

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—The Brooklyn bridge, from which the car service was withdrawn last week for safety (p. 250), has been reopened to general use.

—Evelyn B. Baldwin sailed from Tromsø, 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" (SOLITUDE).

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, boulder-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.

Cullacan, 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.

* * *

"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

like. They can contribute to the expenses of the republican committee if they wish to without placing their jobs in jeopardy to the slightest degree."—Cleveland Plaindealer of July 27.

The searchlight of investigation turned on city hall affairs when Tom L. Johnson became mayor has revealed many interesting facts. Yesterday Director of Accounts Madigan tied up a bundle of vouchers showing supplies purchased of one man for a year and a half. Expert Russell will examine them.

The supplies were mainly in the way of office furniture. A short time ago this merchant was told to deliver a few dozen 50-cent chairs to the tax department. He sent chairs for which he asked 75 cents, saying he had no 50-cent chairs in stock. Then a few dozen chairs of the same quality and style were purchased of another dealer. His price was 50 cents each. Dealer No. 1 had previously been asked to deliver half a dozen \$1.25 tables. His bill called for \$2.50 per table when it was sent in.

Payment was refused on both his bills, and they haven't been paid yet. These two items gave rise to the suspicion that he had been charging exorbitant prices for all the goods he had supplied for a year and a half. A cursory examination of the old vouchers yesterday showed this supposition to be more than mildly correct.

An order was issued that in the future no person in the city hall should buy a penny's worth of goods from this dealer. The investigation which is now on may end in the dealer being given the choice of refunding a certain portion of money or standing for a prosecution. — Plaindealer of July 25.

ROOF-GARDEN PLAYGROUNDS.

The most luxurious roof playground in New York is the one on the Educational Alliance building in East Broadway. This institution is supported by wealthy and liberal-minded Hebrews, and is largely used for the benefit of the Jews in the lower East side. So high up in the air that no noise from the streets ever disturbs its peace, this great roof playground has been a means of grace to the quarter for four summers. There is free ice-water in large tanks, a sterilized-milk station, a hand-ball court, tables for chess, checkers, and other games, and in one corner a "Coney Island" for the babies. This is a fenced-in space

filled with clean sand, and provided with pails and shovels. The roof is open to the neighborhood from the first warm days of spring until the latest autumn. So large is the attendance that it is necessary to divide the day into three sessions, and except under certain conditions no person is allowed to have more than one session a day. On all of the roof playgrounds regularly appointed play supervisors are in constant attendance. The children are not left alone for a moment, and all games are played under direction of the supervisor. The wisdom of this rule has been demonstrated beyond a doubt.

Nearly all roof playgrounds now have gardens planted and cultivated by these children or their neighbors. St. Bartholomew's parish-house began it. Several Easters ago the head kindergarten asked her children to bring, each one, an egg-shell full of earth—not such an easy task for a tenement-house child. She had provided five large boxes, 25 feet long, and the children were taught to prepare soil to fill them. For the first time they saw seeds planted and little green shoots appear. Vegetables and flowers were cultivated in those boxes, the children doing all the gardening. As the radishes, lettuce, peas and beans ripened, the small agriculturists were permitted to take their vegetables home to be cooked. In the fall, they gathered the seeds which were allowed to ripen. Up to that time they had not the least idea of the relation between flower, fruit and seed. The civilizing influence of such practical nature-study can hardly be overestimated. The city child, unless he is very well brought up, lacks knowledge of fundamentals. He is more provincial than the country-bred boy, although he seems to have more polish. In reality his horizon is much narrower. He needs contact with nature, and the establishment of the school-garden is the first step in that direction.—Rheta C. Dorr, in the July Woman's Home Companion, Springfield, O. Condensed for Public Opinion.

THE PLAIN PEOPLE PAY A LAST TRIBUTE.

On July 5 the remains of Hazen S. Pingree lay in state in the city hall at Detroit. Following is a portion of the leading editorial of the Detroit Tribune of July 6.

The battered hat, the weather-worn coat, the hard, strong hand misshaped by rough usage made up the setting for thousands of faces which looked sadly toward the entrance of the city hall. The people waited patiently for

the solid jam to unfold itself into a procession, and then they passed silently through the corridor and looked sadly upon the face of their dead leader.

It was that following that made Mr. Pingree a terror to his opponents. It was such a following, under the direction of able leaders, that has accomplished every great victory in the field of battle. It was such a following that carried every great revolution to success. The field at Runnymede was dotted with the faces of the "plain people." They wrung the Magna Charta from King John, for they were the power behind a handful of leaders.

It was just such followers who made the fame of Charles XII., Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great and Napoleon. Plain English yeomen armed with long bows faced the armies of France on many a field, baring their breasts to the danger, and when their unerring marksmanship had demoralized the enemy, a few knights in gilded armor galloped over the field and got all the glory. Even that injustice could not endure, for the sturdy yeomanry, always ready to follow an honorable leader, has steadily won its way to power, and it is now the ruling class in England.

It was the hungry, toiling masses in France which destroyed a kingdom and drowned their oppressors in blood. It was those same people who erected a mighty empire out of the ruins of a rotten and corrupt state. It was such a mass of people who bore the brunt of our own revolution and gave us independence; it was their descendants who saved the union and gave every man his freedom.

The masses followed the Pingree banner, not because their leader was a great statesman, but because he was brave enough to imperil his private interests, by opposing the enemies of the people who sought to absorb their wealth and usurp their government. Any man who is honest, brave and untiring can have Mr. Pingree's following, but he must be genuine. The plain people may be deceived for a little, but they will utterly destroy those who betray them. There was never a time when men of the Pingree stamp were more in demand than to-day. There are giant combinations to be battled with and the average man is too easily awed by millions or too easily corrupted by them, to be trusted. If Mr. Pingree had been a little more diplomatic, no doubt his followers would have liked him better, but he had the sterling qualities which they demand of a leader, and they gave