#### COMMON SENSE ON NEW CONSTITUTION

A great deal of exaggerated nonsense is being talked by some of the opponents of the progosed new constitution and an effort is being made to stampede the voters into rejecting the result of three years of effort representatives.

The oratory of more than one of sion of popular liberty. their audiences think that this is a a merely declaratory judgment ing rights to the people for which quential relief may be claimed." they should be ready to fight, bleed The eloquent critic played with the There are in the present house of and die. If we were to submit our words "declaratory judgment" until representatives some forty members intelligence to this sort of talk we he made himself sound like someth- who are minority members. Their would have to assume that the con- ing very arbitrary and menacing. As opposition to a constitutional constitutional convention was controlled a matter of fact the section provides vention, based on the fear that miby a majority of machiavellian gen- for a sane reform which every citizen nority representation would be wiped tlemen maliciously determined to tie who dislikes litigation ought to wel- out, was an obstacle disticult to ovthe state of Illinois hand and foot come. It means, for exemple, that in ercome, and what is there it will for another half century. The assumption required is beyond our ca- tween two parties to a contract as stubborn because what they fear is pacity. We fancy it is beyond the to the meaning of its terms-such done in the new constitution. capacity of any fairly level-headed a dispute as often leads to much bit- adoption will eliminate them. Its decitizen.

resentative body better balanced in them, by acting on his own judgment its relation to all classes and groups or that of his legal advisers, had inof its citizenship, or more sanely fit- volved himself in the possibilities of a ted to work out an instrument which suit for damages, could go into court would maintain that balance in the in- and obtain a declaratory judgment, terests of the state as a whole. To settling authoritatively the rights set aside the mature results of its and obligations of each under the long deliberations would be an act contract. justified only by defects of the most serious kind, and defects for which sinister in the motive of an opposino other remedy existed.

discover such defects. This is not to erties, say that the document is perfect; that we approve all that is in it, or that it contains all we might like to see in it; but it is to say that the document, as a whole, is so much better that the fifty-year-old constitution

## DR. GEO. F. TIMKE

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Let us illustrate the farcical nais being used against the instrument, to listen to the more spacious plea e We heard a conspicuous opponent re- the opposition: cently denouncing section 122. He insisted it conferred a mysterious authority upon the courts which could on the part of their freely chosen be exercised to do all sorts of nefarious things in defiance and suppres-

those who has taken the stump This section empowers the Supreme against ratification is pitched in a Court to provide by rule "for bringhigh key of alarm. They would have ing actions or proceedings in which reactionary document, conferring ar- decree is sought, and for authorizing of submitting to the people a propos- feet .-- Chicago Evening Post. bitrary and almost unlimited power the court to make a binding declaraupon the Supreme Court, and deney- tion of right whether or not conse-

case there should arise a dispute be- remain an obstacle, and the more terness and much expensive litiga- feat will confirm them in determina-Illinois probably never had a rep-tion-the disputants, before either of

It seems to us there is something tion which attempts to distort so sim-When we eveaporate the oratory ple and common-sensical a provision and examine the residuum we cannot into an alarming attack upon our lib-

> Such talk might be ignored were it not that it has an unsettling effect

under which we are now working that upon the minds of men and women tion to obstruct any further moveits rejection would be an act of folly. too busy to check its ignorance and ment which might prejudice their insincerity by a little personal study ture of much of the argument which and thought. It makes them ready

> "Why ratify a constitution that is not wholly satisfactory? If you reject it you will serve a mandate that must be obeyed, and we will call another convention and get a decument more to our liking."

> Now, the trouble with this plea is that those who heed it forget that it took twenty years of agitation to bring the legislature to the point al for a constitutional convention. It requires a two-third vote of each house to pass such a resolution.

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Rejection of the proposed new constitution means that it will be many years before the people have the chance to escape from the antiquated restrictions of the existing basic law Adoption means that much good i at once gained, and the gateway for amendment is considerably widened, so that defects may be remedied and omissions supplied. The commonsense thing to do is to take the substance of the imperfect but improvable possible, rather than to reject it for the shadow of the impossible per-

Better "Stop, look, listen," than hurry, stall and hear the angels. From Boston Herald.

Expression Almost Obsolete. Salt river, the derisive destiny of defeated nominees, was once almost universally favored by political dope sters in estimating the chances of the opposition, but murely finds its way ir print nowadaya.

Certain English engineers ar vocating the general installation roads which are concave, and des to the center instead of toward eldes, as is usually found under dinary conditions.

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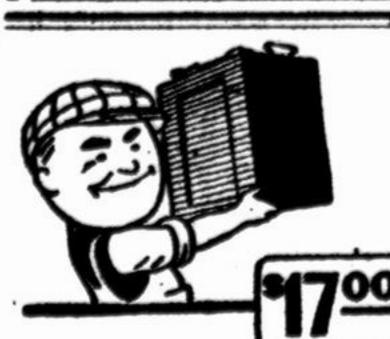
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