

THAT ROUND ROBIN.

It seems only the other day that a young man, inexperienced in military affairs, joined in an insubordinate "round robin" with reference to the conduct of the Cuban war, called the equipment of the United States army "archaic" and evinced a lack of respect for his superior officers generally. For these offences the authorities were very much down on him at the time. This young man, by a rather singular turn of events, is now President of the United States. Will he, or will he not, make the venerable officials of the war department hop around, do you suppose?

GOOD ROADS.

The State of Nebraska, every county and township in Nebraska, should have better roads. The people have it in their power to secure legislation which will insure improved roads without increasing taxation.

A general law that will permit us to narrow the roads ought to be demanded by petition to the next legislature. This law should provide for selling on each side of each road 16½ feet of ground to the owner of adjacent land at an appraised value, made by the County Commissioners. If adjacent owners do not purchase in a stated period of time then the land should be sold to the highest bidder, no bid being entertained except at or above the value fixed by the County Commissioners. And in case of sale to person not owning adjacent land it should be agreed and held that the strip so sold is subject to cross road for entrance to the land of which, under government surveys, it had been previously a part.

By cutting down the highways from sixty-six feet to thirty-three feet and selling the other half as above a road fund of generous proportions will be established. The weed propagating area in Nebraska will be reduced by more than a half-million of acres. The quality of the roads will be made better and keeping them in order will become relatively an easy and taxless task.

The Conservative asks everybody to study the road question with a view of increasing the facilities for hauling heavy loads from farms to markets in the State of Nebraska.

GROWING BOYS.

"In conclusion, we beg to state we are appalled at the large proportion of youths from 16 to 21 years of age indicted for crime," says the grand jury in Chicago in its final report.

Nothing could better enforce The Conservative's theory that it is better, much better, to live in a small and healthful town in the west, than in one of the great, rancid, furious, smothering, diseased masses, crawling with deformed and unnatural human animals, that we

call world-cities. Boys may grow up to be good men in those surroundings, but there are terrible chances against them. And we do not believe it is wholly infection or example that causes the harm. There can be no normal life in a city; the existence is unnatural. The pleasures that are offered a boy, the avenues for ambition that are open to him, are not those of the sane life by which a breed is perpetually recruited and kept fresh; and the pressure of sap in the growing tree must force it to sprout forth in unwholesome growths.

We dwellers in small towns are happy in the variety of hopeful directions in which our young men may develop. There is no end to the possible ways in which a boy can make himself of use in a town that has the certain future of Nebraska City. He can fit himself for any kind of a position that he feels a liking for, and there is room for him. The schools, the library, the factories, shops and round-houses are all open to him, and no matter what line he takes, if he will make use of his time he can count on succeeding; and he can do it all in a plentiful supply of the free prairie air, and without losing touch with the good green earth, which the city boy cannot do.

FOREST RESTORATION.

The subject of forestry, or the art of cultivating forests, is one that has not received much attention in Indiana. In a number of other states its importance is better understood and action has been taken toward increasing the forest area. Nebraska being originally a treeless country, no argument was required to convince land owners of the need of planting trees, and they have willingly co-operated with the authorities in the work, with the result that thousands of acres of young timber now diversify that state. In eastern states, notably New York, the efforts of forestry organizations have taken the form of protecting the forest lands yet remaining, rather than in planting new trees. Indiana was heavily timbered in its early history and the work of clearing the land for agricultural purposes was great. It was in later years, when the lumber markets opened, that the cutting of the trees became reckless, as is the case in all new countries. Land which would have been better left covered was then denuded of trees and the consequence was shown in the drying up of streams and the loss of protection to cultivated fields, to say nothing of a lessening of property values and of general picturesqueness of scenery. There is but one way of remedying the recklessness and lack of foresight of the earlier settlers, and that is by taking care of the for-

ests that now exist and in planting more trees. There has been little agitation of the matter, and for that reason there is no popular sentiment concerning it, but not a few people have taken thought of it, and the result is a bill before the legislature whose purpose is the encouragement of tree-growing. As an inducement to land owners it offers to all who select any part of their land, not exceeding one-eighth of the total area of the tract, as a permanent forest reservation, a practical exemption of tax upon that acreage. To be exact, such reservation is designed to be appraised at \$1 per acre. Provision is made for a certain number of trees to the acre, for a replanting when any are removed, and for a county record of such reservations. The measure is a step in the right direction. It may not become a law, because the public is not yet awake to the desirability of such laws, but the time will come when their wisdom is recognized, and if this bill does nothing more it will call attention to the matter and thus serve an educational purpose.—Indianapolis Journal.

CONSERVATISMS.

Pseudo or traditional conservatism rebels against the word of the "living God" while it upholds that of the dead gods of tradition.

Civilization comprises the institutions and methods evolved by man for his individual preservation through social organization.

Culture though a result of civilization, is often a parasitic attachment and in the way of progress.

Progress and civilization are identical. Progress is the improvement in the methods of self-preservation of one period and people over and against another period and people.

Institutions or methods which may be life-saving, or supporting to inability, are invariably detrimental to the race.

Altruism and humanitarianism are toll-gates on the road to progress.

Traditionalism is constantly in the way of civilization.

Ethics is the science, morality the art of self-preservation.

The brotherhood of man is an absurdity, but an intelligent utilitarianism the basis of individual salvation.

Religion is the intelligent consciousness of the unity and inseparableness of all things and one's self as an individualized entity in the eternal solidarity.

Religion is attachment to the whole as a part of self.