

tion with a controversy with Lieut. Hodgson, navigator of the Brooklyn.

Supplementary to these specific instructions, the court is advised that they are not intended to limit the scope of its inquiry.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Rubber shoes for horses are coming into general use.

—The Peruvian congress was opened ceremoniously on the 28th by President Roma.

—The convention of the Baptist Young People's union, attended by 10,000, closed its session at Chicago on the 28th.

—The Brooklyn bridge, from which the car service was withdrawn last week for safety (p. 250), has been re-opened to general use.

—Evelyn B. Baldwin sailed from Tromsoe, Norway, on the 16th, at the head of a well-equipped American expedition to the north pole.

—George Kennan, the American author and lecturer, whose exposures of the Siberian convict system some years ago made him famous, has been expelled from Russia, which he was revisiting upon an American passport. No reason for the expulsion is given.

—At Columbia, on the 25th, resolutions were adopted by the democratic state executive committee, the vote being 25 to 5, which request Senator McLaurin to resign on the ground that he has ceased to be a democrat. Senator Tillman led this successful attack upon McLaurin.

—The Urban District Councils association, of Great Britain, representing over 400 towns, has just decided to petition parliament for local land value taxation along the line of Judge O'Connor's minority report, as a member of the royal tax commission, from which we quoted last week at page 247.

#### MISCELLANY

##### THE RIVER "SOLEDAD" (SOLIDITUDE).

For The Public.

Down upon the Soledad in the twilight gray,  
Gleams a lonely campfire light, league on league away;  
League on league of gravel beach, boulders strewn and strange,  
Where the sunken Soledad cleaves the mountain range.  
All around the mountains bleak bar the pathway free—  
Yet the winding Soledad finds the western sea.  
There the setting sun is red;  
There the silvery sails are sped;

And the broad Pacific's bed  
Lulls the mountain stream.

Night by night the campfire light tells a tale to me  
Of the lonely Soledad and the Sunset sea.  
League on league between them lies, league on league unknown,  
Yet the baby Soledad seeks and finds its own.  
So the children of the Truth seek the Mother-breast,  
And, whatever lies between, yet shall find its rest.  
Bar the way what mountains may, desolate, unknown,  
Through the Wilderness of Wrong journeys each alone,  
'Till at last the sunset glow  
Lights the Mother-ocean's flow,  
And the meeting waters know  
'Twas a living dream!

VIRGINIA M. BUTTERFIELD.  
Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico.

##### TAXING SITE VALUES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

There has been considerable agitation in London and certain other British cities during the last decade in favor of a direct tax upon site values, both as a means of raising more local revenue and also as a measure of tax reform. The London county council and one or two other public bodies have taken steps toward securing parliamentary authority for levying such a tax, and the royal commission on local taxation, which was appointed in 1896, considers the subject in its final report, just published. The majority report holds that it would not be "equitable to select land as a particular class of property" for special taxation, and that no such tax is "required to meet any special expenditure incurred by local authorities" for the special benefit of land. In a minority report, however, signed by five of the 15 commissioners, containing a much fuller discussion of the subject, the separate taxation of sites for local purposes is pronounced reasonable, practicable and desirable. An increase of taxation upon sites as against improvements is also regarded as likely to have the desirable effect of promoting the supply of houses and to prove a step in the direction of "a more equitable and thus sounder basis" of urban finance. The policy of transferring all taxation for local purposes to land has for several years been on trial in New Zealand under a local option law, and there has recently been considerable agitation in New York city for a law which would allow somewhat similar action by different communities in the Empire state. In Great Britain the project for the change indicated has arisen out of the practical exigencies of local administration rather than from doctrinaire discus-

sion; and, although such a change must take place slowly in any place, the movement there for taxing site values appears to have a good deal of momentum.—Editorial in Chicago Tribune of July 7.

##### THE SINS OF THE FATHERS.

Midas lived in a palace, but his daughter caught a disease that grew up in one of the slums, out of which Midas "got his living."

The doctor said that it was scarlet fever, and when it looked like measles he said "measles had intervened."

So he gave her medicines till the digestion got hopelessly out of order; then he told the nurse to rouse the patient three times a night to give her sleeping draughts. He was a very wise doctor and knew that he must do something for his patient—and for his fee.

Later he "found" that Midas' daughter had developed pneumonia; and Midas believed it all, so the doctor administered stimulants and called another doctor in consultation, who said that he had done exactly right. Then they injected morphine into her arm, to quiet Midas and the patient; and they said that her death was due to heart failure. So it was.

The board of health disinfected Midas' house—the slums took care of themselves.

The clergyman said that the girl had "faded like a leaf" and that "it was the will of God."

So it was; for "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—Bolton Hall, in *Life*.

##### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

Mayor Johnson made a further announcement yesterday in connection with the political assessment, which Director Salen attempted to make at the city hall. He said that not only would an assessment not be allowed, but no city employe would be permitted to collect any "voluntary contributions" from his fellow employes.

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"The reason I have forbidden any city employe to pass the hat to collect 'voluntary contributions,' as well as assessments, is that the two things are the same in principle," said the mayor. "No city employe shall collect any money from any other city employe, though I have no objection to any man contributing to the committee if he likes. There are a number of republican employes and it would be nothing less than coercion to ask these men to contribute to the expenses of a democratic committee. They can do so if they