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### BEST SELLERS

The Paw-Paw Belt has sustained two  
grievous shocks in the last month.  
First comes Booth Tarkington's an-  
nouncement that he is a retired author  
and that he is entering a larger field  
for imaginative work in counting  
chickens before they are hatched, at  
his farm at "Home."

The second is the discovery of Mere-  
dith Nicholson's "Confessions of a  
'Best Seller'" where it lies anony-  
mously embalmied in the Atlantic  
Monthly. A true inhabitant of the  
Paw-Paw region may wonder which is  
the truer retirement from the best sell-  
ing-standing room only game.

To desert a fairy princess in a Worth  
Gown and elope with a "high brow"  
seems a much more cruel thing than to  
go back to the farm and raise chickens  
in Arcadian simplicity.

We should say that the only redeem-  
ing feature from the best selling point  
of view, is that Mr. Nicholson did not  
sign his article in the Atlantic Monthly.  
He may indeed return to the  
fairy princess in the Worth Gown  
which all of us in the Paw-Paw Belt  
are bound to hope, lest the state stat-  
istician report a slump in the yearly  
Indiana output.

### ROOSEVELT REDIVIVUS

Col. Roosevelt dead?  
Don't believe it for one small sec-  
ond. Not all the animals, savage,  
nor mistaken amateur hunters and spe-  
cial - Africa - magazine - correspond-  
ents armed with gatling gun cameras  
could phase him.

This report, gentle reader is the  
dream of some Wall Street manipulat-  
or who was taken sick in his profit and  
loss account after the Northern Secur-  
ties case.

Or else, bright thought of the adver-  
tising department, the Outlook and  
Scribner's have spread this false  
alarm.

Never fear Wall Street, Col. Roose-  
velt will be back yet and not even the  
bar sinister of the North Pole can  
tempt him to muckrake far from 26  
Broadway.

And yet, sop to the market of bro-  
mides—he might have been run down  
by a slow trolley car.

The forward pass worked at last at  
Earlham.

The only solution of the Indian Sur-  
mer-Squaw winter weather is summer  
clothes and an automobile coat.

### Items Gathered in From Far and Near

Lifting It Up.

From the New York Tribune.  
"I have got to lift this canvass up,  
if I can, and make it educational and  
respectable," Mr. Gaynor told the pub-  
lic on Thursday night. A few hours  
earlier he illustrated his intentions by  
writing a reply to a campaign letter,  
in which he gave the writer the lie di-  
rect, told him he was quite capable of  
writing lying letters and "the live coal  
in his head" blazing up with sudden  
inspiration, changed the spelling of his  
correspondent's name from "Kerr" to  
"Cur." Thus is the campaign lifted  
up and made educational and respecta-  
ble! But for the Christian jurists' ef-  
forts it would sink below the level  
on which it would be conducted by an  
ill-bred school boy in a temper. By  
his exercise of self-restraint, however,  
Mr. Gaynor contrives to sustain it on  
that level.

Good Old Times.

From the Toledo Blade.  
"When I was a boy," remarked the  
man on the car this morning, "nearly  
every house had a gate in front of it,  
which helped to make Halloween in-  
teresting."

Off the List.

From the "Hillsburg Gazette-Times."

We understand that possum will not be  
reckoned among the breakfast  
foods at the White House this winter.

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

Note: Before going into the discussion of any one of the many  
points which are interesting in the Des Moines plan, we publish a synop-  
sis of the plan as a frame work to succeeding articles. By way of  
comment we ask our readers to compare this simple plan with the won-  
derful net work of complications now in force in the cities of Indiana.  
Is it any wonder that remarkable results have been the rule under the  
Des Moines plan with its simplicity and the power vested in the voter  
who elects the public officer?

--II--

### ANALYSIS OF DES MOINES PLAN

Officers—All legislative and administrative functions of city govern-  
ment are put in the hands of a mayor and four councilmen who are elect-  
ed at large at a non partisan primary.

Primaries—The two mayoralty candidates receiving the highest num-  
ber of votes become the candidates for mayor at the election.

The eight councilmanic candidates receiving the highest number of  
votes become the candidates for council at the election.

Election—At the final election the candidate for mayor receiving  
the majority is elected.

The four councilmen (out of the eight selected at the primary) receiv-  
ing the highest number of votes are elected.

### POWERS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The mayor is chairman of council with one vote. He has no veto, but  
any measure passed must be signed by him and two councilmen.

All administrative and executive powers of city government are trans-  
ferred to council and its act is final except when protested by the people  
and vetoed by their vote at an election.

The council elects from its members the heads of departments as  
follows:

1. Public Affairs.
2. Accounts and Finances.
3. Public Safety.
4. Streets and Public Improvements.
5. Parks and Public Property.

All other officers and employees of the city, such as police judge,  
clerk, city attorney, treasurer, fire chief, superintendent police, civil en-  
gineer, etc., are elected by council. They are subordinates who may be  
removed by council at its pleasure.

Civil service examinations under the supervision of commissioners  
appointed by the council provide for the employees of the city.

### LEGISLATION BY COUNCIL

All ordinances and franchises are passed by council except under the  
following restrictions:

Franchises must be put to a vote of the people.

If a measure of council is unsatisfactory it may be protested by a  
petition of the people and if council then insists on passing it it must be  
put to a vote of the people. (Referendum)

If council refuses to pass a measure which the people desire on re-  
ceiving a petition signed by 25 percent of the voters it must pass it  
or put it to a vote of the people. (Initiative)

### REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

The mayor or any councilman may be removed at any time by a  
vote of the people. (The Recall)

### TWINKLES

(By Philander Johnson.)

Taught by Experience.

"So the jury returned a verdict with-  
out leaving the courtroom," said the  
visitor.

"Yep," answered Bronco Bob.  
"That's the way Crimmon Gulch juries  
always do nowadays. The boys have  
had so much trouble that they stay  
where they are instead of taking  
chances on getting separated from  
their hats and overcoats."

More Argument.

The statesmen soon will hither stray  
And, though we shout for mercy,  
Will surely bring to light straightway  
Some brand-new controversy.

"Do real art of de soft answer," said  
Uncle Eben, "consists in laying a  
foundation for it that makes it no use  
foh de other feller to talk back."

Not Up to Modern Standards.

"Your wife's new hat makes her  
look like a queen," said the man who  
tries to be complimentary.  
"Don't let her hear you say that,"  
answered Mr. Bliggins. "I have looked  
through the histories and I never yet  
saw a picture of a queen who looked  
as if she employed a first-class millin-  
er."

Unburdening.

"You must at least give that candi-  
date credit for speaking his mind."

"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne. "But  
it's unfortunate that people most will-  
ing to speak their minds are so often  
those whose mentalities are more or  
less unpleasant."

Determination.

Sir Thomas was a sportsman bold,  
His country's pride and joy.  
Who had a passion uncontrolled  
To be a sailor boy.  
And every time he had a race,  
'Twas comforting to note,  
He met defeat with courteous grace  
And built another boat.

Sir Thomas is a model still  
Well worth attending to:  
A man is ne'er defeated till  
He quits and says "I'm through."  
Though tricks of wave or wind may  
bring  
Dismay, he does not fall  
While he has breath for challenging  
And nerve to hoist a sail.

Bicycles and Airships.

From the Springfield Republican.

One of the most striking facts about  
flying is the ease and quickness with  
which the art seems to be mastered un-  
der proper conditions. For example,  
Lieut. Lahm has been a pupil only  
three weeks, yet he made yesterday a  
flight of forty-five minutes, which on-  
ly a little while ago would have been  
a record. Half an hour, says Wilbur  
Wright, is long enough to get the  
knack of the machine, but it is to be  
noticed that he does not let pupils  
quite so green as that shift for them-  
selves. The first stages seem not to  
be much more difficult or alarming  
than the mastery of the high bicycle  
of twenty years ago, which to the novice  
looked as high as a house. In fact,  
the well taught aeronaut seems to  
lose rather less cuticle during his ap-  
prenticeship than the oldtime bicy-  
clist.

### Kipling to Young Men

"When, to use a detestable phrase,  
you go out into the battle of life, you  
will be confronted by an organized  
conspiracy which will try to make you  
believe that the world is governed by  
the idea of wealth for wealth's sake,  
and that all means which lead to the  
acquisition of that wealth are, if not  
laudable, at least expedient. . . . You  
will live and eat and move and have  
your being in a world dominated by  
that thought. Some of you will proba-  
bly succumb to the poison of it.

"Now, I do not ask you not to be  
carried away by the first rush of the  
great game of life. That is expecting  
you to be more than human. But I do  
ask you, after the first heat of the  
game, that you draw breath and watch  
your fellows for a while.

"Sooner or later you will see some  
man to whom the idea of wealth as  
mere wealth does not appeal, whom  
the methods of amassing that wealth  
do not interest, and who will not ac-  
cept money if you offer it to him at a  
certain price. At first you will be in-  
clined to laugh at this man, and to  
think that he is not smart in his  
ideas. I suggest that you watch him  
closely, for he will presently demon-  
strate to you that money dominates  
everybody except the man who does  
not want money. You may meet that  
man on your farm, in your village, or  
in your Legislature. But be sure that,  
whenever or wherever you meet him,  
as soon as it comes to a direct issue  
between you, his little finger will be  
thicker than your loins. You will go  
in fear of him; he will not go in fear  
of you. You will do what he wants;  
he will not do what you want. You  
will find that you have no weapon in  
your armory with which you can at-  
tack him; no argument with which  
you can appeal to him. Whatever you  
gain he will gain more.

I would like you to study that man.  
I would like you better to be that man  
because from the lower point of view  
it doesn't pay to be obsessed by the de-  
sire of wealth for wealth's sake. If  
more wealth is necessary to you, for  
purposes not your own, use your left  
hand to acquire it, but keep your right  
for your proper work in life. If you  
employ both arms in that game you  
will be in danger of stooping; in dan-  
ger also of losing your soul. But in  
spite of everything you may succeed,  
you may be successful, you may ac-  
quire enormous wealth. In which  
case I warn you that you stand in  
grave danger of being spoken and  
written of and pointed out as a smart  
man. And that is one of the most  
terrible calamities that can overtake  
a sane, civilized, white man today.

"They say youth is a season of  
hope, ambition and uplift—that the  
last word youth needs is an exhorta-  
tion to be cheerful. Some of you  
here know, and I remember, that  
youth can be a season of great de-  
pression, despondencies, doubts and  
waverings, the worse because they  
seem to be peculiar to ourselves and  
incommunicable to our fellows. There  
is a certain darkness into which the  
sauls of the young man sometimes de-  
scend—a horror of desolation, aban-  
donment and realized worthlessness,  
which is one of the most read of the  
hells in which we are compelled to  
walk.

"I know of what I speak. This is  
due to a variety of causes, the chief  
of which is the egotism of the human an-  
imal itself. But I can tell you for your  
comfort that the chief cure for it is to  
interest yourself, to lose yourself in  
some issue not personal to yourself—  
in another man's trouble, or, prefera-  
bly, another man's joy. But if the  
dark hour does not vanish, as some-  
times it doesn't; if the black cloud will  
not lift, as sometimes it will not; let  
me tell you again for your comfort  
that there are many liars in the world,  
but there are no liars like our own sen-  
sations. The despair and the horror  
mean nothing, because there is for you  
nothing irremediable, nothing inefface-  
able, nothing irrecoverable, in any-  
thing you may have said or thought or  
done.

"If for any reason you cannot believe  
or have not been taught to believe in  
the infinite mercy of Heaven, which  
has made us all, and will take care we  
do not go far astray, at least believe  
that you are not yet sufficiently im-  
portant to be taken too seriously by  
the powers above us or beneath us. In  
other words, take anything and every-  
thing seriously except yourselves."

The Hookworm Commission.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. Rockefeller has made a magnifi-  
cent use of his great wealth in offer-  
ing to bear the cost of a scientific and  
popular campaign for the eradication  
of the "hookworm disease," which has  
had so depressing an effect upon the  
population of the Southern states.  
Though the disease is not new, the  
recognition of its nature and cause is  
quite recent, and has opened a way to  
scientific treatment and cure and ul-  
timate eradication, just as the discov-  
ery of insect agency in malaria and  
yellow fever furnished the needed key  
to what had seemed an insoluble prob-  
lem.

## Tubal Cain

Old Tubal Cain was a man of might  
In the days when earth was young;  
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright  
The strokes of his hammer rung;  
And he lifted high his brawny hand  
On the iron glowing clear,  
Till the sparks rushed out in scarlet showers  
As he fashioned the sword and spear,  
And he sang, "Hurrah for my handiwork!  
Hurrah for the spear and sword!  
Hurrah for the hand that shall wield them well,  
For he shall be king and lord!"

To Tubal Cain came many a one,  
As he wrought by his roaring fire,  
And each one prayed for a strong steel-blade,  
As the crown of his desire.  
And he made them weapons, sharp and strong,  
Till they shouted loud with glee,  
And gave him gifts of pearls and gold,  
And spoils of the forest tree.  
And they sang, "Hurrah for Tubal Cain,  
Who hath given us strength anew!  
Hurrah for the smith! Hurrah for the fire!  
And hurrah for the metal true!"

But a sudden change came o'er his heart,  
Ere the setting of the sun;  
And Tubal Cain was filled with pain  
For the evil he had done.  
He saw that men with rage and hate  
Made war upon their kind;  
That the land was red with the blood they shed  
In their lust for carnage, blind.  
And he said, "Alas! that ever I made,  
Or that skill of mine should plan  
The spear and the sword for men whose joy  
Is to slay their fellow man!"

And for many a day old Tubal Cain  
Sat brooding o'er his woe;  
And his hand forebode to smite the ore,  
And his furnace smoldered low.  
But he arose at last with a cheerful face,  
And a bright, courageous eye,  
And bared his strong right arm for work,  
While the quick flames mounted high.  
And he sang, "Hurrah for my handiwork!  
As the red sparks lit the air;  
"Not done for the blade was the bright steel made,"  
And he fashioned the first plowshare.

And men, taught wisdom from the past,  
In friendship joined their hands,  
Hung the sword in the hall, the spear on the wall,  
And plowed the willing lands;  
And sang, "Hurrah for Tubal Cain!  
Our staunch good friend is he.  
And for the plowshare and the plow  
To him our praise shall be.  
But while oppression lifts its head,  
Or a tyrant would be lord,  
Though we may thank him for the plow  
We'll not forget the sword!"

—Charles Mackay.

## Heart to Heart Talks.

By EDWIN A. NYE.

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A judge in a western state gave no-  
tice recently that he would hear any  
divorce case brought to his court with-  
in three days after it was filed.

A few days afterward a married  
woman took a notion that she was  
tired of living with her husband. She  
filed her petition in this judge's court,  
and in three days, her husband being  
absent, she had her decree of absolute  
divorce.

Which is the limit of get-divorce-  
quick.

This woman by the kindness of the  
court was able to rid herself of mari-  
monial bonds in about the time it  
takes for two gypsies to swap horses.

Some one said of Goldsmith that—  
He threw off his friends  
As a huntsman his pack,  
For he knew when he wished  
He could whistle them back.

This woman shook off her husband  
with the same abandon, knowing doubt-  
less that if she could not whistle him  
back she could as easily whistle an-  
other.

But—  
Suppose all our jurists should follow  
this prompt judge's procedure.

Then any fickle woman whose head  
is turned by some adventurer, any  
foolish man attracted by some affinity,  
would be able to doff the old and don  
the new like unto a change of gar-  
ments.

And Rome in her day of dissolu-  
tion would be clean by comparison.  
In those later days of Roman moral  
debauchery it was mostly the very  
rich who made marriage an empty  
ceremony. The common people could  
not afford the luxury.

Should an era of lawful immorality  
under the guise of quick and easy di-  
vorce like that exemplified by certain  
of the rich set and stage people be-  
come the order of things among the  
mass of our people you would need to  
revive the theory of a literal hell of  
fire and brimstone to fitly characterize  
our society.

Divorce may be a necessary evil in  
our day and in extreme cases, but it  
ought to be hedged about by every  
possible restriction of law.

Divorces while you wait, like that  
granted by this western judge, should  
never be permitted.

Instead of loosening the provisions  
of court procedure, judges should re-  
strict them.

Fortunately the laws of most states  
are strict along this line, requiring a  
reasonable length of time under due  
legal notice or publication.

Among freak laws and freak judges  
these recent methods certainly afford  
shining examples.

### On The Commission Plan

The Chicago Examiner of recent  
date contained the following editorial  
expression concerning the commis-  
sion plan of city government for which an  
enabling act is now before the Illinois  
legislature, backed by a number of the  
cities of Illinois:

If any one thinks Chicago is making  
radical demands from the legislature  
by inserting the recall and the refer-  
endum in new charter bill a compari-  
son with the demands of interior Illi-  
nois cities will make our wishes seem  
conservative.

Senator Barr has introduced a bill  
allowing any city in the state to intro-  
duce the commission form of govern-  
ment if its electors care to. The  
measure is an enabling act only. It  
merely enlarges home-rule powers to  
a point where the entire fundamental  
form of municipal government may be  
changed by popular vote. It is desired  
to let any Illinois city, if it chooses,  
duplicate the experience of such cities  
as Galveston and Des Moines in a  
commission form of government.

Springfield, Peoria, Joliet and some  
other Illinois cities have taken up the  
commission idea. Their representa-  
tives have held conferences. Senator  
Barr, who hails from Joliet, had an  
original bill in the interests of that  
city alone, but has lately put in an  
amended bill with features applicable  
to the whole state.

The most radical feature of the  
Barr bill in its political aspect, is the  
wiping out of partisanship at purely  
municipal elections. Chicago's chart-  
er bill abolishes the party circle from  
the ballot at municipal elections, but  
retains the party column. It also abol-  
ishes party primaries which is the fin-  
ishing touches in the death knell of  
rule by partisan bosses.

The commission bill allows all vot-  
ers to participate at a single primary.  
The names of all candidates are on  
the same ballot, without party desig-  
nation. The two candidates receiving  
the highest number of votes are the  
nominees on the official election bal-  
lot, no other names being printed  
thereon. If more than one person is  
to be elected to an office the nominees  
are the four or more highest vote get-  
ters at the primary.

Another fundamental feature, of  
course, is the recall. This, together  
with the initiative and referendum,  
which are also features of the  
commission bill, take away the last ves-  
tige of responsibility for government  
from any one but the voters them-  
selves. The latter not only retain the  
power to oust unsatisfactory officials,  
but retain an intimate supervision over  
all legislation. If they want a law  
passed, and their officials refuse to  
act, they report to the initiative. If  
laws are passed that they deem un-  
safe they correct the errors through  
the referendum.

Thus far the spread of the commis-  
sion idea in municipal government has  
been confined to the comparatively  
smaller cities. The reason is obvious.  
In a city of the first class—like Chi-  
cago or New York for instance—the  
necessary multiplication of separate  
commissions might prove unwieldy.  
In the smaller cities all functions of  
government can be embraced in less  
than half a dozen commissions. That  
accounts, doubtless, for the practical  
results obtained by such cities as Des  
Moines. The first year of the Iowa  
capital's commission government has  
put the city on a sound financial basis  
and abolished useless offices.

While the commission form of city  
government may seem a radical de-  
parture, it is not entirely new. The  
local government at Washington, D. C.  
has been practically a commission  
government for many years. When  
western cities began to adopt the plan  
they introduced special features ap-  
plicable to modern conditions. And it  
is notable that each city adopting the  
plan seeks improvement over any of  
its predecessors.

Senator Barr's commission bill ex-  
presses the collective wisdom of mod-  
ern American municipal science. And  
its first blow is at the rule of the po-  
litical boss. It begins by making it  
impossible for professional politicians  
to control municipal offices. And it  
keeps both legislative and executive  
functions within the people's contin-  
uous supervision.

The legislature is not asked to ap-  
prove or disapprove the commission  
form of government. But its grant of  
power is needed to give municipalities  
the right to adopt it.

Hallowe'en.

From the Philadelphia Press.  
The origin of no religious holiday  
has been so completely forgotten in its  
latter day festival character as Hal-  
lowe'en. It matters not a bit what his-  
toric significance it may have had,  
there is nothing hallowed about it now  
save the innocent play of found youth.  
It is a night devoted to the pastimes  
of tentative lovers or the escapades of  
prowling urchins. It is a glorious  
night to the small boy, who masquer-  
ades and capers from door to door  
begging sweet cider, gingerbread, ap-  
ples and nuts; a more hilarious night  
to the older lad, who puts "dicks" on  
windows, changes gates, rings bells,  
robs the cabbage patch and raises Cain  
generally. But, above all, it is the  
night of nights to the sweethearts, who  
before an open grate fire in town, or  
far better, in the barn on the old farm  
decorated with cornstalks and pump-  
kins, with lighted candle inside, "bob"  
for apples, toast marshmallows or  
read their fate in the burning of cast-  
nuts. Its memory may never dena-  
from their lives.

Preliminary Bout.

Maude—When does your breach of  
promise suit come up in court? Clara  
—To-morrow m-morning. Maude  
—There, dear, don't cry. I'm sorry to  
see you so overcome. Clara—Oh, I'm  
not overcome; I'm merely practicing  
for the jury.—Chicago News.