

upon their operations the sporting men have probably caused their business to be destroyed.

Knoxville, Tennessee, has just gone prohibition by an emphatic majority. The people of Knoxville disclaim any particular desire to legislate against people's appetites. The main reason for throwing out the saloons was not directly related to haired of the drink habit. They had allowed the saloons to remain under certain restrictions. Not content with confining themselves to the saloon business the liquor men became ambitious to run the politics of the city, so as to make their own restrictions and enforce them or not as they pleased. This made the people mad and swallowing their appetites they voted that political interest out of existence. The Charleston, South Carolina, News and Courier says the same thing is being done in many parts of the south. The same reasoning is beginning to affect the liquor situation in the north also.

In a majority of cases when cities vote for municipal ownership of a public utility their desire to put corporations out of politics exceeds the hope of cheaper service. The conviction that private owners of public utilities are incapable of refraining from meddling with city politics is responsible for the sweeping spread of municipal ownership sentiment throughout the cities of the country. In general as in the cases mentioned here, the men with special interests show the same stupid obliviousness to the true situation as did the feudal barons of the middle ages or the Russian barons of today.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD.

Newspapers are commonly criticised because a considerable part of the news they print is a report of evil doing. "Why don't the papers print the good that is being done, and keep our minds and the minds of our children on good things instead of on bad?" Is a frequent query.

Very well, let us begin with a meeting held in Camden, New Jersey on Thursday evening. For a head line the reporter writes: "No graft there." The story is: "Many of the most prominent citizens of Camden were participants at a testimonial dinner at the Bellevue-Stratford last evening, given to Irving Bucklee, George W. Whyte and Wm. J. Thompson, the building commissioners who constructed the new court house of Camden county. Most of the speakers alluded felicitously to the absence of graft in that enterprise, and Judge of Common Pleas Chas. V. D. Joline, in a complimentary speech, presented to the commissioners a set of engrossed resolutions of appreciation."

Here is good news indeed: A court house built in New Jersey without graft, news of so sensational a nature as to cause public thanksgiving and win headlines in the newspapers. But we are not satisfied. We would rather the news had told that there was graft in building the Camden court house. We see that when good deeds grow so rare as to be worth a place in the news columns it is a time to mourn. The news that Binks whipped his wife yesterday is after all not so distressing as the news that Binks did not whip his wife yesterday. One of the definitions of news which the newspapers are compelled to follow is "something strange or newly happened."

CONSERVATISM.

The annual tribute to torism, the deceased wife's sister bill has again passed the house of commons, only 34 votes opposing. This measure goes through the house of commons as regularly as the bill for the direct election of senators our own house of representatives; and is as regularly sat upon by the upper house in England as is the direct election bill by our own house of lords. The reasons given why a man should not be permitted to marry his deceased wife's sister we learn from the debates that have followed the passage of the bill

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this last time by the house. Some members of the church of England believe such marriages are prohibited by the scriptures, and are desirous of enforcing their scruples upon the rest of the people who think differently. Lord Robert Cecil opposes it on account of "the threatened wave of materialism which is threatening to swamp all good principles." Sir F. S. Powell opposes it in the interests of the workingman's wife's sister, who could not possibly, he thinks, find a happy home with her married sister in case her some time marriage with her sister's husband were a possibility. The arguments make one suspect that the real reason why the change is not favored by the lords is the fact that it is a change.

BRIBES AND BRIBERS.

The time once was when we clung to the idea that the most despicable man cavorting around on the hemisphere was the man who took a bribe. We have changed our mind. He is a poor creature, but the worst is the man who offered the bribe. Our former opinion was based on the idea, advanced so often on behalf of the corporations and others, that in order to get one's rights at the hands of a city council or board of control or supervisors it was necessary to buy the good will and the votes of the men empowered by law to grant those rights.

Investigation and the stern logic of fact has disproven this claim entirely. The cold truth is that it has not been rights but special privileges that these corporations and "big business" have been paying money for. They have been anxious to get things through that they have no right in equity or fairness to ask, and they have been willing to pay because they have believed that they could purchase them cheaper through the people's representatives than they could from the people themselves. For a few thousands they have, in this way, bought franchises that were worth many times their cost, and which they could have well afforded to pay the people in open day for.

The man who bribes is the worst sort of a citizen. He is meaner than the meanest criminal, and he cannot be excused on any ground that it is a conventional crime, one made so by reason of its very numerous character. It is a poisoning of the very fountains of justice, and marks the man who perpetrates it as a vicious citizen, an enemy to patriotism and worse than any anarchist, a class much despised by big business.

The latest outburst of this kind has come from San Francisco, where an intrepid special district attorney has uncovered some big business men who were willing and anxious to debauch public officials in order that they might get franchises of great value for a song, and this at a time when the city lay stricken from the horrors of earthquake and fire. Here's hoping the penitentiary will catch them soon.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

Perhaps the life insurance troubles had something to do with it; at any rate, an unusual impetus seems to have been given the movement for school teachers' pensions in the larger cities this year. New York city already has a pension system, and Chicago is soon to have one. Connecticut proposes a state-wide pension system, and the bill introduced for that purpose is interesting by giving an idea of what such a system looks like. The system is to be compulsory. Every teacher is to pay to the state treasurer 1 per cent of her salary at the beginning, and more each year as the fruition time approaches. This sliding scale is evidently provided for the benefit of those teachers who do not continue in the work long enough to receive any benefit from the pension fund. The annuity, like the deferred premium of life insurance, is to be indefinite, depending upon the condition of the fund. This suggests at once delightful possibilities in case Connecticut continues her present predilections for shady politics. Most of the money in the pension fund being the money of school teachers, will belong to members of the sex whose influence in elections is at most indirect.

FRENCH UNIVERSITIES.

Professor Barrett Wendell of Harvard calls the attention of this year's crop of Phi Beta Kappas to the advantages of French universities over German as places to round out an education with a foreign degree. After a year of lecturing at French universities during which time he had every facility for observing their workings, he pronounces the French teachers to be marvels of digested learning. "They may never relax their effort," he says; "to extend and solidify their learning. My previous experience had never revealed to me anything like such a spectacle of concentrated and unceasing intellectual activity as seemed a matter of course among my contemporary colleagues at Paris." Naturally he found

a corresponding earnestness in the students. There was in evidence neither the pedantic professor who gains a reputation for profundity, but loses students, by moiling away at fact gathering without taking time or having the capacity for mobilizing and assimilating them; nor the dilettante who gains large classes and a reputation for brilliancy by pyrotechnical display of a few half facts. The Germans are a trifle inclined to make a student into a professor of the first sort; American training tends to make one of the latter sort; French training better than the others tends to develop the good elements of both and discard the bad of both. So we are to infer from Professor Wendell's article in the March Scribner's. But for the French reputation for frivolity, an unearned reputation, as we are frequently assured nowadays, this might have been taken for granted years ago.

DESTROYING WEALTH.

Quite appropriately to the season, Mrs. Belle Armstrong Whitney of New York appeared before the Chicago dressmakers' convention lately to prove the blessedness of woman's extravagance in dress. This thing of buying an expensive dress, wearing it once and burning it to keep the cook from appearing in it next week is one of the bulwarks of prosperity, according to Mrs. Whitney, and she proves it. We are prosperous when labor is employed. The buying of many dresses gives employment to many dressmakers, many weavers of cloth and many producers of cotton, wool and silk. Not to give the discarded dress to the cook causes the cook to buy other dresses, which gives extra employment to other dressmakers, weavers and agriculturists. Let all women suddenly stop buying Easter bonnets, spring gowns and such like, and factories would shut down, prices would fall, merchants go bankrupt and panic would be upon us. This reasoning will please nearly everybody, for does not nearly everybody believe it is correct? The burning of San Francisco, was it not a splendid boon to business? More lumber, more labor, more iron, more graft? James Hazen Hyde's \$10,000 dinner, did it not give employment to many servants and make a market for much merchandise, snails' tongues, champagne, lobsters, and so on? It is no time since the southern cotton planters were enriching themselves by burning a part of their cotton crop. Every railroad wreck makes a market for more cars and that means more labor. May not hard times be permanently averted by burning a city or two at each sign of depression, and inducing the women to double their orders at the milliners' and the dressmakers'?

STATE APPROPRIATIONS.

The important question of appropriations for the biennium is now occupying the attention of the legislature. The amounts asked exceed the appropriation of two years ago. While requests for larger expenditures should be scrutinized closely, it does not follow that the allowance of larger sums is extravagance in every case. Nebraska has grown rapidly in the past five years and the demands of state institutions have legitimately increased. The state owes a duty to properly care for its institutions, and it is financially able to discharge that duty. It is true that there is an existing statute that limits the levy for the state general fund, and the argument is used that the appropriations must not exceed this limit. The legislature erected this barrier and the legislature can remove it. If the limit imposed by statute is inadequate to meet existing demands, the statute can be amended. The estimate of expenditures of a former legislature is not necessarily a true guide. It may be too high; it may be too low. Appropriations should be considered on the merits. Whatever is needed for adequate support should be given—no more and no less. Because the state has prospered and is financially able to discharge its obligations is not a reason for expending money uselessly. It is a reason for supplying legitimate demands.

Politics in the American Balkans are not so different from our own. Aside from the question of who stole that mule, there is a strip of territory in dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras, a franchise to a tract of land, to put it another way. The president of Nicaragua finding President Bonilla intractable in settling the boundary dispute proposed to depose him and set a man in the president's chair who will be generous with Nicaragua and her claims. The prologous situation in this country, except that armies take the place there of political machines here. The surprise of the campaign has been the seeming fact that some real fighting has taken place. The way central American soldiers are commonly recruited has been exemplified in the dispatch of a one time recruiting officer to his commander: "I am

Verdict for Dr. Pierce

AGAINST THE

Ladies' Home Journal.

Sending truth after a lie. It is an old maxim that "a lie will travel seven leagues while truth is getting its boots on," and no doubt hundreds of thousands of good people read the unwarranted and malicious attack upon Dr. R. V. Pierce and his "Favorite Prescription" published in the May (1904) number of the Ladies' Home Journal, with its great black display headings, who never saw the humble, groveling retraction, with its inconspicuous heading, published two months later. It was boldly charged in the slanderous and libelous article that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, for the cure of woman's weaknesses and ailments, contained alcohol and other harmful ingredients. Dr. Pierce promptly brought suit against the publishers of the Ladies' Home Journal, for \$300,000.00 damages. Dr. Pierce alleged that Mr. Bok, the editor, maliciously published the article containing such false and defamatory matter with the intent of injuring his business; furthermore, that no alcohol, or other injurious, or habit-forming, drugs are, or ever were, contained in his "Favorite Prescription"; that said medicine is made from native medicinal roots and contains no harmful ingredients whatever, and that Mr. Bok's malicious statements were wholly and absolutely false. In the retraction printed by said Journal they were forced to acknowledge that they had obtained analyses of "Favorite Prescription" from eminent chemists, all of whom certified that it did not contain alcohol or any of the alleged harmful drugs. These facts were also proven in the trial of the action in the Supreme Court. But the business of Dr. Pierce was greatly injured by the publication of the libelous article with its great display headings, while hundreds of thousands who read the wickedly groveling article never saw the humble groveling retraction, set in small type and made as inconspicuous as possible. The matter was, however brought before a jury in the Supreme Court of New York State which promptly rendered a verdict in the Doctor's favor. Thus his traducers came to grief and their base slanders were refuted.

sending you one hundred men. Please send back the ropes with which they are tied, as I will need them for the next lot of volunteers." It must have taken heavy expenditures of "white eye," as the native brandy is called, to sustain the courage and patriotism of an army so recruited to the point of penetrating an eight day wilderness in a conquering march upon the Honduras capital.

TOO GENTLE.

They were talking about fads. "Suppose I should bring you a Roosevelt bear?" ventured the young man. "Oh, I wouldn't care for a Roosevelt bear," replied the pretty girl. "And why not, my dear?" "Because Roosevelt bears can't hug." And then the young man took the hint.

Did Not Even Hear It.

Edith (the heroine)—And can you forgive me?
George (the hero)—Can you ask, my darling?
Edith—George!
George—Edith!!!
(Note—This dialogue is printed for the benefit of the man who really wants to hear the last line of a play.)—Puck.

BRAVE GIRL.

The ship was sinking. "A rocket!" bellowed the captain. "My kingdom for a rocket!" But the wild waves answered not. Suddenly Nettie, the candy mill girl, rushed forward. "Here, captain," she said, dramatically, "take my hairpin." "Your hairpin, little girl? What use could I make of your hairpin?" "It is celluloid. Light it and it will prove to be a beacon." And the brave captain lit the hairpin and saved the ship.

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