

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

him the victory in spite of all odds that were brought against him.

It is better to have the love and respect of the masses than to endow many universities or to pile up innumerable millions, by preying upon society. Hazen S. Pingree takes with him that which all the millions of Jay Gould, Rockefeller and Carnegie combined cannot buy.

#### THE RIOT DRILL.

Editorial in Dubuque Daily Telegraph of July 25.

It appears that when a riot drill by the troops of the Iowa national guard, now encamped in Dubuque, was proposed to Mayor Berg he objected on the ground that injury might be done to person and property, but that on receiving assurance that special care would be taken to avoid infliction of injury he withdrew his objection and gave permission, with the result that the drill exhibition will be given some evening when the weather is cool.

Though nobody shall be shot nor property damaged, the drill is objectionable. It is so because of its sinister significance. Most riots, especially in the north, have their origin in labor troubles, and the riot drill is an intimation to wage earners of what they may expect if for any reason their differences with employers develop into disorder. The drill, which consists of the passage of soldiers through the streets firing at porches and windows, involves an ugly threat to those who must sell their labor for bread. It is an intimation to them of what they may expect if they should permit their detestation of oppression and injustice to assume the form either of violence or threatened violence. Moreover, it is an obnoxious implication that ultimately it is brute power that is supreme, and it is very offensive to those who cherish the theory, a theory formulated, affirmed and inculcated by the founders of the republic, that right and not might should rule.

An exhibition of how in a certain unfortunate emergency Americans recruited from the ranks of the people may be relied upon to shoot down other Americans is very repugnant. It is worthier of barbarism than civilization, of a despotism than a free government. Better than such a drill would be an effort to devise and apply methods for preventing riots by preventing their causes. Riots are but symptoms of social disease, and to shoot down

rioters is to deal with effects instead of causes. The citizen who can find pleasure even in the imitation of such a spectacle has yet to catch the spirit of the sermon on the mount and the inspiration which dictated the declaration of independence. What is needed, instead of riot drills, are laws which will compel corporations, which are the creations and creatures of law, to submit to arbitration, and which will repeal privileges and thus, by insuring a more equitable distribution of wealth, reward labor with a larger share of what it produces and incidentally remove the causes of industrial discontent, strikes and violence. The legislation which should do this would abolish the need for troops for the maintenance of domestic order, and at the same time diminish the military spirit, which is and ever has been a dangerous menace to free institutions.

Dubuque is a civilized and orderly city, and the riot drill, which suggests so much that is deplorable and abhorrent, will give it pain instead of pleasure.

#### A COURT PROCEEDING NOT OF RECORD.

I was present at a recent session of the supreme court of the United States, when the decision in the insular cases were announced. My interest was strongly excited by the scene. The grave aspect of the judges, the patient attention of the large assembly, the realized importance of the results combined to form a tableau which will stand out in history.

Glancing about the room, my eyes became fixed upon a member of the audience whom no one else seemed to observe. He was a man of ponderous frame, in a costume I have never seen worn before. His hair, inclined to gray, was gathered into a sort of cue; ruffles surrounded his neck; his coat of military cut was adorned by a brilliant star, and crossed by a red silken sash, and his nether extremities were clothed in velvet short breeches with silk stockings and buckled shoes.

The countenance of this elderly gentleman was no less striking than his dress. His head was huge and the projecting eyebrows seemed to hang like crags over large eyes, the oblique cast of which gave them a stern expression, while lines of mirthfulness and good comradeship and a double chin showed the jovial lover of good cheer. There was something

about this man who looked around with the air of quiet self-possession which comes of a placid disposition combined with complete knowledge of important affairs, that riveted my attention more than the reading of the opinions, until the conviction dawned that he was a being from another world seen now by me alone, but about to reveal himself to others.

My presentiment was soon realized, for as the closing sentence of the last opinion was uttered, the portly gentleman arose, and while all eyes rested upon him, introduced himself as Lord North.

The court and audience involuntarily rose to their feet, and his lordship without further ceremony addressed the judges:

"I congratulate the supreme court of the United States that it has at last fully affirmed the doctrines for which I contended during the unfortunate revolution which separated the American colonies from the British empire. My contention then was that parliament had full power to govern the colonies. You have now affirmed the existence in congress of the same unlimited power over your dependencies.

"I contended that, though not represented in parliament, the colonies might be taxed and duties imposed upon their commerce. In a former decision (see *Loughborough vs. Blake* 5. *Wheaton* 317) you have held that the District of Columbia and the territories may be taxed though unrepresented. In the present case you hold that the people of Puerto Rico may be compelled to pay such import and export duties as congress sees fit. This was my view in 1764 when the question of taxing the colonies was discussed, and I adhered to it firmly."

His lordship paused a moment, then continued: "In 1776 there was published an injurious and calumnious instrument prepared by a politician named Jefferson, and styled by him and others a 'Declaration of Independence.' In it were contained many reflections on my royal master King George Third, that were all considered as specially aimed at me, his prime minister. Some of them were untrue, others so plausible as to pass for true even now. I desire to refer to this instrument to-day, because it contains, as by a prophetic intuition, a description of the policy of the president of the United States toward the Filipinos.

"He has cut off their trade with