

### DOWN BOOMING IDEAS

THESE GOOD SUGGESTIONS BY A ST. LOUIS WOMAN.

How a Member of the American League For Civic Improvement Would Beautify Towns—Good System For Cleaning Sidewalks.

Mrs. Louis N. McCall, one of the promoters and prospective vice presidents of the St. Louis branch of the American League For Civic Improvement, suggests three original ideas for the beautification of towns and cities, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

They are the ornamentation of vacant lots, the beautifying of back yards and the adoption of a block system of sidewalk cleaning.

"There are blocks and blocks of unimproved property throughout towns and cities," says Mrs. McCall. "Portions of it are scattered through the best residence sections. All of this vacant property is unsightly not because it is vacant, but because it is in nearly every case filled with rank weeds and covered with signboards. Weeds and signboards do not beautify vacant property. Instead of them, at little cost to the property owner they could be beautified.

"Trees, shrubbery or even some kinds of flowers could be planted where the weeds and signboards now flourish. When this vacant property would be having. Benches could be placed on these vacant lots, and persons could stop there and rest.

"Now look across the street." And Mrs. McCall pointed through her parlor window to the unimproved property running eastwardly from Vandeventer avenue along the north side of McPerson avenue. "All you see there now is a large signboard. At other times of the year the lot is covered with a heavy growth of rank weeds. How much more attractive would the neighborhood look if the lot were covered with shrubbery or trees, with a few benches scattered here and there. Mr. Lindell Gordon owns that property. I'm sure he would be willing to aid in improving its appearance if other property owners showed a similar willingness to beautify their property. Such a system could be placed in operation in towns and cities if citizens would act in concert to make their neighborhoods more beautiful.

"I think a block system of sidewalk cleaning in cities and towns would be of immense advantage in improving their looks. My idea is this: In neighborhoods where it can be afforded, for instance, let every resident contribute, say, 25 cents to a common fund and appoint one man to take charge of it. Let him hire men to clean the sidewalks of the entire block.

"The men he hired might also clean the front yard and the gutters. They could preserve a generally clean condition throughout the block. Right now, no matter how clean one keeps his own sidewalk or front yard, if her neighbor's is not similarly well kept the general effect is lost.

"I think it would add to the appearance of towns and cities generally if people would pay more attention to their back yards. My neighbor has a beautifully kept back yard. There is a study kept driveway leading to the stable, and in summer it is overhung by the thick foliage of interlacing trees. The Kirschbergs carry out the English idea in this respect. I think, further than anybody in St. Louis.

"A neatly kept lawn is as pretty an ornamentation for a back yard as anything else."

Mrs. McCall has other ideas for the beautification of towns and cities, but these are a few of her more original thoughts on the subject.

"How can a town or city ever be made beautiful," she exclaimed, "if people continue to throw stuff into the streets and alleys? That is one of the first things to be corrected. The citizens must all get together and each decide to do what is possible to keep the public highways clean."

Mrs. McCall is also an enthusiastic advocate of public playgrounds and free baths. She thinks the municipal assembly should take up the bath question.

"I want to one of the free bathhouses last summer established by private subscription. There was only about an inch of water on an asphalt floor, but a number of little fellows were actually swimming in that inch of water in the most blissful fashion imaginable. It was really pathetic."

**Merchants Help a Town Grow.**

In a Long Island village of 1,000 inhabitants within twenty-five miles of New York are two merchants in the same line of trade just opposite each other. In the store windows of one all the goods are fresh and clean and displayed to catch the eye of the public and set as an advertisement and a draw, while in the other merchant's windows everything is piled in topsy-turvy and no change made for months at a time. It is needless to add that the former is gradually securing the custom of all the best residents, while the latter is complaining about lack of business and wondering how long he can hold out. Merchants in towns and villages should be as particular in displaying their store windows as the merchants in cities are. Clean goods well displayed in clean windows add to the beauty of a town and aid it to grow.

**Clean Towns Grow.**

It will cost the average town about \$100 to paint its public buildings posts and telegraph and telephone poles, but the improvement it will make in the looks of the town is worth the time that it takes. A clean city town is always more attractive to the community and more successful in all its aims.

### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Adlai Stevenson asks, "Will the Democratic party profit by the lessons of the past?" Hardly. But it may profit by the chastisements of the future.—Peoria Journal.

What's this we hear? J. Ham Lewis, the anti-trust apostle, is to become the head of the beet sugar trust. "Billy" Bryan will be getting elected president of a trust next.—Paris Beacon.

There are some of the Democratic papers that are taking their cue from the Republican papers of Chicago, and do not let a day pass without making a fight against Governor Yates.—Peoria Journal.

Illinois Republican conventions persist in voting their delegates instructions which are in conflict with those given by the much-esteemed Chicago Tribune. This is a sadly wayward world.—Canton Register.

If there were no other reasons why Republicans of the state should stand by Governor Yates' administration, the fact that every Democrat is against it should be sufficient reason for unanimous Republican indorsement.—Chester Tribune.

The Chicago Tribune continues to express dissatisfaction with Governor Yates. If the people of Illinois could remember when they had a governor with whom the Tribune was not dissatisfied, that able paper's scolding would receive more notice.—Canton Register.

The Chicago papers seem to have influence in certain directions. That is, the people generally seem to be in favor of almost everything that they oppose, and opposed to most of the things that they favor. But doubtless they will learn nothing even by experience.—Peoria Journal.

The Chicago Tribune says the newspapers are becoming emancipated from party servitude. So far as the Tribune is concerned it has become so emancipated that while it still masquerades as a Republican newspaper its service is usually given to some other party.—Danville Commercial.

There is no good excuse for the attacks on the state government. The injustice of the attacks has made the state administration friends all over the state. Governor Yates is a man of irreproachable character and he is conscientiously discharging the duties of his office as governor of the state.—Amboy Journal.

From all over the state come the most positive indications that the Republicans of the state resent the unjust, vicious and persistent assaults made upon Governor Yates and its state administration. The Chicago Tribune and its friends will find that the leadership of Governor Yates will be decisively confirmed at the next state convention.—Joliet Republican.

If anybody thinks Governor Yates and his administration are unpopular with the people, he should consult the results of the primaries and conventions in the strong Republican counties of the central and northern part of the state, such as McHenry, Will, Sangamon and others. These are straws which show which way the wind is blowing.—Carmel Republican.

How much longer is the fantastic Barnaby Rudge of Lincoln, Neb., to remain even nominally at the head of what was once a party of ideas and principles? How much longer is his raven croak of "Never say die" to resound over the last ditch of party paralysis and incapacity? Is there no Democrat anywhere who is man enough to insist that the Democratic party shall be Democratic and not Populistic?—Chicago Chronicle (Dem.)

You often hear the expression and also very frequently see the statement in print, that the Chicago press has formed a political trust, which they use as a club over the heads of officials whom they cannot control for themselves or their friends. That there is such a combination among some of the Chicago papers, not one ever yet denied, and that as a Republican paper the Chicago Tribune is the most rotten of the whole lot.—Mount Carroll Democrat.

**No Cause for Conflict.**

There should be no conflict between representatives of the state and national administrations in this, or any other state. Republicans should stand together for the general good of the party; and every candidate for office should run on his own merits, and upon the basis of his individual claims upon the office. We deprecate the apparent tendency of some candidates for federal offices to antagonize the state administration, and to make this antagonism the basis, at least in part, of their claims for party support, as though there was some necessary, irreconcilable conflict between state and federal affairs. The state administration has thus far not interfered with the political ambitions of any man running before the people; and we believe it is safe to say, that if let alone, it will not interfere. But if this tendency, now so plainly discernible, develops into an active feature of the coming campaign, then the state administration cannot be blamed if it takes a hand in it. It will be fully justified in doing so; and if the lines must be drawn, the state administration will win. The people will not sustain any man, or set of men, who makes a useless and wholly uncalled for assault upon the state administration, when it is plainly seen that such assault is not made because of any real defects in the administration; but for the purpose of arousing a factional war, by which the parties interested hope to be swept into office.

As far as the state administration is concerned, the people are satisfied with it. Only professional politicians and self-constituted patronage brokers, who have failed to dictate the entire policy of the administration are complaining. Let every man who wants office run on his own merits. If he has any—and let everybody else alone. Let every Republican support whom he chooses. Let us have peace and harmony in the party; for we will need it when we face the coming campaign.—Carmel Republican.

William Jennings Bryan to David Bennett Hill: "You can't play in my backyard. You sulked and skulked in 1896 and in 1900." David Bennett Hill to William Jennings Bryan: "Who wants to play in your backyard? Anyway, you haven't any backyard to play in any longer."

Senator Clark of Montana is regarded the coming man for the chairmanship of the Democratic national committee. In losing Jones, the prophet, the party will gain a commodious bar'l a very useful article in a political scrap.

The headlines of a Democratic paper declare "that the greatest business revival now obtains in the States south of the Mason and Dixon's line." This is doubtless true, but it came with Republican policies.

President Roosevelt is very discreetly attending strictly to the duties of the present moment, and allowing the rumors of candidacy for the next presidential election to alight wherever they may list.

"Will the Democratic party profit by the lessons of the past?" inquires the Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson. A motion to substitute the word "mistake" for the word "lessons" would be in order.

A dispatch says the southern Democrats desire that Senator Gorman shall be the Democratic nominee for president. So do the northern Republicans.

William J. Bryan never loses his good humor. When chosen an honorary member of the New York Press club recently, Mr. Bryan said in acknowledgement: "I can assure you, gentlemen, that I am glad to be unanimously elected to something, and especially in New York."

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Major J. W. Woodcock, one of the best known oil operators in the country dropped dead from heart disease recently, at his home in Portland, Ind., while mowing his lawn.—The Press.

Mrs. M. A. Birdsall, Watkins, N. Y., whose portrait heads this advertisement, says: "I write this through gratitude for benefits I received from Dr. Miles' Heart Cure. I had palpitation of the heart, severe pains under the left shoulder, and my general health was miserable. A few bottles of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure cured me entirely."

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