

position demands a man of intelligence, uprightness and rare insight, but the huge records of police court corruption and injustice indicate that not many have answered the call. It happens that such a man is presiding in our own police court. He has begun to struggle against the system which has condemned the wards of society to a policeman's mercy and so far without appreciation. Every honest man and woman in this city, without regard to politics, ought to be interested in and encouraged by Judge Comstock's efforts to disregard tradition in an institution overgrown with its weeds. The sincerity and persistence that characterize his work in spite of the opposition of the daily newspapers are admirable and The Courier believes that he will make a new standard and new precedent for his court.

We weep over the sufferings of Jean Valjean and rail at French trials and we flatter ourselves that we are tender hearted and would lend a hand to right the car of justice if it were overturned on our road. But when a really great reform is begun before our eyes we allow ourselves to be misled by newspapers who call such efforts "namby-pambyism," "Sunday school foolishness," etc.

Roosevelt's investigation of New York policemen, recent discoveries of the collusion of the Chicago police with the gamblers, as well as the police history of our own town, are convincing proofs that policemen are not eligible judges, and are frequently poor witnesses. Doubtless there are many trustworthy policemen but no man can for years beat drunken men and vagrants with a club, however necessary it may be, without being brutalized and unfitted to pass judgment on his fellowmen. They are necessary evils at present, but they are crude makeshifts and their petty tyranny is responsible for many a violent and fatal outburst. For mercy's sake let us support the judge who is trying to teach them that the law, which has made their burly and aggressive persons sacred, also protects the meaneast and most unfortunate man or woman they choose to "run in."

The News affects to believe that Judge Comstock's innovation of applying the law to those who are brought before him is dangerous to society. Now if society cannot be protected against comparatively few paupers and miscellaneous tramps and vagabonds without breaking the law made for them and us, why should not "one of the least of these" break it in return and in despite, as soon as he is released? The "society" referred to is stronger by overpowering numbers, in the possession of wealth and position by being well fed and well clothed, and above all by being well born. It is an unnecessary cowardice to withhold the protection of the law from these shivering, hungry intemperate cases whom the Pharisees and scribes are urging Judge Comstock to sentence regardless of law or guilt.

Namby-pambyism spread in Chicago till there were enough theorists who were resolved to find out the relations existing between the gamblers and the police and their chief to scare the guardians of society. Mr. Hill was appointed by a group of citizens to find out why the gamblers were let alone by the police. He discovered that the police were in the pay of the gamblers. Then Mr. Hill's house was blown up and the police were of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Hill fired that bomb himself. The grand jury has just finished examining the police and the immune gamblers and have handed in a verdict severely censuring the former and their chief. In Chicago the papers gener-

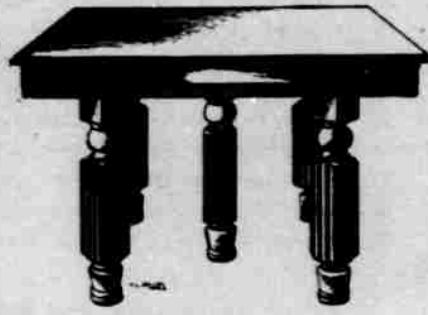
ally support indications of a healthy moral sentiment attempting to overthrow the gang which battens on bribery and corruption. The fight is one which must be fought over and over again. With the newspapers on the side of the system which has been fashioned into a tool by the politicians there is less to hope in Lincoln from the efforts of the few righteous office holders that are trying to perform their duties according to the statutes and in response to the trust expressed in their election by the majority of the people.

The Cosmopolitan offers two hundred dollars for the best essay on the economic arrangement and construction of subways for carrying the sewers, water, gas, et cetera, of the great cities. Probably no greater waste of millions is going on at the present time than that involved in tearing up city streets, first for the construction of water mains, then for gas, then for sewers, then for increase in mains and changes in sewers, again for connecting with private houses, an constantly for repairs. Underground tunnels full of mains and pipes like those with which Paris and London are veined, seems the only solution of the problem. The exposed plumbing of the houses should give a hint to builders of cities. The underground aqueducts, pipes and conduits which are constantly springing leaks should be accessible without the necessity of tearing up a paving which costs so much to lay and cannot or is not put back as good as new by the plumbers or gang of street workers hired by the city for such work. It is as well perhaps, considering the condition and size of the water mains on O street, that the paving has been delayed. Many have observed that new paving seems to spring leaks in all the pipes. At any rate, no sooner is it laid than men attack it with pickaxe and spade. They dig down to the pipes and when they fill up the hole the work is carelessly done, and just so much of the two dollar a yard paving as they have taken up is spoiled. The people pay for it by a steadily increasing taxation. Some way of reducing the taxes and still maintaining the beauty and healthfulness of cities there must be. The prize offered by the Cosmopolitan may result in a plan which will save cities the waste of millions. The pipes can not, of course, be exposed like inside plumbing on account of the danger from freezing, but a series of man-holes giving access to a chamber in which the pipes are laid and roofed by dirt deep enough to protect the pipes from freezing seems possible. The gas, sewer and water pipe repair men are an unmitigated nuisance and where the franchise of the streets has been given away, as it has in Lincoln, to a company which provides expensive gas, the actual sum they cost the city and inconvenience it suffers every year is not easily computed.

The launching of the battleship Illinois on Tuesday adds another ship to our sea force. Ship builders are hard at work on others. It has been proposed to name the next ship that is launched the Helen Gould in recognition of Miss Gould's generous gifts and personal service in this war. Miss Gould is a singularly modest young lady and if her wishes were consulted would probably decline so public an honor. The system of naming the ships after the several states of the Union is one which should be persisted in until every state is godmother to a ship. This system tends to increase the interest of the godmother states in the navy and makes naval appropriations come eas-

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FREIGHT PAID ONE HUNDRED MILES.

ier from congress. Considering the gallant contingent from Nebraska in the Spanish war our corn an sunflowers and Indian name might appropriately deck the prow and side of the next battleship that slides off the warfs into the ocean with the baptismal drops glistening on her bow.

Every district, according to our principal of representation, is entitled to a representative. The Platte has been the dividing line in state politics and it is customary to select men to the various representative offices, with some regard to an equal division. Cities are divided into wards and parts of a ward. Two representatives from one ward, according to this unwritten law, should not be neighbors. Mr. Stein happens to be a neighbor of Mr. Webster's and this may account, in part, for his rejection by the council. It has been charged that the mayor only presented Mr. Stein's name to the council after an assurance from a majority of the members that they would vote against confirmation. Such an arrangement presupposes amicable relations between the mayor and his council which the impeachment proceedings have, to all appearances, interrupted. Again it is said that Mr. Thompson objected to Mr. Stein's confirmation and the council meekly took the hint. The rejection of Mr. Thompson's pumping contract which was urged individually and collectively upon the councilmen and council, indicates that his control of that body is liable to interruptions. The personnel of the council is nearly the same as when the pumping contract was under consideration and there is no evidence that Mr. Thompson's

approval or disapproval of Mr. Stein had anything to do with the vote against his confirmation on Monday night. The candidate is a man with opinions and a strong will and like everybody else possessing these characteristics he has made quiet enemies who only wait for an opportunity to get even with a fair degree of personal safety.

Mrs. Curzon, (born Leiter) Vicereine of India must support royal state in the palaces furnished the viceroys by the British government. Orientals love magnificence and Mr. Curzon's salary of \$7000 a month with palace rent free and horses, coaches and equipments as well as servants, furnished by the government, is intended to be a sign of England's power to a subject people. The viceroy is expected to spend the surplus in the business. The American girl must feel queer with a crown upon her head holding court and receiving debutantes and distinguished foreigners in Queen Victoria's place. When her gilded coach rolls along the narrow streets and the brown faces turbaned and burnoosed stop to look at the princess in her coach, she must think of little Cinderella and the effect of a fairy godmother's wand.

The meeting of the state federation of women's clubs which occurs next week at Omaha will be very short. It is hoped that the club women of the state will be present. There is every reason to suppose that there will be a full attendance, as many club women have put off attending the exposition until this occasion. Mrs. Stoutenborough and the board have arranged an exceptionally attractive program. The stimulation of these meetings is not to be lightly disre-