain to be seen therefore, that the reform of the empire meant the abolition of the empress. The only part of the program which was carried out was the dismissal of the 8,000 employes in obsolete offices. After that Yuan Shih-Kai chivalrously informed the commander of the empresses' navy that his beheading had been ordered twenty-four hours from the time of his notification. The latter was modern enough to telegraph the empress, who took the government back into her own hands and set it down hard in the dark ages, whence the emperor and his advisers had almost rescued it. The plot is extravagant enough for the comic opera stage, and it is impossible not to admire the alertness of the old lady, but I would she had been on the side of progress and truth, but there is poetic justice that the nation which has enslaved and despised woman should have its bonds riveted for another hundred years or more after briefest glimpses of freedom by a member of the mutilated and disregarded

sex, even though she were assisted by the 8,000 obsoletes and every officer and official of the old regime.

The retailers of Omaha who insist upon an exposition in 1899, will find that without the help of the cis-Mississippi states the trans-Mississippi show would not have been able to turn back 75 per cent to the stockholders. The late festival was a celebration of the west, not of Omaha or Nebraska. A fete given by the dry goods merchants, the milliners, tailors, hatters, grocers, hardware and chinaware men of Omaha will be about as interesting and transparent as any advertisement and no more. The country newspapers will not advertise it, the metropolitan papers will ignore it. To what degree such a fair will be successful without government or state aid, in the face of the opposition of the railroads and Omaha jobbers is problematical—so much so that good business men will not subscribe much to it.

The board of directors of a busted bank sit and look at each other in consternation and say they supposed everything was all right. When the first bank failed the directors met and showed their grief and their surprise by the expression of their eyes and they did the same the other day in Emporia after their president had shot himself, because his bank was empty and his friends and neighbors, even his own family, thought him an honest man, and he was too sensitive to live after they had begun to acknowledge their mistake. Yet depositors never lose their faith in a board of directors who look rich and exclusive, who ride in coupes, dress well and