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Address THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Nebraska.

constitutional amendments the legislatures of two-thirds of the states can compel it to do so.

There is no reason why the exercise of popular sovereignty should be inconsistent with the representative system, and that popular legislation should not be combined with representative institutions. It is claimed that the referendum and initiative would result in the diminution of the feeling of responsibility in the members of representative assemblies. That advantage, if true, however, is amply outweighed by the educative effect which these systems exercise on the great bulk of the citizens by disposing them to recognize the necessity for the careful discharge of the duties involved in their rights, and by inspiring them with constant solicitude for the well-being of the state to which they belong.

The conditions in Switzerland, we admit, are too different from our own for its example to be entirely decisive. The discipline of self government in the Swiss commune, and the training afforded by an effective system of education have qualified them for the practice of direct legislation. It might be doubtful whether it would be possible to introduce the referendum and initiative elsewhere without, at the same time, introducing a mechanism of government similar to that which they have become part and parcel. Otherwise, it would mean a radical transformation of political life, habits and traditions and probably leading to most unexpected consequences.

The referendum and initiative are not presented as simple sovereign remedies for all the political ills of society, but as important practical reforms that should be open to free discussion and worthy of serious consideration.

BOYD WINCHESTER.
St. Matthews, Ky., May 16, 1907.

LABOR SHOULD REMEMBER

Union labor and the laboring class generally were well represented in the Oklahoma constitutional convention. Because of provisions that mean protection to the laboring class, the constitution as framed is distasteful to corporations who dictate the policies of the republican party. If the constitution is nullified and statehood is defeated, the laboring people of the proposed new state will have something to remember.—Oklahoma City Oklahoman.

BEARDED

Henry Watterson gives it as his opinion that the next president of the United States will have a moustache. Mr. Fairbanks can see no reason why the colonel mightn't have made the hint a little broader by adding chin whiskers.—Chicago Record Herald.

IMMUNE

"You'd better get out; here comes that idiot Boreham, and he's got a story he thinks is new that he'll insist on handing you."
"No, he won't; I'm immune."
"How's that?"
"I told him the story."—Cleveland Leader.

A SAFE PROPOSITION

Caller—I'd think that your father's duties as building inspector would be awfully dangerous, going round unsafe buildings.
Small Son of the House—Oh, no; he doesn't go near 'em till after they fall down.—Life.

HOW IT WORKED OUT

The other day Chicago employed its 300,000 school children to clean the streets, and we presume after they got through about 200,000 mothers were busy cleaning school children.—Washington Post.

ROMANCE OF AN INVENTION

The late Joseph Gillot was the son of the man who invented the machine made steel pen. While seeking his fortune at Birmingham the latter became engaged to a Miss Mitchell, whose brothers were employed in making steel pens by hand. Gillott realized that machinery could be devised to do the work and he procured a press to stamp the

blanks. Secretly developing his project, he eventually succeeded, with the result that the steel pen became an indispensable article of use all the world over, and he made a fortune.

On the day of his wedding he made a gross of steel pens before he went to the altar, and these were sold at one shilling each.—London Evening Standard.

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