

ANOTHER DROP IN SUGARS.

Owing to the collapse of the Wholesale Grocers' Guild the other day, it is more than probable that the result will be an appreciable drop to the consumer in the price of Granulated Sugars.

Two Car-loads of Sugars

Of different grades will arrive for us this week, and will be sold at the lowest notch. Our customers invariably get a share of the discounts given us on large purchases.

100 HALF-CHESTS OF TEA

Were placed in stock early this week. A large portion of this shipment is made up of our now famous line of 25c Tea. The quality is unexcelled for the money.

FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

We offer Salt White Fish, Salmon, Trout, Labrador Herrings Fresh Water Herrings, Fresh Haddock, Fresh Salmon Trout, etc., etc.

LAND SALT AND PLASTER

We have now in our warehouse a carload of Beamish's Celebrated Grey Land Plaster in barrels and bags, and Land Salt in Sacks. Convenient to load and prices reasonable.

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JOS. COOPER,

PROPRIETOR.

LONDON'S NEW COUNCIL.

A REMARKABLE EXPERIMENT IN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Scope, Powers and Organization of London's New County Council Clearly and Succinctly Stated—The Population Affected—An Incorruptible Body of Men.

The most remarkable experiment ever made in the way of municipal administration is now going on among that vast conglomeration of human beings which De Quincey called the "nation" of London. The scope, powers, and organization of the new London County Council and the programmes of its leaders are discussed at length in the April number of the Review of Reviews. We are indebted to the American editor of that periodical, Dr. Albert Shaw, for more light upon this interesting subject than has hitherto been attainable on this side of the Atlantic.

What is known as the Metropolitan Police District covers an area defined by a radius of fifteen miles from Charing Cross, and comprises several hundred square miles. It comprehends a population of nearly 6,000,000. Outside of the small inner nucleus bearing the historical title of the City of London, which at present has only about 30,000 residents, the huge British metropolis was up to 1889 split into a number of irregular small divisions and governed by parish vestries and district boards. There was no unified municipal spirit, and there was universal apathy and ignorance with regard to the methods and doings of the parish vestries. Four years ago a man might have walked the streets of London ten hours a day for a month, buttonholing every intelligent citizen he met, and the chances were that he would not in that time have found a solitary person who could have explained to him how London was governed. It is true that for the main drainage system and some of the more important street improvements, together with a few other purposes of general concern, there was established some twenty years ago a so-called "Metropolitan Board of Works," made up of delegates from the local district boards and parish vestries. This body, having no direct accountability to anybody, was neither efficient nor well constituted.

The great change which has taken place is not the outcome of any vehement agitation in London itself, but an incidental result of the County Council Act applied to the whole of England in 1889. By that measure the larger part of the parishes which had come to be known as the metropolis, were erected into a separate county, and provision was made for a County Council, which was, in fact, to be a great Municipal Parliament, elected by the people of London. The districts of the metropolis, from each of which two councillors are chosen, are for the present identical with the fifty-nine electoral divisions from which members are sent to Parliament. The old City of London is thus far permitted to retain its separate government, and it is allowed representation in the County Council as one of the districts constituting the larger municipality. We should add that the 118 Councillors elected add to their number by choosing nineteen citizens to sit and act with them under the title of Aldermen. They are presided over by one of their members, who is chosen Chairman, and who exercises some of the functions which in other cities pertain to the office of Mayor. It should be mentioned that the County of London, imposing as it is, is not so large as it soon will be. It is by no means continuous with the Metropolitan Police District. It has an area of only about 120 square miles, and the population under the jurisdiction of its Council scarcely exceeds four millions and a half. One of the extensions of power which will probably be demanded by the Progressives, who control the Council recently elected by a majority of some 3 to 1, is the concession of control over the Metropolitan Police. When that demand is granted, the area governed by the Council will coincide with that of the Metropolitan Police District, and will embrace a population of about 6,000,000.

As yet, however, the London County Council is only a framework of a great municipal government which future acts of Parliament are expected to fill in and complete. For the moment its authority is comparatively limited. It took over all the powers that had been vested in the old Metropolitan Board of Works, and various other powers were conferred by the statute creating it. But many matters of municipal concern were left under the management of local districts and parishes; and its water supply, its markets, its gas works, its tramways, and its docks remain in the hands of private owners. The programme of the Progressives, who are now the unchallenged masters of the London County Council, contemplates a vast expansion of its powers, and there is no doubt that their wishes will be heeded if the Gladstonians are dominant in the next House of Commons. Among the demands in which all the Progressives are agreed are the following: First, that taxation reform shall make the great landlords and holders of ground rents pay their share of municipal revenue; secondly, that the rights of the eight private water companies shall be transferred to the municipality; and thirdly, that trenchant measures shall be taken for an amelioration of the housing conditions of the poor. Not included in the official programme, but urgently pressed by the representatives of workmen to whom the recent victory of the Progressives is mainly due, are demands for an equalization of taxes throughout the metropolis, for trade union wages and an eight-hour day in the case of all persons employed by the Council, and for the substitution of public for private ownership and management, not only as regards the water supply, but as regards the gas works, tramways, markets, and docks. The workmen insist, moreover, that the people of London ought,

through their County Council, to manage their police and all their parks and open spaces, and it is probable that this demand will be backed by a large majority of the newly elected Councillors.

The London Councillors serve without any compensation. As to the fidelity with which they apply themselves to their duties we have the testimony of Mr. W. T. Stead. He tells us that besides the frozen men who may be said to live in committee rooms and in the supervision of the municipal service, there are at least fifty men who give half their time to the government of London. The remaining sixty probably do not give more than one day in the week. On an average, it appears that each Councillor devotes two days a week to the service of the town. A more incorruptible body of men never assembled for the government of a great city. From Lord Rosebery, Lord Compton, Lord Lingen, Lord Hobhouse, and Sir John Lubbock at the top, to Mr. John Burns, the Socialist, at the bottom, there is not one of the 137 members who has even been suspected of corruption or of abusing a trust. A new broom sweeps clean, and how long this exemplary state of things will continue to exist is of course open to question; but that it is the present outcome of the London municipal experiment is acknowledged on all hands.

MISSING LINKS.

Some Bright and Breezy Paragraphs of Curious Information.

Should a man in China be unfortunate enough to save the life of another from drowning he is saddled with the expense of supporting the saved one for the remainder of that person's life.

A superb new bridge has been constructed in Rome over the picturesque Tiber, and it is considered one of the finest modern works in the city. It has been christened Ponte Margherita by their majesties of Italy.

Paper quilts are said to be coming into extensive use abroad for the poorer classes. They are composed of sheets of white paper sewed together and perforated all over at a distance of an inch or two apart.

Dr. Herzog recently discovered in a library at Aarau, Switzerland, a copy of the first edition of Holbein's "Dance of Death." The same volume includes forty-six wood cuts of the same artist, illustrating scenes from the Bible.

Mrs. Newberry, a very wealthy woman who resides in Detroit, is having the Herreshoffs build for her a large steam yacht in which she can cruise on the lakes. Among other luxuries it is to have a mahogany dining room on deck.

The man who lifted himself over a fence by his boot straps was rivaled by an old German bachelor in Iowa, who put a loop around his neck, threw the rope over a knob, put his foot in the loop in the other end, hoisted himself up and hanged himself.

The minimum age of employment on the continent is generally 12 or from 12 to 14. But then English children only work twenty-eight hours per week, while in France and Germany the hours are thirty-six, in Italy and Hungary forty-eight, in Holland sixty-six, and in Belgium seventy-two.

There are said to be 200 women in New York who go to Europe twice a year to buy their dresses. The number of men who cross the water for their new wardrobe is much greater, as many men take the opportunity to run over to the other side for rest, recreation and business all combined.

A notable decrease in the number of deaths from hydrophobia is observed by the registrar general of London. The deaths from this disease had been thirty in 1869 and had averaged twenty-four annually in three years, 1887, 1888, 1889; but there were only eight in 1890 and fewer than in any year since 1868.

Instinct teaches the hen that it would be no good to warm only one side of her eggs, and so when she feels that they are "done" on one side she turns them gently round. Anyone who has watched setting hens has seen them rise every now and then and shuffle about for a few moments on the nest. That is when they turn the eggs over.

The Influenza Bacillus.

Drs. Pfeiffer and Canon, to whom belongs the honor of the discovery of the influenza bacillus, have been lecturing upon that pestiferous atom before the surgeons of the Charite Hospital at Berlin. There is nothing particularly cheerful to the victims in what they had to say, for they evidently have no idea of what to do with the microbe now that they have got him. One of his peculiarities is said to be his immobility, a most discouraging attribute so far as mankind is concerned. He is found, it appears, in various positions, singly, in chains, and in strings. His chief characteristic, however, is his size, or rather his lack of it. He is the smallest microbe yet known to science, not half so big as his congener, the bacillus of blood-poisoning, hitherto considered the least of the tribe. The new microbe, moreover, possesses the further distinction of being oval, not round, though a creature so minute has his shape. Of his activity, malevolence, and potency there is no doubt, as the unlucky rats, guinea-pigs, mice, pigeons, rabbits, and monkeys into whose veins he has been injected know only too well. He has been propagated already to the fifth generation, and thus will soon be able to boast of a pedigree.

Cholera and Coffee.

It seems like taking a wild premature leap to talk of cholera, but it's a well thing to know that every home in the land has in it the necessary ammunition to slay the cholera bacillus. It is some time since a Dutch physiologist announced it as his discovery that coffee is a germicide—a sure killer of the cholera bacillus in a few hours. It is now reported from North Bhangulpur, in Bengal, that the coffee remedy for cholera is being put into practice there with astonishing success.

A LEGAL MILLENIUM.

THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND.

The "Court of Conciliation" and How it Works in These Countries—The Composition of the Court and Its Method of Settling Disputes.

Who has not often thought, unless, perhaps, he be of the legal profession, if there were not some way to avoid the exasperating delays of justice from legal technicalities and quibbles, the sacrifice of fortune and happiness to the pride of "fighting out" trivial litigations, and the endless misery of "going to law," which are indeed an ill wind to every one except the lawyers; and the legal element benefited is not often that which we should wish to encourage. "Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce" is perhaps no longer possible, but there is abundant room still for the delightful method of settling civil cases at law which Nicolay Grevstad describes under the title "Courts of Conciliation" in the Atlantic. One only feels that the system is entirely too easy and simple and good to be true.

In Norway, "every city, every village containing at least twenty families, and every parish, constitutes a separate 'district of conciliation.' The districts are small, in order to make it as easy as possible for the parties to attend courts, as personal attendance is the main feature of the proceedings. The court, or commission, as the statute styles it, is made up of two members, one of whom acts as chairman and clerk. These officials are chosen for a term of three years at a special election, by the voters of the district, from among three men nominated by the city or the parish council. Only men above twenty-five years of age are eligible, and the law expressly provides that only "good" men may be placed in nomination. The court meets at a certain place, day and hour, every week in the cities, and every month in the country districts. It is not public. The proceedings are carried on with closed doors, and the commissioners are bound to secrecy. Nothing of what transpires is permitted to reach the outside world. Admissions or concessions made by one party cannot be used against him by his adversary if the case should come up for trial in the regular courts. But a party willing to settle before the commissioners is entitled to a certificate to that effect."

Before this informal tribunal all parties to civil or private cases must appear. Failure to answer in person—except in specially prescribed cases, when a representative, other than a lawyer, is allowed—is punished by the obligation to pay all costs of the formal trial subsequent, whatever be its decision. This has proved entirely adequate to insure attendance. A fee of twenty-five cents charged the plaintiff for issuing the summons, and a second of fifty cents in case of a conciliation, are all the costs possible.

The office of commissioner has come to be one of great honor, and the best men in the country are selected, nor have the "courts" been allowed to come into "politics."

Truly, it must be an instructive and a noble sight to see this little tribunal—the two "good" men of the district—take into hand with ready tact and impartial wisdom and human sympathy the hot and vengeful contestants at feud and quietly talk them out of their "caps and bells" of angry pride.

The influence of the court of conciliation is brought to bear upon a legal controversy while it is yet possible to bridge the chasm by peaceable means. The injured party has made up his mind to seek redress, but before he can rush into court he must pass through the gates of peace. Here the contestants meet without lawyers to spur them on and obscure the issue by legal verbiage. Each tells his own story in his own language, and in a plain, common-sense way. With the statements of both parties before them, the judges reduce the differences to their true proportions, emphasize the uncertainty and expense of litigation, and endeavor to make it plain to the contestants that each, by a comparatively insignificant concession, can have the matter adjusted at once, save a large amount in courts' and lawyers' fees, and, in fact, gain more than he would obtain even in court." The writer makes the remarkable statement that seventy-five out of every hundred cases are peaceably adjusted in the courts of conciliation.

Curiously, this ideal method of handling that most difficult of subjects—human nature—is part of the machinery of paternal government, and was founded by a royal edict in 1795 and 1797.

In Norway it is regarded as one of the corner-stones of the national system of justice, and it is not an exaggeration to say that any attempt to abolish it would provoke a revolution.

The same method of settling their differences is also in force in Switzerland. Before any action can be brought in the courts of law there, it is necessary for both litigants to appear before a functionary known as the "Juge de Paix," who is elected and is always one of the worthiest citizens of the community. Each there states his side of the case, and the duty of the "Juge" is to endeavor to reconcile the differences. As the only persons permitted to be present are the Juge and the litigants, in nearly every case this effort is successful.

Remove Palpitation.

Palpitation of the heart is much benefited by the application of cold over the heart—particularly if the trouble is of nervous origin. A wet sponge laid over the heart is a pleasant mode of applying cold; if the patient is in bed, a cloth may be wrung out of cold water, and folded to form a compress and laid on the heart; this compress should be well covered with dry cloths to prevent wetting of the clothing, and also for the purpose of retaining the moisture.

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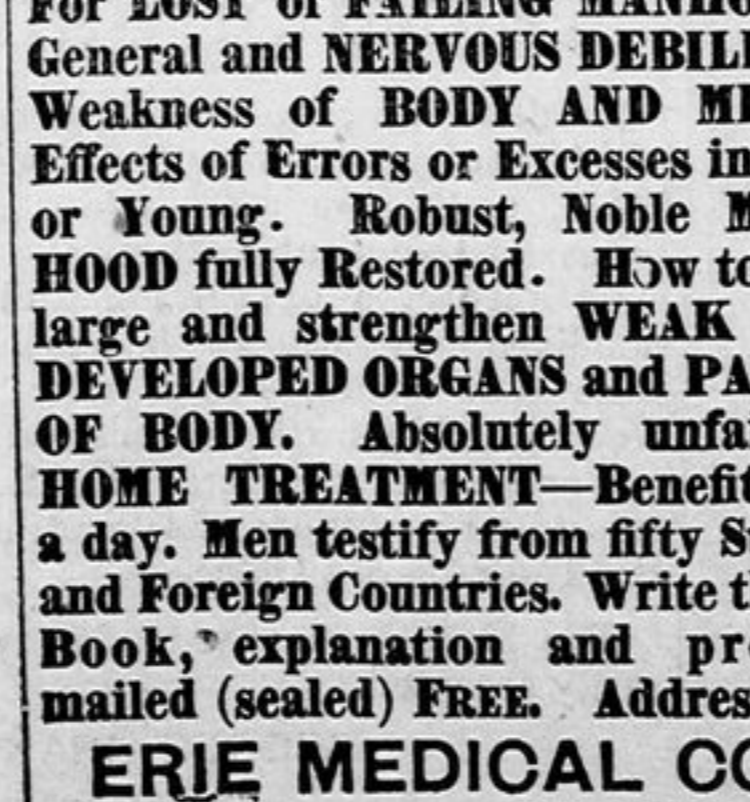
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