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OBSERVATIONS.

Through the editorial columns of the Journal of the first of the present month there was emitted a distinct groan because of the recovery of judgments against the city on account of personal injuries resulting from defective sidewalks, while by means of the "Mere Mention" columns the public was informed that "Street Commissioner Lindsey says the recent spell of warm weather was well improved by the street department in fixing up bad sidewalks and building new ones."

There was "quite a spell of warm weather" last year extending from the first of May to the first of October, but during that period it was never reported that the street department had fixed any bad sidewalks. The reason for the report of recent activity on the part of the person who, in the form of a monthly salary, is supported at the public expense and who is supposed to return an equivalent in public service but who never did return such equivalent, is apparent. Weeks ago it was urged through these columns that the city attorney recommend the discharge of the person who now draws the salary of street commissioner without any corresponding compensation to the city, and the employment of an honest and faithful carpenter who would devote his time to the public service and remove the cause of injuries. The city attorney did not see fit to make the recommendation but the person whose removal was suggested felt the prod and reported to the Journal office great activity in the street department. The legal department of the city does not

appear to have much better success in defending actions for damages against the city than the street department does in keeping the sidewalks in repair. Perhaps the city attorney does not feel like recommending the discharge of the present incumbent of the street commissioner's office because of incompetency. As a remedy for the evils resulting from defective walks the Journal recommends an amendment to the charter whereby the owner of the adjacent property shall be liable for injuries resulting from defective walks. Recently it was published in one of the daily papers that the city attorney had "discovered" that such a law was in force in Wisconsin. The records of the court are not entirely silent as to the "discoveries" alleged to have been made by the lawyer now occupying the position of city attorney nor the threatened expense to the public on account of such alleged "discoveries." The Journal company, which owns the Journal, is a taxpayer and it does well to protest through the columns of its paper against increased taxation, but it ought to at the same time advocate measures the tendency of which will be to reduce public burdens. It is not an amendment to the law which is required but a faithful performance of public duty by public servants. If the Journal had advocated the removal of the present incumbent of the street commissioner's office because of his inefficiency and general worthlessness as a public officer and the employment of an honest man who had a family dependent on him for support and who wanted to work, the removal of the one and the employment of the other might have followed, and there would have been no report of special activity in the street department during the "recent spell of warm weather." Performance of public duty by a public employee would not then be so rare an occurrence as to call for special notice and defective sidewalks which result in judgments for damages and increased taxation would not exist.

Mr. Bryan says that the government derives its power from the consent of the governed, not part of the governed or any special class of the governed, but "the governed." Like many of the phrases of the Declaration of Independence, this one will not bear investigation. The senators composing the senate of the United States are elected by the legislatures of the states. With the spectacle of our own Lancaster delegation refusing to vote for a man whom the "governed" approve and continually voting for a man unfit in every way to represent the people, the suspicion that other legislators in other states have been induced to ignore the wishes and the interests of the people is not without foundation. If enough of the governed combine they can, by reason of recurrent elections, induce a represen-

tative to use his influence for this or that measure or man as the case may be. But in the majority of cases legislators, both state and national, are unhappily influenced first and strongest by personal considerations. If they chance to be figuring on attracting votes in the future and thus become advocates for a public and beneficent measure, so much the better luck for the people. But when taxes are voted the consent of the governed is not necessary. The body which nominally derives power from the governed votes taxes on their property and collects it without regard to protests, well grounded or otherwise. Par examp'e, a hundred thousand dollars was voted two years ago by the legislature to the trans-Mississippi exposition in response to the efforts of an able and indefatigable lobby. The governed would never have voted it, because the exposition, like all other expositions, hurts the local business of every town within a certain large radius. It is questionable if the women who pay taxes in this commonwealth, and who are more or less unjustly discriminated against, have delegated any power to the government, whether local or national. The officials elected by the men folks in accordance with a constitution written and ratified a long time ago use their power entirely without the consent of the people who are most concerned by it. The mayor of Chicago, in a recent address, declaimed against the employment of foreigners who could vote and wanted their jobs. He advised the school board to employ only voters in the schools. Should the school board act upon his suggestions, it will be by no power delegated by that part of the governed whom the edict most affects. Should congress conclude to annex the Philippines the government of the islands will be constituted territorially, i. e. the local officials will be elected by residents of the locality and the higher officials will be appointed by the president of the United States. Under such conditions just as much freedom will be distributed to the inhabitants as citizens of the territories enjoy. This is confined to the settlement of purely local questions but it is not recorded that the territories are less well governed on that account.

If the United States assumes the government of the Philippines, the Philipinos will have their road cleared of many obstructions which have heretofore interfered with the pursuit of liberty and happiness. They will enter upon a period which will eventually bring them, as it will eventually bring us, into an intelligent appreciation of the functions of government. It is neither Washingtonian nor Jeffersonian—if we must be influenced by men long since dead and turned into dust—to give up the fruits of a hardly won campaign. The ideas held by the liberals of one generation are the rallying cry of the conserva-

tives of the next generation. But a radical of one generation is a radical in the next because his instincts keep him at the head of the procession without regard to the positions he has to desert in order to keep the lead. So if Washington were alive today, be sure, he would not spend his time and exhaust his popularity—and he had more to burn than any contemporary American—trying to convince the people that they should quixotically and magnanimously and foolishly deliver an island people to Spanish rule or deliver them over to each other with the privilege of extermination, or to a continental power like Germany, which would give the savages first lessons in civilization by imprisoning them for lese majeste. Washington was ever a believer in the strong arm. When he accepted the leadership of the American forces against King George he shook off the traditions of all his English ancestry. All the wisecracs and patriots of English history in which George Washington had been instructed, meant nothing to him when confronted with circumstances over which only verile and timely action could conquer. Therefore what he himself said about entangling alliances and foreign acquisitions is of no especial consequence to us, as he could not foresee the peculiar results to America in the Pacific of the Cuban insurrection, nor the schemes for the partition of China, nor the constantly strengthening reasons for an alliance of all the branches of the Anglo-Saxon race. There is nothing in Washington's life to indicate that his Americanism would have been any weaker today than it was before the articles of confederation were of much more importance than the paper on which they were written.

The revelations of the Keeley motor investigation have one cheerful and encouraging feature, viz., the sterling honesty of the directors and attorneys who undertook it. Finding that the motor, which the triune polar current was supposed to work, was really run by a water motor connected with the Keeley motor by shafts and pulleys concealed under the flooring and in the walls, the directors stopped the sale of stock immediately and gave the results of their investigation to the public. There was no attempt to work off the worthless stock and to cover up the fraud. The stockholders whom Keeley had bamboozled for twenty-five years took their medicine like men. If they had been better business men they would have made some endeavor to sell the stock, instead of which they acknowledged its worthlessness and Mrs. Keeley herself gave her attorney carte blanche instructions to reveal whatever fraud he found to the stockholders. There might not have been the same opportunity for maintaining a fraudulent value for some years as in the case of