

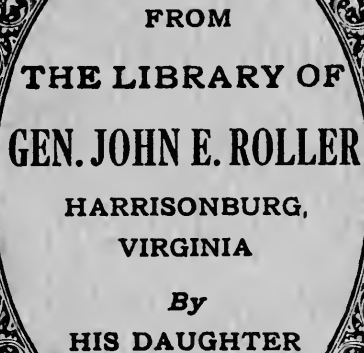


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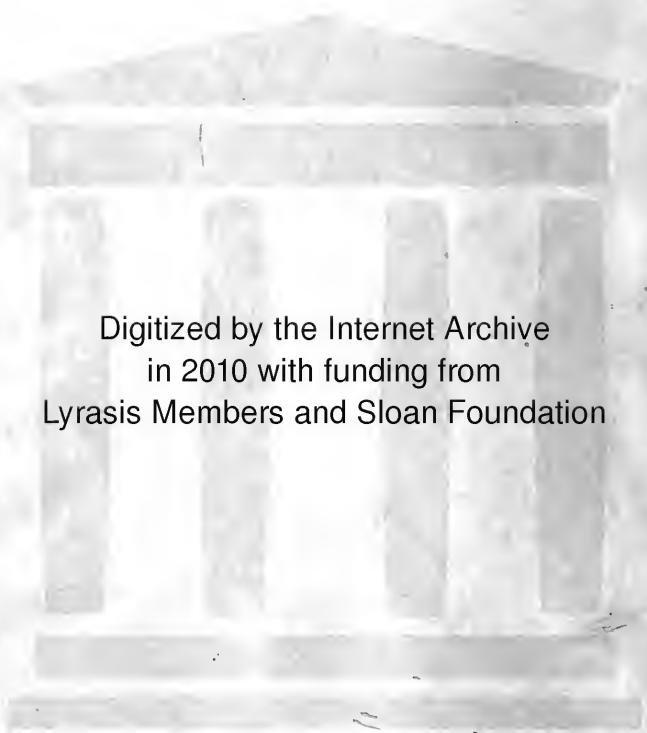
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THE IDEA

A REBEL YELL

Vol. II

January, 1909

No. 1

In love to man;
In hatred to man's enemies.

[Copyright 1906, by Adon A. Yoder]

BRING SOME SERMONETTES GOTTEN UP

ANYWHEN
ANYHOW
ANYWHERE

AS THE
SPIRIT MOVES

And Published Semi-occasionally by ADON A. YODER, Editor
LYNCHBURG : : VIRGINIA
5c THE COPY

OUR IDEA

Is to get you in the good habit of buying your suits and furnishings from

Cheatham & Maloney Co.

Clothiers Lynchburg, Va.

Time is Money

Keep your time-piece right. We are expert repairers and dealers in Watches, Diamonds and Jewelry. Just let us show you our up-to-date Stock.

J. W. Wilkins & Co.

921 MAIN STREET

L.T. BRYANT

Contractor

BUILDER and REPAIRER



400 WADSWORTH STREET

LYNCHBURG, VA.

17 Feb. x 1941, Lucy Rollen, G

Will White Dry Goods Co.

If the hollow of your foot make a hole in de groun',
De ain't no Virginny blood in you;
My folks' instep rise up like a moun',
And de quality am shown in de shoe.

In addition to our large stock of dry goods and notions we have a large line of sample shoes of quality at low prices.

Phone 421

Cor. 11th and Main

Father's Bread

Tell your grocer that you
don't want any substitute

C. B. ROBERSON

213 NINTH STREET

WAY OUT WEST

A live hustling young man has started a new grocery store and he'll deliver goods to you anywhere, even in the city limits of Lynchburg, Va. We are just talking about West Lynchburg, and the live grocer who sells cheap and delivers so promptly is : : : : : : : :

R. T. APPERSON

Phone 2146

300 Euclid Avenue

Do You Ever Think

that it would pay you in selecting

Sash, Doors, Blinds, Building Material

to consider quality in connection with price?

If you do, this ad's for U. Get the idea?

Wm. O. TAYLOR

916-920 Church Street

The slack season being upon us, we are able to make you a hand-made suit at what you would pay for a ready-made suit. Give us a trial and be convinced. Personal attention given to cleaning and pressing.

McDONALD & DUFFNER

Merchant Tailors

Phone 1656

215 Eighth St.

WHEN THE TOWN GOES DRY

If you'll just take the money you've been spending in treats and the like and put it in beautifying your home we'll agree to put **new furniture** in your house, and after a while you'll say, "Mary, I'm glad the old town did go dry, after all." : : : : : :

A. A. McCorkle

1022 Main Street

THE IDEA

ADON A. YODER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

VOL. II:

JANUARY, 1909.

No. 1.

Gotten up at Elsewhere, Va., by "The Minority," a Rebel Society, founded by Nathaniel Bacon, Hero and Revolutionary; patronized by Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and George Washington, Lovers of Liberty and Rebels all; and now revived by another band of Virginia Rebels jealous of the cause of liberty in their native State whose official seal is the rebel yell, "Down with the Tyrant!"

* * * * *

The public acts of public servants are public property. When Virginians cease to have a right to discuss among themselves, either by press or speech, the acts of their own public servants or their fitness for office, then indeed will Virginia be politically and morally dead, and you'd better phone for the undertaker. Now to the work!

A LOCAL PREACHER said that any man who would sell his talents to write ads for the whiskey people was a penny-a-liner, or words somewhat to that effect. We will show that one particular penny-a-liner, Mr. C. W. A. Veditz, head of the defunct Lynchburg Business Men's League, was a deliberate falsifier.

In his ad in the "Advance" of November 30 he quoted as an "AUTHENTIC FACT" (in big letters) that "morals are better and the people more orderly and law-abiding in "wet" counties than in "dry"—and cited two lists of counties, wet and dry, to substantiate his statement.

Out of the thirteen wet counties—so marked by Mr. Veditz—six are dry, namely, Botetourt, Nelson, Floyd, Amherst, Henry, and Albemarle; and in all the other seven there are only six saloons and five hotel dealers, so that they even are practically dry. Therefore all of his deductions based on these figures are false.

We counted about nine lies in this one ad alone. No wonder the League disbanded. They could not stand for such rot.

Even if Veditz's list were that of nominally wet counties, still his statements were false, for the recent liquor laws had practically wiped out the liquor business in the country.

So many fibs were told during the campaign that the Anti-Saloon League could not deny them as fast as they were made.

* * * * *

The Anti-Saloon League stands only for the abolition of the saloon. Its policy is tame compared with "The Idea," which stands for the utter abolition of strong drink as a beverage.

Let no one be confused concerning the position of this little publication. "The Idea" was fighting the whiskey traffic before the local Anti-Saloon League ever came into existence, and will continue to do so long after the League has run its course.

* * * * *

We've heard of reversible hinges and reversible levers; but Lynchburg has got 'em all beat in an automatic reversible judge.

* * * * *

When the wet people next year commence to talk about the city's financial condition, you just bear this in mind, that a city council largely controlled by wet men have just burdened the people for next year by doubling the salaries of many of the city officers.

It might be mentioned in this connection, that the city officials, for good business reasons, for the most part kept mighty quiet about saying anything for the dries during the campaign.

Employes of the city fire department were informed

that if the town went dry they would either get lower wages or lose their jobs.

The policemen were instructed to keep their mouths shut—as if those in charge have anything to do with the freedom of speech of the men under them! We wonder who is responsible for such conditions, and the answer is found in the fact that the whiskey interests have their hands on the government of Lynchburg so completely that every city employe feels it.

* * * * *

While talking about city employes, this question is pertinent: Is there any justice in greatly raising the salaries of the men at the top and very materially cutting down the salaries of the day-laborer at the bottom, as has been done recently in Lynchburg?

* * * * *

The wets during the recent campaign were exceedingly anxious to get rid of Mr. A. T. Quick as judge in the first precinct of the Second Ward, and came near succeeding, on the slim pretext that Mr. Quick had a summer home in the country.

The real trouble with the dry Mr. Quick was that he was too dry and too quick.

And we have not heard of a single man yet being surprised at the whiskey people using such methods in an election.

* * * * *

“The Idea” makes this charge: That a certain wet

registrar at least five times refused to register dry men, whom he should have registered, and who were duly qualified by the payment of all necessary taxes six months prior to the election.

The Electoral Board has not yet seen fit to remove him (December 29).

A registrar absolutely refused to obey the statute and the court in regard to permitting citizens to examine his books. He has not been removed.

A registrar proved himself an adept at meeting wet people to register them, and hard to find when a dry man wanted to register. He is still registrar.

Another registrar is such a base man and keeps his books at such a rough house that reputable people refuse either to go to him to register or to vote. He has not been removed.

The Anti-Saloon League was rebuffed and fought against at every turn—and yet the wettest little precinct in town gave only 13 majority, and every ward in the city went overwhelmingly dry. Still the wets say they'll keep on selling whiskey.

Appealing from a decided election of the people is but a step toward anarchy. The people are the rulers, and their right to rule should not be contested.

We believe that the whiskey men know that they can not win, but they hope to hang up the election in the courts long enough to gain a few months more in which to continue their disreputable business.

It is a common sight on the corner of Fifth and Jackson, especially on Saturday, to see the beer wagons and whiskey loads go filing by on their way to the houses of ill-fame over on Fourth and Monroe and Jackson Streets. These are the places where one can get whiskey or beer without patronizing the legalized saloon. In other words, these common houses are Lynchburg's blind tigers, and on Sunday in particular much strong drink is sold in these low dives.

Men go there because they have drunk and men drink because they go there. The crooked house is the saloon's side-partner. Up in Bristol many of them have gone out of business because it did not pay when the town went dry. Neither business of the house of ill-fame pays there as well as formerly.

Yes, local option certainly has hurt business (?) in Bristol.

We are very reliably informed that young fellows under 21 patronize the crooked houses because there they can buy whiskey without any question as to their age.

Mayor Smith can stop this, but he don't. Yet he promises that the new law will be enforced. He has too big a job for himself already without making any rash promises.

* * * * *

“The Idea” has been criticised by some of its friends because it was radical. Our answer is that no

great good can be accomplished without it. Life is too short to be spent in attempting to accomplish something with tools that have no force and no sharpness. When you want to drive a nail the best way is to hit it forcefully on the head with a good hammer. The best way to saw a plank is to have a sharp saw and use it **ON THE PLANK**. To slowly poise your hammer and as slowly lower it into the nail box is not driving nails. To slowly and conservatively and softly draw your saw across the lumber pile is not sawing wood. If my child is being chewed up by a dog I'd be a fool to spend my time in a dignified and conservative monitory address to dogs in general. No; I must get radically after that particular **PERSONAL** dog.

If a particular judge is wrong we should not fire into the whole body of judges, but should strike at the particular person that accomplishes the wrong. We adopt the radical personal method because it is the only method that has ever been effectually used in fighting wrong.

The weight of the "Lynchburg News," for example, as a moral factor in the community is practically nil, for it is too conservative to ever make an open personal attack on existing local evils, tho it could accomplish more good than this little paper. But like the man in the fable, with his boy and his ass, it tries to please everybody and offend nobody,

and as a result accomplishes nothing but the loss of the ass.

All truly great men have been radical men, and "The Idea" attempts to model its acts after the radically great rather than after the conservative weakling.

We are not getting out this little paper to make money by failing to strike at anything. But we are publishing this paper because we have a message, and since we may not get out many numbers we are going to make the most of our opportunity by hitting as forceful blows as possible. No mealy-mouthed mincing of matters for us, but solar-plexus blows, direct from the shoulder.

If you don't like it, you know there is no law compelling you to read it. And yet we will guarantee that this little red and yellow pamphlet has more readers than any two other publications ever gotten out in this goodly community.

* * * * *

"The Idea" desires to do a great service to Virginia, and so makes the following suggestion to the citizens of Lynchburg. Let's put it in resolution form:

Inasmuch as the esteemed, dignified, lordly and Honorable Frank P. Christian, judge of the court of the corporation of Lynchburg, has proven his fitness for greater usefulness to his State by his numerous

noteworthy and weighty decisions and opinions, some of them affecting the very foundations of free governments—among which might be mentioned the recent decision in the case of Woodson versus Stanley, registrar, wherein the court, in a lengthy and profound argument and decision for the defendant, both nullified the statute of the people and set aside the decision of the Supreme Court; and inasmuch as the citizens of Lynchburg have to go to Richmond to get a decision anyway: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the people of Lynchburg, who know him best, having been greatly affected by his wise interpretations and profoundly impressed by his breadth of intellect, combined with his supreme humility and consideration for both plaintiff and people, and his quiet, unassuming disregard for self in his efforts to serve those over whom he has such lordly authority, do hereby recommend to the Legislature (or the Governor) that the said Frank P. Christian be, at the first opportunity, appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals in order that the State at large may get the benefit of his long training, his beneficent disposition, his wise discernment, and his broad intellectuality.

* * * * *

We have heard of no one being run over by the Lynchburg Traction and Light Company's cars since fenders were put on. This was a matter of quite

frequent occurrence two years ago. "The Idea" is very largely to blame (?) for this decided improvement. We are too modest to mention many other good results of "The Idea's" preaching.

* * * * *

The people are largely responsible for the fact that their public officials get above their positions and become haughty and proud. We appoint a man to serve us, and then whenever we desire to instruct our servant we find ourselves, the sovereign, humiliating ourselves before the servant and begging, petitioning, "praying" him to do our will, when we should simply instruct or direct him so to do. When we appear before him to express our orders to him and find him overbearing, instead of giving him orders we find ourselves cringing and cowering before him, who holds his position as a gift and a duty imposed by our hands.

Now it comes about this way: We are an English-speaking people, and we inherit our legal forms and laws from England, which is a monarchy. In England the people are SERVANTS to the king and the courts. In America the people are the SOVEREIGN, to the president and the courts. In a monarchy the people have to PRAY the king for needed reforms. In America we have to INSTRUCT our representatives for needed reforms.

But it happens that in America we have borrowed

our legal phrases from the law-books of England; and so, when we want to get anything done, we pick up an English law-book and petition and PRAY and BEG for a thing that is not our servants' to give.

If you were a judge, you would likely overlook these ancient servial formalities; but, unfortunately, we sometimes get a judge who can't stand this bowing down to, who is not big enough to see the joke, but on the other hand he takes himself and the people too seriously, and he thinks he is in fact a great sovereign of the people to be bowed down before.

You know some people can't stand success or authority thrust upon them. It just ruins them. Whereas, if they had occupied some menial position they might have been real decent folks.

* * * * *

Some of you had better stop grinning over the way "The Idea" hit the other fellow, and commence rubbing the spot where you got hit. For "The Idea" means to hit every citizen who has not manhood enough to take some active stand and do some actual personal work for the betterment of conditions in his own government, when he himself is a part of the kingly authority of that government and can no more shirk that responsibility than a king can. You can not wash your hands of any public duty by refusing to do your part of the disagreeable work, because, forsooth, you can't afford, for business reasons, to

antagonize any one. Your duty as a sovereign citizen of Lynchburg and of Virginia comes before your selfish duty to your business, because, if anarchy and tyranny have sway here what will become of the little fortune you have amassed for your children? The best way to look out for your posterity is to take some active part in looking out for good government.

Our forefathers helped us more by fighting for personal and religious liberty than they could have done by amassing wealth for the corruption of the moral and physical welfare of their progeny.

* * * * *

Did you ever see a bantam rooster in a barnyard lording it over a big Plymouth rock, or buc-buc-buc-buc-ing to the sho-nuff fowls, or flopping its wings in the face of the gobbler, or cock-a-doodle-doo-ing over the drake?

Well, we are reminded of this self-important lilliputian fowl whenever we hear of a little judge saying that it makes him mad for the people to come before him petitioning for some right; that these things are for the courts and the legislature, and the people have nothing to do with them.

The people create the courts and the legislature, and quite often the judge is but the deformed bantam offspring of the social barnyard, and but one slight lick from respectable fowls would slap the poor little bantam into his proper place.

Faris & Murphy

MAKERS OF

Portraits



Phone 707 P. O. Box 233

912 Main Street

Thompson Supply Co.

W. H. THOMPSON, Manager

FURNITURE

and Household Goods on Easy Terms

506 FIFTH STREET



YOUR SALARY RAISED

Your education can not be worth very much to you until it is worth something to somebody else. It is not complete until you can turn it into cash. : : : : :

Fit Yourself for the Business World

by a post-graduate course in our institution. The cost is much lower and the actual results much sooner realized than in purely classical or literary institutions. Write today for our catalog and prices on Bookkeeping, Stenography, etc. : : :

Piedmont Business College

J. W. GILES, M. A., L.L.D., PRES.

LYNCHBURG, VA.

I. H. Moyer

W. W. Moyer

I. H. Moyer & Bro.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS FOR

**Plastering, Brick and
Granolithic Work**

Phone 2173

402 Brook St.

ABOUT MILLER PARK

When you are out with the children feeding the bears and the monkeys, and the peanuts and crackers give out, just send the children out the back gate **just beyond the church** to one of the neatest stores in town. The nearest store to the animals. Make it your picnic store. : : : : :

T. E. EDEBURN

GROCERIES AND NOTIONS

Phone 2173

208 Glenwood Avenue

NOW IS THE TIME,

and we are the people, to help you select your house and home, for we have real estate of every class in our charge of every desirable quality. There is no better time than right now to look it over and to decide before Spring arrives, so you can get settled in ample time. Tell us your needs, and the chances are we have just the property required.

J. C. Woodson, the man that made Rivermont famous



COPYRIGHT
J. C. WOODSON & CO.

J. C. WOODSON & CO.

Real Estate Agents. City and Country Property
Rivermont Property a Specialty

912 Main Street

LYNCHBURG, VA.

Office Phone 1276. Residence Phone 1092

AN INSULT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

We print below an extract from the only advertisement of the recent local option campaign that was signed by the liquor dealers. The capitals are ours:

“**WE ACCEPTED** an increase in the city license tax from \$800 to \$1,500 as well as additional rules for the regulation of our business; and **WE WERE** at that time **GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND** that no attempt would be made under the local option law to illegalize it until the new system had been given a fair trial. It was then said that a local option vote would be taken in February; but **THIS PLEDGE HAS BEEN BROKEN** by calling an election suddenly for the 5th of December.”

“We accepted.” Do they mean they were tampering with the city government? Six times during their brief ad they use the phrases, “we accepted” or “we agreed,” “given to understand” or “pledge.”

The city council has no right to make any agreement with vice of any kind. And tho many whiskey men have worked their way into the council, we do not believe that that body attempted to make any pledge or agreement with the whiskey interests. (It may be that the other whiskey men were tricked by the whiskey men who were on the council, for we understand that the whiskey councilmen favored the increased license.)

The people have never delegated this right to make agreements of such nature with the whiskey men to any person or body of persons, and the whiskey men offer an insult not only to the councilmanic bodies, but to the manhood of Lynchburg, when they state that somebody has **BROKEN A PLEDGE** with them.

They state further: "We have never, **AS A GROUP**" (because they could not **AS A GROUP**, but could **INDIVIDUALLY**) "sought to interfere in politics or in municipal affairs."

"**WE AGREED TO** allow no back entrances," etc.

"Twice over **WE ACCEPTED** an increase in the license tax."

"Voluntarily **WE AGREED** to close at 10 o'clock."

The very affrontery and boldness of their advertisement gives some idea why we have had such bad government in Lynchburg.

And now, after the people have spoken by a majority of 22 per cent and made an **AGREEMENT** among themselves that they would not tolerate this monster evil any longer, the whiskey men won't **AGREE** even to abide by the will of the sovereign people by whose long-suffering they have been permitted to carry on their nefarious business in the past, but are even now attempting by mere technicalities to overthrow popular government in the hope that they may be able to play the parasite on the social body a little longer.

“Woe unto them that justify evil for a reward,”
either as a business man or a laborer.

Laws are the expression of the will of the people, and because laws are made by delegated representatives they sometimes need interpretation by the courts; but when the people overwhelmingly express their will as emphatically as they did on December 5th last, the courts should have no trouble in interpreting their wish.

* * * * *

Whereas we, the sovereign people of Lynchburg, Va., have repeatedly found that our servant Frank P. Christian entertains erroneous conceptions of the duties of his position as judge of our Corporation Court, in that he has frequently violated the will of his sovereign, the people, by rendering decisions contrary to the laws duly made by the legislators delegated by the sovereigns so to do, and by acting in a manner becoming a public master rather than a public servant: Therefore we, the undersigned sovereign citizens of said corporation, do hereby instruct our legislators to dispense with the services of said Frank P. Christian on the bench of our Corporation Court, and appoint in his stead, as early as possible, a man fitted by nature and by training to justly interpret the laws and to maintain the dignity of the corporation.

* * * * *

We know of only one way of bringing the courts

into contempt, and that is by the contemptible acts of judges. Selah!

* * * * *

And the editor of "The Idea" is still at large.

* * * * *

DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

On the day after the Opera House meeting in which Ran. Harrison and J. T. Coleman spoke for the whiskey men, one who had heard them met a prominent educator on the street and said: "Well, I went down to that debate last night between the wets and the dries, and Ran. Harrison just ate Tinsley Coleman alive."

Now we are at a loss to know which one the joke is on, but rather think it is on both of them; on Coleman, that he was beaten by such weak argument, and Harrison that his personal liberty talk was so far off from the question at issue that his audience did not know which side he was on. You know the campaign was against the licensed saloon, and the ticket read—

"For the licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors. "

"Against licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors."

And yet, several of the wet speakers got so hard up for argument that they spent their time talking about "sumptuary laws" and "personal liberty."

* * * * *

Some voters got scared by a so-called Business Men's

League of thirteen men (note the number), the only officer of which was neither a Lynchburger nor a business man; but they had another think coming to them when the most prominent and influential business men in town—about 200 strong—lined up against the saloon.

Now, ain't they hard up for grounds for contest when they have to call in question the citizenship of about 165 voters whose qualification to vote no one had ever dreamed of calling in question in the two previous elections held in the same year?

By the way, do you know how many votes the contestants would have to find came from the annexed territory in order to throw out the election on that ground?

As a matter of fact, there were only about 165 qualified voters in the annexed territory, but the wets would have to show that there were more than six hundred and sixty-four who voted illegally in order to show that the dries did not poll more legal votes than the wets did inside the old city limits.

It's this way:

The precincts in which the annexed territory was went dry (taken together) by a proportion of less than two to one, the exact figures being 374 dry to 207 wet.

Now if these three precincts, voting 581 men, were thrown out bodily the town would have gone dry by

24 majority. If the annexed voters alone were thrown out, the majority would be 147. On the same basis, if 664 votes were thrown out the wets and drys would have been even. In other words: Basing the vote in the annexed territory on the returns from the three precincts (Rivermont, West Lynchburg, and Cotton Mill section), which included practically all of the annexed voters, we would conclude that the annexed voters voted dry in the proportion of 374 dry to 207 wet. At that rate, there would have to be 665 voters in the annexed territory to make the vote even in the rest of town. As a matter of fact, there were only 165 voters taken in, giving a majority of 44 dry in the annexed territory. So if you cut out the 160 annexed voters the town went dry by 144 majority.

It don't make any difference how you take it—"old town" or "new town," "old registration" or "new registration," First Ward, Second Ward, or Third ward—the wets were literally "snowed under," and their attempt to go against the expressed wish of the majority is simply another evidence of their determination, often shown in the past, to sell whiskey in Lynchburg whether the people want them to or not.

Of the 300 or more voters registered after November, the majority were dry. So that, on the new registration the drys would likely have had a greater majority than they did. Whether the Ward law is

constitutional or not, the town has gone dry legally, and the wets can not prove otherwise; therefore, they can not get the election set aside.

But how about their killing time? Well, there is a way to apply to the Supreme Court for a writ of supersedeas in the event the lower court decides against us, and by this means the election will be valid until passed on by the higher court.

* * * * *

It is really a huge joke, and too serious a one for us to say much about, the way the saloon-keepers succeeded in getting as many as twelve respectable business men to bear the brunt of the attack of a righteously indignant civilization against its most disreputable and dangerous enemy.

We say this for the benefit of the business men of our neighboring cities who may be called upon by the whiskey interests to join such organization in the future. The Business Men's League of Lynchburg, organized and so named merely to give dignity to the whiskey cause, could not find a single man to act as chairman or head, and therefore played the lightning-bug act as described by our local poet in the following lines:

“The lightning-bug is a brilliant thing, but hasn't any mind.

It goes blundering through existence with its head-light on behind!”

Feelings of consideration for the members of the League (?) forbid any further comparison with the bug of nocturnal habits.

We wonder why the members of the "Business Men's League"—which collapsed like a mushroom when the cause which gave it birth failed on December 5th—did not join in with the contestants of the election. Can it be because they "had their belly full"?

Did you ever play checkers with a fellow who, when he had made a bad play and taken his hand off his man and you had jumped three men and gone into the kingdom, refused to play unless you let him take it back? Well, that's the way with the wets. It was all fair and square until they got beat, and then, like babies, they say they "won't play unless you do it all over again."

* * * * *

Now they tell us the election must be had over again because of the Ward law. We have something to say about that—decidedly so.

Note these facts:

The electoral board called a meeting of the judges of election in the office of the chairman of that board at 4 o'clock Friday evening, December 4th, to get some concerted action.

Under such circumstances the judges decided to follow the Ward law.

The editor of "The Idea" knows that the liquor interests felt that their only hope was in having some ground for a contest. We also know that if the judges had not decided to use the November electorate the wets would not have had this grounds for a contest. In the light of sequent events all these facts are extremely significant. Another fact is worthy of especial attention: The chairman of the board, who called this meeting, addressed the judges and told them that they should decide this question themselves—but he, a lawyer, then read the Ward law and suggested that they could not go against the law; and this same chairman had just had closeted with him in his office Judge Christian, also reputed to be extremely damp.

Who's running this town, anyhow?

* * * * *

The vote against the saloon is significant of a tremendous public sentiment.

When you can get 22 per cent more men to vote against than you can to vote for a thing that has been established by law and custom from time immemorial—and that, too, in the most conservative spot in the most conservative State in the Nation—you can count on about 5 people (note the word) being opposed to it to one in favor of it.

It was indeed a great victory.

A QUESTION FOR MR. HARRISON.

If the citizens of the annexed territory can't vote in Lynchburg, where can they vote?

Let's suppose a case: Suppose the city had annexed all of the West Lynchburg voting district or precinct instead of only a part of it.

It is evident the annexed voters could not vote in the county precinct, because there would be no such county precinct.

They certainly could not vote in Roanoke or "any other seaport town."

Therefore—therefore, Lynchburg has gone dry. Get the idea, Mr. Harrison?

If people can't vote for one year after they are incorporated, how is a newly incorporated town to have any election whatever? Auh! ain't their argument weak!!!

If there could possibly have been any real question as to the right of the annexed voters to vote, it seems strange that it never occurred to anyone in the June election.

If this nullifies the wet and dry election, then Mayor Smith was illegally elected, and Lynchburg has no legally elected officers.

* * * * *

It is a remarkable fact that those three sections of town which have had saloons and then done without

them, and know what it means to try it both ways, went overwhelmingly dry, and the only two spots that went decidedly damp were the two precincts which embraced the two most prominent "society" sections.

They went much wetter than even the one precinct which contained thirty-four out of the thirty-five saloons.

Truly, Mr. Jacobs, the preacher, was right when he said:

"In society the bontons and the bums are as far apart as heaven and hell; but on this wet and dry question they are arm in arm."

* * * * *

Not long since, while walking along Church Street, there came down the street from the opposite direction a man who was so loaded that the pavement was not quite wide enough for him. He halted a pedestrian on the corner of Seventh Street and said: "Look a'here friend, c-c-can you tell me where I can find any girls?" Whiskey had not only robbed him of his sense, but had enthroned his passions, and was rapidly finding for him a place where whatever finance he might have would be robbed from him, too. No wonder the farmers patronized Danville more this last year than ever in selling their tobacco there. They can spend their money now for things worth having and have more to carry home to their families, too.

Lynchburg doctors tell us that lately venereal dis-

eases have increased alarmingly among the men of Lynchburg.

Does it mean that they are patronizing the houses of ill-fame more, or that the whiskey sold here is now so vile that its effects deprive them of sense enough to keep clean?

Is not it a shame that "The Idea" finds such evils so patent that it feels constrained to publish anything about them, when there is so much that is pure and good and beautiful in this bounteous piedmont section of ours?

* * * * *

It's real amusing to hear Mayor Smith say he will enforce the laws. Has he been enforcing the laws?

* * * * *

After the last June election in which an immense amount of advertising was done for Mayor Smith's election, Mayor Smith filed a statement showing that he had spent practically nothing. Yet there are some people who do not know that a powerful machine exists here and does wonderfully influence elections.

* * * * *

When wet people put a man in office because he is wet and because of what he won't do as well as will do, do you think that same wet man will later do what the dry people want him to?

* * * * *

The ads in "The Idea" are extremely entertaining.

IRBY HUDSON

Electrical Contractor

ELECTRIC SIGNS

ELECTRIC SUPPLIES

ELECTRIC SERVICE

"We do it right"

Phone 1400

606 Main Street

SHAKESPEARE SAID

"Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
For the apparel oft proclaims the man."

It ever pays to look neat. We study to please. Suits made to order. Old suits renewed and repressed. Your work called for and delivered. Just call 1-1-7-5.

CHERNAULT & DAVIS

Tailors and Renoyators

Rooms 4, 5 and 6, Virginian Building

Corner 10th and Main.



HANGING WITHOUT LAW

¶ We refer to PAPER, not necessarily yellow either. The most artistic and up-to-date designs in Wallpaper are to be found in our shop. ¶ You can not imagine what a delightful change it would make in your home to have those faded walls brightened with fresh new paper. *And she would appreciate it so much.*

SHOLES BROTHERS

Paperhangers Eighth Street

"To Sleep : Perchance to Dream"

How blissful on a bed from

REAMS'

And then a massive bureau with spacious, smooth-running, felt-lined drawers, and the other pieces to match, all done in solid oak, say mission style, and the room cozy and warmed by a stove of such excellent qualities as we sell.

Such comforts make the long winter evenings sweet and delightful. And, well, you need not pay for it all right now.

REAMS & COMPANY

618-620 Main Street

CALL---2-4-8---FOR

The Reliable Plumber

T. C. Moseley

619 MAIN STREET

Agent for Lindsay Incandescent Gas Lights

Something New

Do you know what anything means? Well, you just ought to go in that new store on 12th St. (just opened), and call for 'anything' and if Mr. Keyser don't have it I'll eat your hat.

"A Tombstone?" "Got it." "Toothpicks?" "A plenty."

And the funny part is, Mr. Keyser don't seem to know the worth of things. He'll sell you a 15c awl for 3c. That ain't all. You just call and see for yourself. Just opened.

THE PEOPLES SUPPLY COMPANY

TWELFTH STREET

"If it were done when 'tis done,
'Twere WELL it were done quickly "
—*Macbeth.*

To do it well, have *Wells do it.*

Plumbing Well Done

A. L. WELLS & CO.

1205 Floyd Street

PHONE 1724

E. W. PUCKETT

A CONTRACTOR WITH ONE ARM

After all, it's **head work** and not hand work
that makes a **good contractor**. It gives The
Idea pleasure to **recommend** the head work
of Mr. Puckett.

Phone 1708

321 Wordsworth

**Don't
Read
This**

Spring goods just received.
Large new line of beautiful
samples of Wallpaper now on
exhibition, and we are sure
we can please you.

S. A. SMITH
PAPERHANGER

Phone 165

727 Main, Cor. 7th

Brains and Finance

Fish is a good brain food, because so healthy they
are good for the pocketbook, because so much cheaper
than other meat. Fine oysters and fish can be had at
our new stand.

Virginia Fish & Produce Co.

Wholesale Fruits and Produce

709 Main Street

Goods Delivered

C. T. MOSELEY, Mgr.

Phone 453

The Idea

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. II February, 1909 No. 2



BEING SOME SERMONETTES
PUBLISHED SEMI-OCCASION-
ALLY AT LYNCHBURG, VA.,
AND GOTTEN UP FOR THE
PUBLIC GOOD ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

ANYWHEN
ANYHOW
ANYWHERE

AS THE
SPIRIT
MOVES



Copyright, 1906, by ADON A. YODER, Editor & Publisher

Call 2-4-8 for

T.C. MOSELEY

619 Main Street

Agent for

Lindsay Incandescent Gas Lights

Keep your TIME-PIECE right. We are expert repairers and dealers in Watches, Diamonds and Jewelry. Just let us show you our up-to-date stock.

921 MAIN STREET

"To Sleep: Perchance to Dream"

How Blissful on a Bed from

REAMS'

Spring's coming! and with it the cooing
of babies out of doors. That means

Go-Carts

And to keep babies' milk cool and fresh
in doors one should have a SANI-
TARY REFRIGERATOR. We
are large dealers and this is
the season to buy.



Reams & Company

618-620 Main Street

Insure Your Salary

How much of your salary check do you spend each month? Doesn't it take close figuring sometimes to make ends meet? But what would happen if the pay envelope didn't show up?

Your income DOES stop when accident or illness comes—the regular expenses keep right on and in addition increase about 50%. One man in every three has, sometime, to face this very thing—why not you?

BETTER BE SAFE THAN SORRY

For a very small monthly premium, we will guarantee that your income keeps right on when accident or illness prevents you from earning it. Hadn't you better at least find out the particulars of this proposition?

Without in any way obligating yourself, mail me your name on the little coupon attached. I will send you a useful little souvenir, and also tell you how you can "insure your income." Do it now while you think of it.

EUGENE G. ADAMS

District Manager
Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago
303 Krise Bldg., Lynchburg, Va.

Name

St.

No.

The largest exclusive accident and health insurance
company in the world

"If it were done when 'tis done,
'Twere WELL it were done quickly."
—*Macbeth.*

To do it well, have WELLS do it

PLUMBING
WELL DONE

A. L. WELLS & CO.

1205 Floyd St.

'Phone 1724

"SOUTHERN BRANDS SATISFY"

ATLAS BRAND
HIGHEST GRADE
GARBON PAPER

Long-wearing - Satisfactory Results.

Southern RIBBON & CARBON Co.

LYNCHBURG, VA.

"Southern BRANDS SATISFY"

A Lynchburg Brand
Carbon Paper and
Typewriter Ribbon

Try this Brand *Southern*

'Phone 253

Wm. R. Weight

Sales Manager

812 Church Street

The Idea

ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher

GOTTEN OUT AT LYNCHBURG, VA.

Vol. II. FEBRUARY, 1909 No. 2.

IN this and subsequent numbers we will bring to light many cases of failure to obey the law on the part of city officials. Now it goes without saying that such men are culpable, and yet our object in these disclosures is not so much to blame individuals as it is to show to the people what the present form of government, with its lack of executive responsibility, will do with their funds, and to show the advisability of changing to government by commission. Just today, after having written most of what will appear along this line in this and the next number, our attention is called to what the Mayor and Council are doing in Richmond, where the Mayor most urgently recommends government by commission, and the Council is discussing the advisability of reducing the unnecessary expenditure of about \$14,000 for collecting city taxes by giving this work to the treasurer.

Lynchburg will expend this year about one-half that amount, or \$7,000, for collecting taxes. If Richmond can save about \$10,000 by putting this duty on the

treasurer's office, why can not Lynchburg save \$5,000 by doing the same.

As a matter of fact the collector of taxes collects no taxes; he simply sits for the receipt of taxes, and receives a good commission for that duty.

Did you ever hear of a big railroad corporation paying any officer three times as much as its treasurer for simply acknowledging receipt of certain funds.

Ans.—No. Railroad corporations are run on principles of business economy and fitness.

Why?—Ans.—Because they are managed by a responsible executive head, whose duty it is to make the thing pay by exercising his common sense. **GET THE IDEA?**

Well, if you do, why not vote accordingly at the next election and put in Councilmen who will look after the interests of the majority instead of those who have a certain axe to grind.

If the voter don't stop to study who he is voting for he is due three swift kicks from his own pedal extremity.

* * * * *

In our last number we charged a certain registrar with being unfit for office. He has since been arrested for arson, and is now, March 3, in the city jail.

Will the other two unfit registrars kindly likewise 'RAUS MIT, VAMOUS, skidoo, or join the bird gang, so that the board of electoral commissioners may be relieved of any disagreeableness in calling for their resignations.

Lynchburg needs a change in the personnel of its councilmanic bodies.

Lynchburg needs government by commission.

Lynchburg needs a new Mayor.

Lynchburg needs a new Corporation Judge.

Lynchburg needs a new Attorney.

Lynchburg needs three new registrars.

Mayor Smith offers the information that Lynchburg will be kept dry—that he will see to it that the laws are enforced.

The IDEA has this to say:

You can't teach an old dog a new trick. A man can't easily go against his nature and inclination. The laws of nature make a stream which starts on this side of the mountain flow down this side, and one starting on the other side go down the other side. It would be a difficult matter to make one rising on this side flow down the other side, or VICE VERSA, because the land IS SO INCLINED.

Mayor Smith is INCLINED to do certain things, he's been in the habit of it, he was elected so to do. It's too good to be true that he is going to enforce the laws.

The trouble is he wants to hold on to his job.

But the citizens of Lynchburg think that it is best to get a Mayor who is INCLINED to enforce all the laws all the time.

* * * * *

“There is no joy in life equal to the joy of putting salt on the tail of an idea.”—Hubbard.

We understand that certain parties are saying among themselves that "it won't do to let that IDEA keep on at this rate. There is no telling who he'll be after next," and to the latter statement we remark, "Amen, there's no telling who we'll be after next," except by those who are up to some rascality. They may know that THEY are next. The IDEA don't know. But the IDEA knows this. We are going all over the top of all mismanagement in public affairs in Lynchburg, regardless of WHO'S NEXT. If you are wrong you can't right matters by working against the IDEA. It's up to YOU to get right, and the IDEA is here to try to scare you into getting right, or get the people to see to it that the right man has your job.

* * * * *

PERSONAL.

In its efforts to effectively eradicate public evils in Lynchburg the IDEA often finds it necessary to state facts in a manner which is not at all flattering to the persons involved. To those who have followed the work of the IDEA in the past, no comment on our position is needed.

Since, however, new readers are reached each month, we make the following brief statement: Nothing has been or will be inserted in the IDEA because of any personal animosities, nor for the sake of gaining sales by sensational writing. We have not and will not publish anything derogatory to any person unless such facts have to do with the public acts of public men, by

the exposition of which the IDEA may render a public service.

In our desire to conserve the public good, we are not tempted to be too harsh on anyone for any personal feelings whatever, for we have no feelings of animosity towards any one, however much any one may have sought to injure us.

We do, however, find it exceedingly difficult to deal harshly with those who have been recreant to their trusts, or who have dealt dishonestly with the public confidence, or squandered the public funds or unwisely handled public affairs. When, in running down any evil, we come upon the malefaction of one who is bound to us by the ties of personal acquaintance, it can be readily appreciated how difficult it is to expose to the public gaze such wrong doing.

We have resolved, however, that no personal consideration shall swerve us from our path of duty in treating friend and foe alike, so that it shall come to pass that Lynchburgers can make the proud boast that Lynchburg has the best city government in America, because no public official can feel safe in betraying a public trust. This is no pleasant or light task we have undertaken, but we believe that the good already accomplished has justified the course, and we confidently expect to be able to accomplish a very great and lasting benefit in the future, by persistent and careful effort, and the resultant feeling of satisfaction shall be our reward.

HANDS OFF, MR. LAZARUS.

The rumor has been gaining current for several days past that Mr. Lazarus, whiskey dealer and Councilman, had proposed in a meeting of the Finance Committee that the tax rate in Lynchburg be raised ten cents on the hundred.

We took the pains to look the matter up, and found that on a question of a small appropriation, Mr. Lazarus had the audacity to do as represented above, in spite of the fact that the receipts of the city this year will be vastly more than last year, and the criminal expense will be less on account of less drunkenness, and consequently less crime resulting from drunkenness. Altho' there is absolutely no need for it, still Mr. Lazarus is so anxious to get some ground for argument against no-license that he is willing to levy an additional tax of something like \$25,000 on the citizens of Lynchburg solely in the interests of the outlawed liquor traffic, in which he is personally so materially interested.

This same Mr. Lazarus was so bold on a former occasion as to use his influence on this same City Council to get the barrooms represented on the police board. The people of Lynchburg should arouse themselves to the existing state of affairs, which might make them subject to unjust taxation in order to save the interests of a nefarious business, and should not only say to Mr. Lazarus "hands off," but should at the very next opportunity remove such men from the Council, and should be so diligent in safeguarding their liber-

ties that it will be impossible for any interests to ever again get their hands on the control of civil affairs in Lynchburg. Mr. Lazarus! Hands off!

* * * * *

The foremost doctor in the State of Virginia is the author of this:

“In my opinion whiskey causes more trouble than all other evils combined.”

The doctors ought to know.

* * * * *

TO THE THINKING BUSINESS MEN OF LYNCHBURG.

The suggestion was made by the IDEA two years ago, that, in order to have an economical business management of affairs, we should adopt the government by commission method. It has been found that such in its best form is impossible under the present constitution of Virginia. Now we want to ask Lynchburg business men one question:

If the laws of the State hampered you seriously in any large private corporation so that it increased the operating expense and decreased the efficiency of management, what would you do?

Would not you simply write to your representative in the Senate or House and get him to try to have such laws corrected?

Of course you would.

Now you are paying taxes into a vast corporation, which, while managed much better than most other corporations of like nature in the State, is still hampered by constitutional limitations to such an extent that money is wasted in unnecessary salaries, unwise management, irresponsible execution, and many other evils which tend to the complete demoralization of not only city government in Virginia, but private affairs and commercial relations as well. Now would it not be an easy matter for you to get together in your Board of Trade, or Retail Merchants' Association, or Civic League, or Business Men's League (?) and pass a simple resolution calling on your duly constituted representatives in the Legislature to draft the necessary legislation to change the statutory or constitutional law to give the cities of Virginia the right to govern themselves by commission.

* * * * *

“What the average citizen wants to know, and what he is entitled to know, is how the percentage of expense in the different departments compare with that of similar departments in other cities.”—Review of Reviews, January, 1909.

* * * * *

On Monday, February 22, a car of the Lynchburg Traction and Light Company ran over and killed a little girl in Rivermont. The responsibility of this murder seems to be unquestionably with the Traction

Company, because they do not keep their fenders in the proper place.

On the afternoon of the killing we measured the height of a fender from the ground and found that it was $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the pavement, which means about $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the ties. Later on in the week we measured six other fenders, and found all except one to be higher than eighteen inches, running as high as twenty-five inches from the cross-ties, (and in the suburbs there is no pavement.)

The average measurement was $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the seven fenders examined, and all but the first one were measured as they successively arrived at the switch in front of the Carroll Hotel.

This is positive proof to the average mind that the company's fenders will often act as a death trap rather than a life preserver.

The lowest measured was 15 inches; now if the Traction Company can run some fenders at 15 inches, why can it not run all that low?

As a matter of fact they should not be more than five inches high, so that they might pick a person up instead of knocking him down.

The fender at the average height maintained will generally knock a MAN as well as a child down, and at the lower heights will generally knock a child down. We understand that the Traction Company claims that if they put the fenders lower the fenders will be jammed up occasionally by striking the pavement. We would modestly suggest to the Traction Company that

the law was not made for the protection of the fender, but was made for the protection of the pedestrian.

It will be a blot on the fair name of Lynchburg if this foul murder is allowed to go unpunished. If it is true that a fender is hurt by being placed where it will do what it was made for, then it is up to the company to put some little mechanical contrivance under the fender to keep it off from the ground. This has been done in other cities and can easily be done here. If the company regards the fender as of more value than human life, why not put the fender on top of the car? There it would ride smoothly and easily and would not even be damaged by occasionally striking a wagon.

* * * * *

A friend suggests that if the city has any money left after they finish spending on the streets abutting on the residence property of Carter Glass he (the friend afore-said) would like to have a modest walk put down on his block.

* * * * *

Our attention is frequently called to the extravagant expenditures for improvements on streets which are already improved, while so many sections of town are entirely without much needed improvements.

Appropriation was recently made for improving Tenth street between Church and Main, when this could easily wait, as it is fairly well fixed already, and the needed improvements when necessary can be made

without tearing up the present roadbed entirely, as has been ordered.

Fine new pressed brick walks were not long since torn up on Floyd street and replaced by granolithic walks. No private corporation would have contemplated for a moment such rash extravagance of its own funds, and can any one suggest that a business manager elected by the people would have sanctioned so wasteful a scheme.

And all the time that improved Floyd street was being reimproved the much traveled Poplar street and East Main street were, and still are, absolutely without the dire necessities from a sanitary as well as economical and convenient standpoint. The much traveled Taylor street is in the same fix.

Besides this nearly all the cross streets in the heart of town, from about Clay up to Wise, are in gross need of repair, and have been for generations, and yet the city has funds to reimprove improved property and to build up favored suburbs.

* * * * *

“Public intelligence in public affairs will result in an elevation of the efficiency of the service.” Editorial, Review of Reviews.

* * * * *

Most other business organizations have been cutting down expenses in the last few months; they certainly are not attempting to increase their expenditures.

The corporation of Lynchburg appears to be raising

salaries just at a time when retrenchment is in order. (We are not discussing just now the question of the worth of particular officials. In times of general prosperity some of these officers should receive more and some should receive less than their present salaries.)

Especially should Lynchburg be careful in its advancement of expenditures just at a time when an item of some \$50,000 is deducted from the revenues of the city.

* * * * *

“Heaven has no kickers, hell has none else. That is the difference between Heaven and hell.”—Hubbard.

Earth is neither Heaven nor hell, therefore pass the football,—for a while.

* * * * *

February 16, 1909.

You and I often wonder exactly what becomes of all the city money, just exactly how it is spent. When we read in the papers of scandals in municipal affairs in other cities, we naturally want to know if it can be possible in our own good town. We know that Lynchburg officials are men above suspicion, and we think that Lynchburg has a better corps of officers than any town in the State, in fact we are assured by some of the officers themselves that this is the case.

And yet the big fact remains that none of us seems to **KNOW** anything about it. Now and then we attempt to find out. The editor of the **IDEA** has recently given some time to this most difficult task, and

recently we determined to get right down to rock bottom and **KNOW** where we were **AT**. We had conferences with city officials, councilmen, etc., and were early always referred to the published reports of the city. You know the city publishes annually reports of most of the officers and committees. Well, we obtained the most recent "official reports of the city of Lynchburg," a pamphlet of more than 200 pages, and began the long trail. In looking into the advisability of exchanging property with the Federal Government and of building a City Hall, we were anxious to find out what the city was paying in rents, so the treasurer's report was consulted. We were likewise anxious to ascertain the salaries of the various city officers, but were unable to find either of these simple questions answered in not only the treasurer's report, but in the whole book of 200 pages not a rent or a salary is given except a few in the single report of the city engineer, and he does not give all.

In the treasurer's report an item of \$3,498.77 is given as "expense of city officers." This we were informed included rents, so we went to the treasurer's office to get this amount itemized, but failed to get it, being referred to the Auditor, Mr. Otey, on whose order all checks were paid, and by whom all expenditures were directed to be charged to their various accounts. The Auditor could give us no information, so we applied to the treasurer's office again without avail, and then to the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Council, who redirected us to the Auditor, Mr. Otey, who gave

us this time from memory a **PARTIAL LIST** of the rents, but who said he could not give a detailed account of the \$3,498.77, as it would require him to go over all his accounts and would be a very big job. We again applied to the treasurer's office, where we found the treasurer, Mr. Adams, who was away on the two former visits, he has finally agreed to give us the total rent account itemized, as far as he can. We are to call for it.

We have made nine calls, and consumed valuable time for five days past in an utterly fruitless attempt to get a very small bit of information. We expect to get this information in the next few days, but desire to emphasize the fact that it is a most difficult proposition for a private citizen to get any specific knowledge of city affairs under the present out-of-date system of running things. We very much doubt whether there is a citizen in Lynchburg who knows what the city is paying for rent, and yet we are discussing daily a question which must be very largely determined by this one consideration.

In reference to salaries. The treasurer's report, 1½ pages long, covering receipts and disbursements of \$678,488.80 each, has this single item about salaries:

“Salaries of city officials, \$11,807.44.”

We have had almost as much trouble in getting this officially itemized as in the case of the expense account, and then we have found that this includes only about one-half of the city officers, the other salaries being entered in the treasurer's report, under the accounts of

the various Council committees, as "Committee on Water, \$33,052.06."

This includes the salary of Superintendent Randolph and Registrar Green and the other expenditures of that department.

Therefore, if one desires to know the salaries of all officials he must see the various councilmanic committees, and there are about ten heads of departments thus to be accounted for.

One would naturally look to the various annual reports of the committees or of the department heads for these figures, but in neither place can they be found.

The reports of the Committees on Streets and Street Cleaning and Sewers occupy four pages, and the engineer's report occupies thirty-six pages, and yet salaries of the heads of this department are not itemized, and none of the other departments give the desired information about their special officials.

Section 127 of the Code requires:

"Upon the last day of each month, or not more than three days prior thereto, the Auditor and Treasurer shall enter upon their books to the credit of each officer of the city who receives a fixed salary, a sum equal to one-twelfth part of such salary, and such sum so credited may be paid to such officer by the Treasurer on the warrant of the Auditor, which shall be given without further order of the Council."

It would thus appear that both Treasurer and Auditor should have a complete list of the salaried officers

of the city, together with their salaries, and yet we are unable to get this list from either of them.

The Treasurer showed us his vouchers whereby he pays salaries, etc.

He simply pays a salary or other warrant on order of the Auditor, without any question as to what the check is drawn for. All he keeps is the record of the general fund on which the warrant is made. Thus we see that the Treasurer issues checks without any knowledge as to what it is for, although the Code requires in Sec. 114: "Every check he shall draw shall be payable to the order of the person for whose benefit it is drawn, and **SHOW UPON ITS FACE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH DRAWN.**"

Likewise the Auditor is required by law to draw all warrants on the Treasurer, "stating to whom payable, **ON WHAT ACCOUNT**, and the particular fund or appropriation from which the same is payable." And yet neither Treasurer's check nor Auditor's warrant shows this most important detail.

If these laws were complied with there need be no trouble in finally ascertaining what the city pays its officers.

To return to the rent question, we finally found that of the \$3,498, \$1,780 is paid for the Krise Building offices annually, and \$100.00 and \$125.00 for two minor offices, and it appears that the rest is "expense of city offices," whatever that may mean.

In the appropriation just made for 1909, the sum of \$4,000.00, or \$500.00 additional, is appropriated for

“Expense of city offices.” When the Auditor was requested to give a reason why \$500.00 more was appropriated (he figures the appropriation list for the Council) he knew of no reason why additional money should be spent, there being no special need along this line this year.

Yet the appropriation has been made, and judging from the past, the city officers will have no trouble in utilizing the whole of this fund.

There seems to be a studied effort on the part of some people some where to increase appropriations where they are not needed, so that there will be no money left for the things which the city must have later on in the year, so that the city may be embarrassed enough to warrant a suggestion to raise the tax rate and thus afford an opportunity of argument to license the saloon again.

If such unnecessary expenditures are to be made this year besides salaries raised it will not take long to use up the increase in revenues which the city will get this year over last year. It strikes us that the “Expense of city offices” and other appropriations should have been materially cut down this year so as to allow money for building additional schools for the children of the city.

This brings us to a very important consideration.

We know of no time in the city’s history when the school facilities were so taxed as at present.

Children who should go to school in the morning are sent at 1 o’clock until 5, thus making the teacher and

the school room do double duty, and the poor scholar is made to study in the afternoon when it should be at rest or play, having tired himself out in the morning.

Then, too, scholars are sent from Diamond Hill to West Lynchburg because of lack of facilities, and this vexing question is making some parents keep their children at home instead of giving them a much needed education.

If we have to go without street improvements altogether we should guarantee the best educational facilities to our children, and the best treatment to our self-sacrificing teachers.

* * * * *

At this point it is in place to ask why the Auditor and Finance Committee have not seen fit to materially increase the School Board appropriation instead of materially increasing certain other appropriations like

Parks increased 50 per cent., from \$5,000.00 to \$7,500.

Forestry increased 100 per cent., from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00.

Expense of City Offices, leaving out rent, increased 33 1-3 per cent., from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00.

Expense of Printing and Advertising increased 33 1-3 per cent., from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00.

These and many other appropriations could easily have been cut down instead of increased, if it were necessary, in order to have some left for additional school funds.

We are at a loss to know what is done with this \$1,500.00 anyway. It sounds like too much expense of city offices, especially when the city's office rent of the Krise Building includes fuel, and besides most of the departments include office expenses in their reports as paid for out of their funds; Mr. Shaner has in his report:

Supplies for City Engineer's office,.....	\$358.98
Miscellaneous Supplies	490.61
Desk and partition Engineer's Office.....	92.75
Filing Cabinet Units.....	42.00

So it will be seen that departments have office expenses besides this \$3,500.00 general fund, the details of which we are unable to get, then, too, there is a fund for printing and advertising increased another 33 1-3 per cent., from \$1,500.00 last year to \$2,000.00 this year, so that the expense of city offices' account does not include this printing.

We are unable to get from any city officer an itemized account of this \$1,500.00 of expense of city offices in the \$3,500.00 appropriation for the last year.

The Treasurer does not have the information, nor does the Auditor have it in tangible form. In our examination into affairs of this kind we are astounded at the lack of business methods in all the city's affairs. The Treasurer is supposed to direct the city's expenditures, and the Auditor is supposed to be a check on him, but as a matter of fact the Treasurer is practically a clerk of the Auditor in such matters, and all he appears to do with the expenditure is to sign

checks, (which are made on the back of the Auditor's warrant), and he does not even inquire what the check is drawn for; he pays it without question, although the law contemplates that he shall know what he is doing.

Whatever the Auditor orders is done without further question by any one; this, of course puts too much power and responsibility in the hands of one man, and is provided against by the Code. We cite this primarily to show what must necessarily come about under an ancient system of government, where there is in fact no individual direct responsibility to the people. While these things may be helped, the only CURE for the present evils of city government in America is a change in the system, and the change which has been tried here in Virginia at Staunton and Norfolk, and in many Texas towns, starting at Galveston and in several towns in the West, namely, government by commission, has proven a wonderful success. The business manager for Staunton in his quarterly report for January, published in the daily papers of Staunton, shows a wonderful reduction in expenditures.

In that report Mr. Ashburner says:

“I would like to call your attention to the large reduction in the operating expenses of the various departments of the city government.”

This form is the natural common sense business method of doing things everywhere. Have a responsible paid officer at the head who shall be held accountable for all departments, instead of dividing that responsibility up among fifteen busy men, or worse still,

now under the new constitution twenty-four men, who have other things to attend to and cannot afford to give their time to a careful supervision of city affairs, for no pay whatever unless they descend so low as to value such positions because of the favors which obtain in the way of mutual tickling in street-improvements along their own properties. We do not have to charge that such has been done in Lynchburg. Every one here knows that it has been done. Fortunately, however, conditions are improving. Better men are being elected, in the First Ward in particular. Though in the Third Ward Mr. Jennings's defeat was accomplished by the saloon element in the election of Mr. Turner because the baser element found that Mr. Jennings was too much of a gentleman to let them run over the rights of the citizens.

Mr. Jennings is dry, and his ward has a large majority dry, but the better elements were taken by surprise by the secret workings of the saloon men, and did not realize what was being done until too late to get out the better voters. So the whole question comes back to diligence on the part of the voter in looking after such things for himself instead of letting matters slide along in the ruts of the worn-out past.

* * * * *

“Men of bleached soul and spotless character are most happy when most observed.”—Hashimura Togo.

We commend the above lines from a recent issue of

Collier's, to any who may be inclined to take offense at the OBSERVATIONS of the IDEA.

* * * * *

Another question for the Council:

Where do you figure the additional expense of \$500.00 for printing? Also why is it necessary to appropriate a double amount for jurors' claim? A raise from \$500.00 to \$1000.00. Likewise chain gang? Will there not be less expense under no license?

The city can well afford to be economical in the expenditure for luxuries like parks and parkings and forestry when it comes to a question of training the youth of the city.

A large property holder and business man of various experience in construction work and the employment of men has called our attention to the difference in management of labor and expenditures by the city and by individuals. He estimates that Lynchburg could save one-fourth by having a man to manage affairs for the city like a big contractor would manage his affairs.

* * * * *

When a railroad company wants a thing done, after the work has been decided upon by the stockholders, the whole thing is turned over to the executive head of the company, and he sees that it is done, and he is held responsible for its doing. Why should not the people manage their affairs just as economically and well.

Why should they turn their affairs over to irrespon-

sible committees and worn out system of department management when better and more business-like and economical means are at their command.

No private corporation in America would think of using the business methods that cities use.

GUESS.

Lynchburg people should be grateful to Mr. C. S. Reams for entering the field of popular amusement in opening the "Musu," next to the furniture house of Reams & Company, for, be it understood, this is no ordinary vaudeville play-house, but an up-to-date, clean, refined moving picture and instrumental music house only, and is run under the supervision of the Van Dyke League, every picture being sanctioned by them before being thrown upon the canvass.

Let the good people of Lynchburg patronize this worthy object, and while they are being delighted with the "Musu" orchestra and high class pictures they can at the same time feel that they are helping in the worthy cause of the Van Dyke League, to whom will go a part of the proceeds. Guess where the name "Musu" came from.

* * * * *

Let the Council now put a prohibitive license on "mead" and other near beers, as the only difference between this and sho-nuff beer is that it takes just a little more money to make the victim drunk.

THE JUDGES' DECISION IS RIGHT.

He says: I can truly say that "CONQUERINE" has no equal as a DYSPEPSIA remedy. I have used many other remedies for several years. A friend recommended "CONQUERINE" to me, and I am glad to say I have had better health all the time since. I find it not only very valuable for DYSPEPSIA, but for other stomach troubles as well.

Yours very truly,

B. F. CAMPBELL, Emory, Va.

THE CONQUERINE CO.,

Lynchburg, Va., Feb, 18, 1909.

Conquerine is sold by druggists and dealers everywhere. Price, 25 cents and 50 cents per bottle.

Every bottle, small or large, is guaranteed.

* * *

* * * * *

A policeman the other day said that 95 per cent. of the arrests he made were caused by drink.

* * * * *

In the next number we will get down to details and show itemized accounts of extravagance of city funds. For instance we will show how the city spent \$3,622.00 for painting the Rivermont bridge, though the contract price formerly for the same job was only \$750.00, and we understand that the paint and supplies cost about \$200 more. Be sure and follow up this subject.

The Hobbie Company

Insist that their line of pianos is the best in Lynchburg. Any well informed person will back this statement. The **Chordino** piano sells higher than others—there's a reason. Investigate FULLY and you'll buy one from us. Call and we'll "show" you. Upright pianos \$185 to \$800. Easy payments.

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810 Church Street

Two Secrets

Is your light bill heavy; and is it some months much more than you think is right?

Well, did you ever think how much you would save by using gasoline or buying your oil from us? Did you know that a phone message would bring you a gallon of oil from us IMMEDIATELY? Time is money, you know. Suppose you phone 4-6-1 to-day. Try our Dustless Floor Oil. Now we've told you WHAT and HOW.

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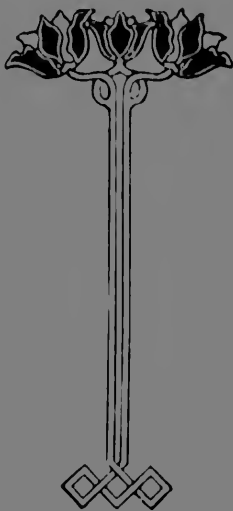
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THE other day one of our good advertisers had 1,000 posters printed on cheapest paper at a cost of \$2.25. It will cost him considerably more to distribute them. We are printing in **two colors** on bond paper in this number, his ad., which will be distributed without any extra cost to him to 2,500 people, at a less cost than the 1,000 cheap posters cost. Get the Idea? Fire us a postal for advertising rates.



Everybody Reads Idea Ads.

The Very Idea



The Idea

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1909 No. 3



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170 WEST 11TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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AND OF THE MOVIES



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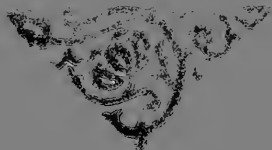
FOR THE ROBBERY OF THE BANK AT LYNCHBURG, VA., ON FEBRUARY 22, 1881.

In Lynchburg, Va., on the 22d

The good folk of the town were startled by the terrible death of a young man, who had just received a new paper, but who had not yet read it, and who had just read the news, all the time.

apparently a man of good family, and
best known in the town, who had
absolutely no money.

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Spring's coming! and with it the cooing
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BUTTS, Care, Shampoo, Cleanliness, Eighth Street,
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"Southern Brands Satisfy"

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Carbon Paper and
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Try this Brand

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The Idea

ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher

GOTTEN OUT AT LYNCHBURG, VA.

Vol. II.

MARCH, 1909

No. 3

Rudyard Kipling says that the reason the Anglo-Saxon is the foremost factor in the civilization of the world is that he is a born kicker, he is never satisfied with anything but the best. Lynchburgers ought to kick until they get the best government in the United States.

It is the part of a slave to take everything as it comes without questioning. It is the part of free men to insist on the very best. **ARE YOU A SLAVE, OR WILL YOU KICK.** Next.

* * * * *

Mr. Raymond L. Bridgeman, in the Atlantic Monthly for December, in discussing municipal government, says:

“City government, besides being the greatest problem of the times, is the greatest political evil in the United States.”

“Publicity will play the detective upon every dishonest and inefficient department head.” When we get through making public the present management of city affairs the people of Lynchburg can be relied on to apply the remedy.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, in commenting on the annual message of Mayor Richardson, of that city, states that “a well-known business man” in talking about “the fact that it takes \$2,500,000 to run the city for the year, said yesterday that he would undertake the job at \$2,000,000, make more permanent improvements than ever made out of current revenue in one year, and grow rich out of the profits,” and nobody in Richmond jumped on the Times-Dispatch for it, or thought that the paper had grown radical, and yet if the Lynchburg News or Advance should have published a similar statement the change from their permanent policy would have been so remarkable that citizens would have known immediately that Mr. Glass was dead, for Mr. Glass is too conservative to ever permit to be published in his papers what is considered the office of papers in other towns to publish, and Lynchburgers have been so used to Mr. Glass’s policy of silence on city government affairs that many think that the IDEA, in its present work of turning on the light is radical, when as a matter of fact we citizens are just calmly and quietly talking among ourselves about our own financial affairs at a time when things are so poorly managed that to be radical would certainly be justifiable.

If you want to hear radical language used in connection with such affairs, just ask any thoughtful Lynchburg tax-payer, who is not on the inside, if he thinks Lynchburg funds are wisely spent, or if he thinks that the Lynchburg papers by suppressing news are responsible for the present state of affairs, and we will guarantee that if such person ever **CUSSED** he'll cuss then, or else he'll grin at you in amazement that you should ask such a question. The quotation above is from a two-column article in the Dispatch headed in large type, "**MAYOR TO STRIKE FOR FEWER SALARY GRABS.**" Not only would Lynchburgers be astounded at Mr. Glass' papers publishing such things, but they would be doubly astounded if Mayor Smith ever took it on himself to kick against anything that the Council or any city officer ever did.

Can you conceive of a private corporation that employed a large and varied class of men that did not now and then find that something was going wrong in some department? and remember that private corporations are more careful, too, in safeguarding themselves against the initial employment of its forces. Yet Mayor Smith tells us every year that everything is just getting on fine, when as a matter of fact municipal affairs in Lynchburg are in a mess.

In his annual message, the Mayor says: "I find that the several departments are being efficiently and honestly administered, by earnest and thoroughly capable men, and who are discharging their several du-

ties with an eye single to the interests and welfare of the city.

WE FIND, AFTER EXAMINING INTO THE CITY'S FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, that they are not efficiently administered, and that NOT in every instance are the officials discharging their several duties with an eye single to the interests and welfare of the city.

The IDEA has been contending since it first began its work more than two years ago for a change in the plan of city government. We have written to Galveston and other places where the plan has been tried, and in a subsequent number we will discuss the several features of such forms of municipal administration.

The annual reports of the city for the year ending February, 1909, will be out soon, and we expect to have something to say about them in our next number.

In the mean time, while the question of government by commission is pending settlement, let the Council look to certain improvements.

Let the Council first call on the Mayor to obey the law, which requires in the very first section of the legislative enactments concerning his duties, viz.: Sec. 1033, on page xivi of the City Code of 1905, that the Mayor "shall be the chief executive officer of the city, and shall take care that the by-laws and ordinances thereof are fully executed." This is the first and greatest commandment, and the other duties, such as

presiding over the police court, are very minor affairs, and should not take all the time of the chief presiding officer of a two million dollar corporation.

We can conceive of nothing but the calibre of a Mayor himself which would elevate these little duties into a position of such prominence as to make it appear that his main duty is to preside over a degrading police court.

We might go back further still. The very constitution of the State itself in formulating city government has nothing to say whatever about the Mayor as a police court judge, but in its very first clause referring to Mayors, says:

“The Mayor shall see that the duties of the various city officers—whether elected or appointed—are faithfully performed,” and it then proceeds to give him the power to carry out his duty by requiring him to “investigate their acts,” “have access to all books and documents in their offices, and may examine them and their subordinates under oath.” “He shall also have power to suspend and remove such officers.”

Remember this is in the constitution itself, Article VIII., Sec. 117, page XXVIII of the City Code of 1905.

Just suppose the Mayor should undertake to be a real Mayor, and were equal to the task, why, we'd have such a complete revolution in city affairs that in a years' time Lynchburg would not know itself in a looking glass, especially if he should begin at the top and remove himself from office “for neglect of duty,” (sic.) because he has neither been following out the

letter or spirit of the constitution.

Second. Let the Council REQUIRE all standing committees to report annually, and the auditor to have same published, together with all officers' reports as per the code. Sec. 30, Clause (33), page 19.

At present it is impossible for a citizen to get tangible information from the "reports of city officers," for the reason that many of them do not make any published annual report.

The collector of city taxes makes no report whatever, though he handles nearly all of the funds of the city.

The City Sergeant makes no report.

The Commonwealth's Attorney makes no report.

The clerk of the Corporation Court makes no report, and the Commissioner of Revenue makes only a partial report. Although the Code requires "all standing committees of the Council to make written reports of their proceedings, which shall be annually published with the reports of the officers of the city," still many such committees make no public report.

The first and most important of all such Council committees makes no report. "The Finance Committee," likewise the "Committee of Public Institutions and Charities" makes no report. These are two of the most important committees having anything to do with the city expenditures.

This latter committee authorizes the expenditure for public schools, Home and Retreat, Van Dyke League, and Florence Crittenden Home.

Let the Council require the treasurer to report in

detail the receipts and expenditures of his office monthly, the same to be published in the daily papers, such report to show to whom each check was payable, and for what specific purpose. The law at present requires "a full and detailed account of all receipts and expenditures during the year" in his annual report, but the yearly report does not give expenditures in detail at all. It is impossible to tell what total is spent for salaries, for instance, and does not tell what salaries each officer has received. So much detail at least should be given.

Likewise the Auditor is required to give annually "a full and detailed account," but his report is no better than the treasurer's.

At present it is impossible to know not only from treasurer's and auditor's reports, but from any reports of the city where the money goes, and for what purposes.

We have before us the Daily Progress, of Charlottesville, for February 13th, 1909; which contains an itemized report of the Auditor for the month of January. It reads in the following manner:

SALARIES.

E. G. Haden, January Salary.....	\$ 50.00
W. S. B., January Salary.....	33.00
S. B. S., January Salary.....	100.00

And so on through the salary account. Next,

POLICE.

(Treated in the same way.) Next,

GAS.

Va. Iron, Coal & Coke Co. Coal.....\$388.80
etc., showing who the check was paid to, and what
for, and what amount, and the other heads are treated
in the same way, water, streets, sewers, fire, ceme-
teries, light, sinking fund, interest, incidentals, and
so forth. Every check is given and a DETAILED re-
port is made.

Let the Council direct that the citizens may have
the opportunity of knowing where the money goes, and
what for.

In all the more than 200 pages of reports of city
officials for 1908 there is not a single detailed report,
not even for the small funds where a detailed report
would be a very easy matter. Perhaps the most de-
tailed report is that of the chief of the Fire Depart-
ment. It certainly is the best arranged of all, and
yet it is not detailed as to what the money is spent
for at all.

We give a few items from the report for the month
of January:

1907.

Feb. 15. To Pay Roll.....	\$2,379.89
Feb. 15. To Thornhill Wagon Co.....	1.00
Feb. 15. To Doherty & Casey.....	1.05

Feb. 15.		
Feb. 15.	To Lynchburg Trac. & Light Co....	74.00
Feb. 15.	To Adams Bros.-Payne Co.....	92.72
Feb. 15.	To C. H. S. Snead & Bro.....	2.95

Total

Thus in the payroll the amount of \$2,378.89 is not itemized. Likewise you cannot tell what the Fire Department paid Adams Bros.-Paynes Co \$92.00 for, nor the Traction Company \$74.00.

The City Engineer gives a report in which the payroll for February is bunched under one head as follows:

To H. L. Shaner, Pay Roll, \$534.50, and the other amounts are not detailed at all as to what they are for.

The following extracts from the Gravity Water supply account will be of service. Let's take a part of the March account, 1907. (The 1908 book will not be out until after we go to press):

March 13,	W. L. Kent, City Electrician.....	\$43.50
	E. E. Bowen.....	12.00
	Palace Livery Company.....	57.00
	J. A. Wilkins Printing Co.....	2.25
	Jas Barnard	6.55
	H. L. Shaner, C. E. salary.....	83.33
	Shirley Brightwell	50.00
	H. L. Shaner, Pay Roll.....	534.00
	C. G. Williams, Contractor, est.....	847.00
	Queen & Co., Inc.....	81.15

M. D. Ray & Son.....	6.50
P. B. Winfree, R. E.....	250.00
A. D. Watts, Dep. Treas.....	61.71

The salary of H. L. Shaner, C. E., above \$83.33 is the extra salary per month allowed while in charge of the Gravity system.

Again turning to the engineering department we find under Street Department

PAVEMENTS.

Clay Street, between Thirteenth and Washington.	
Contract	\$3,043.71
Work done by City.....	161.42
Engineering and inspection....	186.51
	<hr/>
	\$3,391.64
Clay Street, Fifth and Sixth:	
Contract	\$2,784.37
Work done by City.....	150.25
Engineering and inspection....	176.08
	<hr/>
	\$3,110.70

Thus we find through the whole report on paving never an itemized account of "work done by city," nor of "engineering and inspection." Now it is well enough for the city to know just what each piece of work done finally cost when completed, but when you want to know just where the money went for engineering and inspection a detailed salary account ought to be forthcoming.

In checking over this report we found that the "work done by city," items varied very largely with the different jobs, but the "engineering and inspection" account appeared to vary in direct proportion to the money spent on the whole job, and we found that in each instance the charge "engineering and inspection" was exactly 6 per cent. of the cost of the rest of the work, so that we have the remarkable statement that in every instance the "engineering and inspection" cost six per cent. of the actual contract and city work combined. Can it be that engineering on a steep hillside in Lynchburg always costs the same as on a perfectly level street, or rather after all is not this whole city engineer's report on paving an estimate, and as an estimate may be valuable, but as an engineer's financial report is worth less than the paper it is printed on, for it can not be a complete estimate even, for the head engineer's salary does not come through this department at all. We are thus forced to the startling conclusion that the published reports of officers of the city are a farce. In almost every place salary accounts are concealed, and other details are so obscured that no definite valuable information about any city affairs can be gotten. Some of the city officers evidently do not know anything about making off accounts. In fact the report of the superintendent of the Alms House is the only detailed report that any competent bookkeeper would permit himself to hand in to a superior.

Many of them could easily be summed up in these

words: "We got our appropriation and spent it all," "and then some," or "but six dollars."

Take the report of the city electrician. After showing appropriations of \$1,700.00 he itemizes his receipts from this appropriation account as to months as follows:

1907, February. Rec'd from City Auditor....	\$ 99.03
Etc., for each month.....	_____

Total	\$1,693.98
Balance unexpended	6.02

Total	\$1,700.00

Then on debit side we have:

1907, February Pay Roll.....	\$ 99.03
Etc., for each month.....	_____
(Exactly the same figures being used for each month as in the receipts.....	_____
Total	\$1,693.98
Balance unexpended	6.02

Total	\$1,700.00

Now is not that a beautiful report. Why, its extremely lovely.

The credits and debits are exactly alike, and MIRABILE DICTU, they total up exactly the same. But why does he put down "pay roll" each month. In this

minor department surely there is no one to pay but himself, and then where do the other expenses of his department come in, he seems to call it all "pay roll," and let it go at that.

If the City Electrician had simply said I spent \$1,693.98 you and I would know just as much about it as we do now. Besides his salary included in this appropriation, we find that the City Engineer paid to W. L. Kent, electrician, each month of the year sums varying from \$17.00 to \$117.00. Can it be that two departments of the same city government are paying the same man for his time?

Now we take it that it is not necessary to comment much on these things, for it does not take a wise man to see that if we had one wise salaried man at the head of affairs who was directly responsible to the people, very much money could be saved to the city. We might have used other reports and found exactly the same conclusions, but we took the electricians' only because it was brief.

The financial part of the report of the Board of Health is summed up in these lines, worthy of a Caesar for their brevity:

"I have collected and paid to the city treasurer \$1,052.95, all of which was collected from pay patients except about \$12.00 fumigation fees."

In referring to the Treasurer's report, we do not find this item, nor can we find under what head it can be included, but we mention it to show how "fully detailed" the Treasurer's report is.

DO YOU

want to know where you can get the very best **SHOES** in the world at a very low price? Well, you know Lynchburg is a great shoe centre and we have arrangement with the big shoe houses to buy their large lines of **SAMPLE SHOES** at a very low price, and we can save you all kinds of money and give you quality and style and service as well. And you will find, too, that you can get **DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS CHEAPER** from us than elsewhere. 'Phone 421. Cor. Eleventh and Main

Will White Dry Goods Co.

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 2. Two color type.
 3. Limited space (if the space were unlimited it would not be worth as much to you); and lastly,
 4. Idea Ads are gotten up right.
- These are the four reasons why it pays to advertise with us. Ask for rates.

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Lynchburg, Va.
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SAVE MONEY

By having your Carpets, Rugs, Druggets,
Lace Curtains and Wall Paper cleaned as
good as new, by

C. R. URQUHART

He has eighteen years' experience in the business
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all grades of carpets.

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*General
Contractor*

**Cement and Granolithic Work
and Brick Paving**



OFFICE: Fifth and Main Streets

'PHONE 1629

Will one of these officers kindly explain.

In the Mayor's annual message he states that he has paid over to the City Treasurer \$10,506.13 of fines. The Chief of Police reports as his sole financial report of the year:

Amount of fines collected.....\$11,008.05

The Treasurer's report has this item under receipts:
Mayor for fines.....\$10,440.80

Such discrepancies should not occur in the management of city affairs. We do not pretend to explain these differences of several hundred dollars, but mention them to show the extreme laxity of the present system.

Not only are most all the city reports in a bad condition, but the very code itself under which the city is run is incomplete as far as the book of that name is concerned.

The Charter of the city requires that the salary of the Mayor "shall be fixed by the ordinances of the city." Now it is evident that the Council fixed the salary of the Mayor, and yet the published ordinances do not contain any mention of this fact. We wonder if Messrs. Minor & Harper were instructed to omit such ordinances from the Code when they codified the laws in 1905.

All salaries of purely city officials are determined by order of the Council, and yet the whole Code has been searched through, and we have been able to find only one salary mentioned therein, and that is the salary of the president of the Board of Health, which

seems to somehow have gotten in by mistake.

You can find out from the State Code what salaries State officers get, and there never has been any trouble in finding what salaries United States officials get. But Lynchburg is such a CLOSE corporation that neither its Code nor its official reports mention the salaries of "municipal officers."

The laws ought to be so codified as to embrace all the ordinances, and none ought to be omitted because city officials may not care to have it known what they get.

Now there ought to be a committee of the Council to look after the affairs of the Corporation Court, and the clerk ought to report the expenditures of this department.

The only reference in the 200 pages of city reports to this big item of expense is in the Treasurer's report.

Expense of Corporation Court, \$8,657.46, and the Treasurer himself cannot itemize this account.

In the last number we mentioned the cost of painting Rivermont bridge.

When we discovered in the city reports this item, Painting Rivermont Bridge, \$3,622.45, we thought that that sounded too much, so we went to a former city engineer and asked him what it cost when painted by him, and he did not know from memory, but thought it cost about \$800 or \$1,000, so we inquired further from others and found that the contract price was \$750.00, and paint and material furnished by the city

made the total cost approximately \$1,000, certainly not much more than this amount. We find that the specifications called for better paint this time, but that does not begin to account for the difference of about \$2,500, and surely contractors would not want \$2,500 more in 1907 than about ten years prior to 1907, and the funny part is that here it is nearly two years after the work is done before the people know that the thing has cost so much. We are informed that the Council Street Committee will this year have a detailed monthly report of the expenditures of the City Engineer, and the wonder comes why has not this been done formerly, and why has not this been published monthly in the daily papers. Is not this the public's business, and is there any better way to inform the public than by publishing in the newspapers. Other towns require this. Why has not Lynchburg done it?

Now it would seem to be in order for the City Council to have published a detailed statement of the expenditures of this \$3,622.45 so that the people may know where the leak is.

We would call especial attention to the fact that a former Council dispensed with the services of Mr. De Mott, City Engineer, just on account of his diligence in looking after the interests of the tax-payers. We mention this to show that a Council from its very nature is not fit to look after the administration of city affairs. Our present form of government is a failure, both with good Councilmen and bad Councilmen. Now what are you going to do about it? If the people

of Lynchburg will follow the IDEA as it tells how other cities that like Lynchburg were heavily in debt, have so changed their form of governing as to have money to loan in a very few years, and if you will then help to bring about such a change and help the IDEA to elect good, clean men to run things, then, and not till then, will the IDEA cease to kick against the present kind of extravagant expenditures for the city. The very idea of wealthy Lynchburg going in debt on running expenses, while other towns are being cleanly and honestly managed and are making money. Now ain't you ashamed of yourselves.

* * * * *

THE IDEA CONTENDS FOR—

A new Mayor.

A new Corporation Judge.

A new Commonwealth's Attorney.

Three new registrars.

Several new Councilmen.

Government by Commission, or

A Business Manager.

* * * * *

Don't fail to read the ads, you'll find them interesting.

Get back numbers of the IDEA from Shepherd's, corner Ninth and Main.

The IDEA is the best advertising medium in the town.

The Council has money to raise salaries of city officers, yet the citizens of the annexed territory are entirely neglected in the "weekly ministrations" of the garbage wagons, presumably because the city can't afford to look after their interests. The city can lay a mile or so of costly granolithic pavement in Rivermont, where there is not a sign of a house to justify it, and yet it can not afford to look after the health of citizens in the thickly settled portions of the city this side of Miller Park. The trouble seems to be that none of the Councilmen happen to hail from this annexed territory, nor do these people happen to have a pull with the powers that be.

* * * * *

The more we look into that piece of rascality whereby the city of Lynchburg very foolhardily agreed to spend a few barrels of money on walks out in the country towards the Blue Ridge Mountains, the more disgusted we get with the present form of management of city affairs. Just think of it, tax-payers in Lynchburg who can't even get a curb stone in front of their property which has been paying money into the corporation for tens of years are paying for fine walks out in Rivermont along property which had paid no tax to the city, and for years to come will pay only a small city tax, and yet when election day comes some of these same duped tax-payers will vote again for the men who duped them. Just as long as the voter won't take time to look into his own government, just

as long as he says by his actions, "I won't take any part in city government, except now and then to elect the ring gang," just so long will city government in Lynchburg be a farce and fraud perpetuated on the poor man, and he'll have nobody to blame but himself. It's up to you to study your own city government, and then to take an active hand in it.

Let the superintendent of schools provide special courses in "Lynchburg city government."

* * * * *

Now that "Judge Christian has sustained the Supreme Court," as a Lynchburg capitalist recently put it in referring to the judges election decision, we suppose that those fellows who have been advertising that "Lynchburg is wet and going to remain wet," will kindly take a back seat. While talking about this disagreeable wet question, let us suggest to the Mayor, who has promised to enforce the law, that it is being violated right under his nose in the four following ways:

1. Near beer is being openly sold contrary to law by the bar rooms.
2. These same bar rooms are taking orders and money for whiskey over their counters today.
3. They are selling intoxicating "CIDERS" contrary to law.
4. The common houses are selling whiskey and the like daily, and claim they can't do business without whiskey.

Yet in spite of all this, Lynchburg is acknowledged to be 600 per cent. better off than before. There were about two cases of drunkenness in the police court in two weeks since the town went dry, when as before there were sometimes ten in one day.

Yet you'll hear a fellow sometimes say "prohibition don't prohibit." There are other ways in which the laws are being violated. Let the police open their eyes and keep their promise and do their duty. We believe we have the best police force in the State, but the best of police have to do what they are directed to do by those over them.

For more than a week after the town went dry the bars openly sold near beer in direct violation of one of the plainest laws the Legislature ever enacted, and then they seem to have discovered very suddenly that if the Mayor did his duty every one of them might be put behind the bars, and so they quit, and here it is more than two weeks later, and not a one of them has been arrested yet.

And now since they find that they will not be compelled to obey the law, we find that they are putting near beer on sale again.

* * * * *

A FEW ASSERTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

A great many do know, but this matter should be brought to the attention of every right thinking per-

son within its corporate limits as well as within a radius of twenty-five miles of the city of Lynchburg. The firm of Adkins & Co., 320 Twelfth St., are dealers in cheap, medium and high grade furniture. They sell for cash or credit, and are money savers. A nice line of Metal Beds, Refrigerators, Go-Carts, and Matting. Spring goods arriving daily. If interested in anything in this line it will pay you to call on them before placing your order. Remember the place and number, for we cannot be responsible for your mistakes. Catch the IDEA! * * *

* * * * *

There are still some people who can read "Hamlet" through and then argue that Hamlet was crazy. We have found in writing down these heterogenous ideas that it is sometimes worth while "to put an antic disposition on," both to vary the monotony, and because the ridicule thereby effected is a very potent weapon of exposure of evil. There are some, we've found, who can not understand the SASSYNESS of some of our remarks, and who think that it indicates a lack of appreciation of the gravity of the subjects discussed, and a recklessness in handling the truth. Know all men by these presents, that when you see a statement in the IDEA, however carelessly it may seem to be thrown in, it is pretty sure to be as near the truth as words can make it, and that most likely the Editor has more of the same kind up his sleeve to use as the occasion may demand. When we speak we happen to have the

proof at hand. Even when in court we were called upon to answer to the charge of contempt we very modestly (?) told the judge that we could produce reliable witnesses to prove the truth of all our assertions. He did not question their truth. The only statement which we know of ever being published in the IDEA which could even be questioned technically, was when we referred in our very first number to a clerk of a certain body as a member of that body.

* * * * *

“CRITICISM IS THE FRIEND OF SUCCESS.”—
CONTEMPORARY.

* * * * *

A statute passed by the Legislature requires the owner of buildings over three stories “to erect fire escapes of most approved modern design,” and provides penalties for the failure to comply with the law. Another law charges the Mayor and Chief of Police with the enforcement of this statute.

Now Mr. Krise has not put fire escapes on his building of seven stories, because the Council has agreed not to require him to abide by the general city ordinance.

We write this to call the attention of the Mayor to the fact that the action of the City Council can not void the State law nor nullify his duty to compel Mr. Krise to put suitable fire escapes on the Krise Building.

Even if the law did not apply, it would be a very

foolish thing for Mr. Krise to fail to provide escapes, because the designers of all fire-proof buildings know that there is no such thing as a fire-proof structure.

All that the manufacturers of fire-proof material claim for such structure is that they are more safe and more economical, and the best advertisements which these manufacturers can show for their designs are pictures of the buildings after fires, in which they show that the frames and floors still remain and need not be renewed, although these same pictures show that the entire contents and woodwork of such buildings are completely destroyed by the flames.

Such pictures are shown in the Scientific American, and no expert would claim for a minute that a fire with any chance whatever would fail to demolish all combustible material within the walls of the Krise building. It is quite sure that such a fire would be much more horrible in the Krise building than in any other building in town on account of the height of the building, which, with present facilities the fire department would be utterly powerless to reach. An office renter in one of the upper stories of this building recently called our attention to the fact that the only possible exit to the building is the elevator shaft, in which is situated the only stairway in the whole building. Now everybody knows that a slight blaze on any lower floor would send such a volume of smoke up this flue of a shaft that it would be rendered useless as an exit either by elevator or stairway, and woe would be to the unfortunate being that chanced to be above the

flames in a serious conflagration.

Even where the law is complied with fires often prove exceeding destructive of human life. It is, therefore, of no little importance that the Mayor and the Chief should insist that every legal requirement be enforced to the letter. There is undoubtedly no building in the city that needs an escape more, and even if there were no law it would be the plain duty of the Council to make one for this case.

* * * * *

A SUGGESTION TO MESSRS. HALSEY AND JENNINGS, REPRESENTING LYNCHBURG
IN THE LEGISLATURE.

A Massachusetts law passed in 1906 requires each city and town to furnish annually to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor:

“A return containing a summarized statement of all revenues and all expenses for the last fiscal year for that town or city; a detailed statement of all receipts and disbursements of the last fiscal year arranged upon uniform schedules prepared by the chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor; statements of the income and expense of each public industry maintained and operated by such city or town; * * * * * a statement of the public debt of said city or town showing the purpose for which each item of the debt was created, and the provisions made for the payment

thereof, and a statement of all current assets and all current liabilities of such city or town at the close of its fiscal year.''

If our representatives in the Legislature should see to it that such a law was passed it would be an easy matter to find what cities were being extravagantly financiered.

* * * * *

INDIGESTION! TRY CONQUERINE.

Lewisburg, Tenn., Feb. 19th, 1909.

The Conquerine Co.,

Lynchburg, Va.

Sirs:—

For several years I have been bothered more or less with INDIGESTION and stomach troubles, and have tried many preparations for same. I have just bought my third Fifty Cent bottle of CONQUERINE, and find since I've been using same that I've been bothered with troubles less than ever before.

I take pleasure in recommending it to any one who has INDIGESTION.

Very truly,

* * *

MORGAN MARSHALL.

Lee Music Company

Insist that their line of pianos is the best in Lynchburg. Any well informed person will back this statement. The Chickering piano sells higher than others—there's a reason. Investigate FULLY and you'll buy one from us. Call and we'll "show" you. Upright pianos \$185 to \$800. Easy payments.

W. P. LEE, Manager

810 Church Street

Two Secrets

Is your light bill heavy; and is it some months much more than you think is right?

Well, did you ever think how much you would save by using gasoline or buying your oil from us? Did you know that a 'phone message would bring you a gallon of oil from us IMMEDIATELY? Time is money, you know. Suppose you 'phone 4-6-1 to-day. Try our Dustless Floor Oil. Now we've told you WHAT and how.

Home Oil and Gasoline Company

1017 MILLER STREET

Ought to be hung—and
Going to be hung—and
It won't hurt to hang it—

Some of the beautiful WALL PAPER from SHOLES BROS., on that faded wall of yours. We are the largest dealers in Lynchburg, and it will delight your eyes to see our mammoth line of up-to-date designs. Our hundreds of samples will be shown to you with pleasure.

Sholes Bros.

EIGHTH
STREET

A New Departure

The long established DAVIS GROCERY AND PRODUCE COMPANY have enlarged their business by the addition of a

Fish and Oyster Department

and will be pleased to serve their friends at their old stand, 610 Main Street.

Fresh Goods Received Daily.

Telephone No. 122.

Take a Peep!

PERHAPS you have never been in our large new store on 12th Street. We have not only an excellent line of up-to-date furniture, with prices to suit anyone, but we are headquarters for mattings, rugs and carpets as well, and it will give us pleasure to number you among our host of satisfied customers. We would call especial attention to our low prices, even on a basis of credit.

Blankenship Furniture Co.

INCORPORATED

314-316-318 12th Street, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

**Don't
Read
This**



YOU just ought to see our new
Spring line of

Wall Paper Samples

We can please the most fastidious

'Phone 165

S. A. Smith

Paperhanger

627 Main Street, Corner of 7th

For Bargains in Homes



Or Investments in
City or in Country



GO TO

International Farm Agency

900 MAIN STREET

The Last Word

Until now, one of our good ideas has been the 10¢ poster. It's a real winner, and it's still the best idea we've ever had. We are now offering two colors on hand—red and blue—both lined, which makes them useful at any rate. They're available at class meetings, in the cheap poster department of most book stores. Give us a postcard with your address.



Everybody Reads Idea Ads.

The Daily Mail

TO THE
YOU
GOOD
THE
BOTH
THE
YOU
IDEA
AND
THE
EURE

The Idea


A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. II

April, 1909

No. 4



BEING SOME SERMONETTES
PUBLISHED SEMI-OCCASION-
ALLY AT LYNCHBURG, VA.,
AND GOTTEN UP FOR THE
PUBLIC GOOD 

ANYWHEN
ANYHOW
ANYWHERE

AS THE
SPIRIT
MOVES



Copyright, 1906, by ADON A. YODER, Editor & Publisher

Call 2-4-8 for

The Reliable Plumber

T. C. MOSSELEY

619 Main Street

Agent for

Lindsay Incandescent Gas Lights

TIME IS MONEY

Keep your TIME-PIECE right. We are expert repairers and dealers in Watches, Diamonds and Jewelry. Just let us show you our up-to-date stock.

J. W. WILKINS & CO.

921 MAIN STREET

"To Sleep: Perchance to Dream"

How Blissful on a Bed from

REAMS'

Spring's coming! and with it the cooing
of babies out of doors. That means

Go-Carts

And to keep babies' milk cool and fresh
in doors one should have a WHITE
MOUNTAIN REFRIGERATOR—

"the chest with a chill in it." We
are large dealers and this is
the season to buy.



Reams & Company

618-620 Main Street

YOU ARE ALL RIGHT

So long as you can earn your salary. A millionaire isn't any more independent. Just take one little precaution—guarantee yourself against the loss of your salary—and then the future is safe and secure.

COVER THIS ONE BIG CHANCE

Don't let an accident or illness catch you napping. *Some* men just take chances, and get up from a long spell to tussle with the accumulated bills. *Some* men have all their savings wiped out by the extra drain.

But *you*, a prudent man, ought to ask us how we guarantee that your salary will keep right on when accident or illness prevents you from earning it. A small monthly premium does the trick—so small that you won't feel it.

Send me the little coupon attached; full particulars will be sent you. Then decide. No obligation whatever.

Eugene G. Adams

District Manager

Continental Casualty Co.,
of Chicago

403 Krise Bldg., Lynchburg, Va.

Name.....
St.
No.....

Health insurance issued also to business women.

Exercise...

LEARN TO BOWL at the

Monarch

Bowling Parlors

Seven (7) alleys, the finest in the State, all equipped with patent "Simplex" Pin Spotters. Special alleys for ladies, with entrance on Seventh Street.

The Monarch, 701 Main

Our New

Sanitary Soda Fountain

is attracting a large patronage. Only first-class Fruit Syrups dispensed. We make a specialty of Chocolate Milk Shakes.

Also full line of

Fine Cigars and Tobaccos

"Southern Brands Satisfy"

ATLAS BRAND
HIGHEST GRADE
CARBON PAPER

Long-wearing Satisfactory Results.

Southern Ribbon & Carbon Co.

LYNCHBURG, VA.

"Southern Brands Satisfy"

A Lynchburg Brand
Carbon Paper and
Typewriter Ribbon

Try this Brand

'Phone 253

Wm. R. Wright

Sales Manager

812 Church Street

The Idea

ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher

GOTTEN OUT AT LYNCHBURG, VA.

Vol. II.

APRIL, 1909

No. 4

A CALL TO SERVICE.

As the editor of the **IDEA** will shortly leave Lynchburg for a greater and, we trust, more beneficent work in another city, we are anxious to do one continuing service to our goodly native town, and so we have arranged to hold a meeting of the citizens of Lynchburg.

TO ORGANIZE A CITIZENS' LEAGUE.

This organization is to be a non-partisan affair, to which every citizen is earnestly requested to belong. The object is to devise a plan whereby every citizen may have a say in deciding who the city officers shall be. This plan is working wonders in other cities.

It is a good thing not only because it **OFFERS** every citizen **AN OPPORTUNITY** to have a choice in nominating clean and capable men, but it also **IN-**

SURES THE NOMINATION of good men for office. Many of the most prominent men in the city have endorsed this move already, yet aside from this we believe that the good people of Lynchburg will jump at this opportunity to take a part in the cause of good government. The time and place of this meeting, which will be in the next week or so, will be announced later. Look out for it in the daily papers.

This summer there are to be nominated the following city officials:

A City Sergeant—now S. H. Johnson.

A City Treasurer—now H. P. Adams.

A Commonwealth's Attorney—now R. D. Yancey.

If you are interested in who shall succeed to these offices, now is the time to show that interest.

There is also to be elected this summer a representative in the Legislature. Mr. T. D. Jennings now occupies this position. We should be especially careful in deciding who we put in the Legislature. We understand that a body of the citizens are already asking Mr. Jennings for an expression on questions of public importance. If these answers to be given by him are satisfactory to the citizens, it would be the province of this citizens' organization to sanction Mr. Jennings, if not it would have the opportunity to sanction some other candidate or propose some other candidate for this important position. Let no one think that this is an attempt on our part at self-aggrandisement, for we are shortly to go to Richmond to

live. Our sole motive is to insure clean government in Lynchburg, and we hope and trust that every citizen will feel it his duty as well as his privilege to take a part in this public meeting.

From expressions already of those whose interests have been awakened in the cause of civic betterment, we are confident that the hall will not be able to hold the crowd.

The First Ward alone promise to fill the house, but we must not let the First Ward get all the glory of righting evils. Come early and avoid the risk of being turned away.

Remember this big fact, that no ring is going to dominate this organization. You are to run it. See the daily papers for further information.

* * * * *

LET THE COUNCIL GO FORWARD in its work of municipal improvement. There can be no rational objection by any one who carefully considers it in the light of the experience of other cities to the increase in bonded indebtedness of the city, provided the funds raised thereby are for purposes of permanent improvement, and are not raised for meeting current needs. But by all means such indebtedness should be incurred only for stated and specific purposes, and should be used in no other way, and the utmost care should be used in determining accurately beforehand just where each item is to be spent, and as near as possible the exact amount. As Mr. Long has so ably

pointed out, don't let us appropriate say \$100,000 for a school building without having an option on the lot we want. And don't let us go to the limit of our bond issue and then find that we need \$100,000 more to do the work which the bonds were estimated to do.

Let this be remembered that already the D street bridge has cost about as much over the bond issue for that purpose as the city has now left of this year's appropriation for all permanent improvements in this year. It should always be borne in mind that when you build a building estimated to cost \$100,000.00 the probability is that after all other necessary and unthought-of expenditures are counted in, the building has cost \$150,000.00.

Don't ever count on doing \$100.00 of estimated work with \$100.00. Estimates should be taken with a large dose of salts, even in private affairs, and all know that this is even more true of city or governmental affairs.

If the city has \$100,000.00 to spend for schools, let them build \$65,000.00 worth of schools, and when they are done the \$100,000.00 will be about gone all right. Why can not municipalities learn from experience, and the city at this time is especially in need of funds, **BECAUSE OF THE FACT** which most Lynchburgers do not know, that **THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WERE SPENT LAST YEAR IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT WHICH HAD TO COME OUT OF THIS YEARS' APPROPRIATIONS**, and remember, too, that

this years' appropriations were cut down to \$20,000.00 less for streets than was spent last year, although we have in sight this year \$77,000.00 more of revenues than were estimated last year to begin with.

Another fact worthy of mentioning is this, that the present plan gives \$2,500.00 for police service this year more than last year, though it contemplates about \$25,000.00 less in permanent street improvements this year than last.

Everybody knows that cost of policing should decrease when a town goes dry, and the work of our police force has already been wonderfully lessened.

* * * * *

CITY HOSPITAL.

Why should the city spend a lot of unnecessary money to buy a valuable lot on which to put a hospital, when they already have in the Alms house property an excellent site for such a purpose. Why! Why! Why!

* * * * *

**WE ARE NOT JUST "BLAZING AWAY," WE ARE
"BLAZING A WAY."**

Let's be plain. More men understand if we write to children. When George Washington was surveying a way through the original forest he hacked the bark off the trees along the way to indicate to those coming

after the route he had taken. Thus the white part of the tree would blaze forth to future comers the fact that some one had gone before.

Unlikewise. When some poor fool fires a gun into the air just because he's scared, or because he's drunk, or the like, we say he blazed away.

For many we are blazing a way, we are not just blazing away.

* * * * *

Listen at this. Did you ever stop to consider that all our Councilmen have their positions because they felt it to their interests, or some party backing them felt it to their interests to put them in office? Well you just stop and chew on that idea for about ten minutes at a time three times daily after meals, and you'll be able to understand how the people's interests have been neglected, and why there is so much corruption in city governments in the United States.

We are willing to leave it to you. We don't believe you can name two Councilmen out of the twenty-four who have not got nice sidewalks and improvements along their property fronts, although others are without it who are more deserving.

Now self-interest and self-preservation is a first consideration with every one, and we do not hesitate to say that we are not writing this to blame the Councilmen. We are all human, and they get blamed enough without any more censure from us just now. Some of them undoubtedly should be censured, but that is not

the purpose of this article. We are writing now to show how Councilmanic government can not be expected to look impartially after the interests of the citizens, and moreover, it puts such a premium on diligence on the part of special interests.

It is easy to see how three men with a common special interest could get legislation favorable to themselves accomplished with the utmost ease, because it could easily happen that there would be no one especially interested in opposition to it, and thus no one might fully grasp its full meaning until it was too late to object. And that this is just what happens all know too well to debate it. This is just the way special interests have always dominated city, State and national governments. This is the way valuable franchises have been wrung from the people for a mere nothing. But get a responsible salaried expert at the head of each department and special interests have to take to the tall timber. It is no exaggerated statement to say that hundreds of thousands of dollars could have been saved to Lynchburg with a proper management of its affairs. A public service corporation could easily influence two out of three committeemen, even if they were men above reproach, but not experts in the line proposed, to pass legislation favorable to them. Take a concrete example. Suppose the Traction Company should conclude that they were not making as much as they wanted to on electric lights. The company might easily convince two members of a light commit-

tee that certain materials had so increased in cost that it was hard for them to make expenses at the present rate of charge for city lights, and that it was nothing but just to give them two cents a night per light more. The Councilmen might easily be convinced, not being experts, and the two would make the report for the committee of three and the rest of the Council would often accept the committee report just as they would expect their report to be accepted by the Council, and that's the way it is done, and it's just the way the Traction Company fleeced Lynchburg out of about \$5,000 in cash some three years ago, while all the time they were getting rich off of watered stock. But put a shrewd business man at the head of this department, give him a decent salary, make him responsible for all blunders of his department, and then you have efficient and economical government, and that's why cities that are managed by commission are advertising to the world their financial condition, their low tax rate and the satisfaction of the citizens with their form of government.

* * * * *

PUBLISHED REPORTS.

The people should always be kept informed of their affairs, as publicity is the only sure cure for evils of the government. The street committee has acted wisely in calling on the engineer for a monthly detailed report. Now let this committee order this report printed

monthly in the daily papers, and then let the Council not stop here, let every department be required to published detailed reports of expenditures. And detailed should mean **DETAILED**. We understand that Mr. Shaner is required to do this, and yet his report is not detailed. We have before us his reports for the last two months, and while they enable one to know more of the city's expenditure, still they do not permit the citizen to see the inner workings of city expenditures. We inquire. Why this desire to keep the people ignorant of their affairs? Not only are these reports insufficient and not calculated to enlighten the public, but they contain items which should never have been permitted.

In the April statement of expenditures, which shows expenditures for the street department for March, we find this item:

“H. L. Shaner, City Engineer, cash expenses..\$100.00

And likewise in the annual report of last year we find such items:

“H. L. Shaner, City Engineer, cash expenses....\$100.00

“H. L. Shaner, City Engineer, cash expenses....\$ 50.00

Besides these items we have many others, such as the following:

“Engineering and Lighting Supplies.....\$437.71.”

“Supplies for City Engineer's Office.....\$358.98.”

“Miscellaneous Supplies\$490.69.”

And sundry other items running into the thousands of dollars for "miscellaneous repairs and expenditures." Now we submit that this does not look right.

To give a man a large salary of \$2,500.00 and horse and buggy and care of same, and almost unlimited authority in expenditures, and then every now and then let him have \$100.00 or \$50.00 to expend without rendering any account for same whatever.

Now we do not say that this money is not spent for legitimate expenditure of the city. That's another question which we have nothing to do with, for we have absolutely no knowledge concerning this money after it is paid over to the engineer, nor do we think that this state of affairs might not exist with another engineer. The point that we are making is this. No city officer has a right to authorize another city officer to expend the peoples' money as he sees fit without requiring an accounting for every cent of it.

Such a system presumes that every man is honest, and shrewd business men do not presume that any man is honest, even when he is handling their own money. How much more business-like should our officials be when it is not their own money, but the people's money which they turn over to others. A bank requires an accounting to the cent **EVERY DAY** for all expenditures, and yet cannot cities afford not to require such an accounting even annually. Suppose we should have a crooked official sometimes. What would become of us with such a system? Private corpora-

tions find men going wrong, and you never heard of a city yet that had an examination of its affairs that did not find gross abuses.

We would also call attention to this big fact. The city auditor does not audit the expenditures of this department at all. When the engineering department wants, say \$15,000.00, the auditor, Mr. Otey, issues a warrant on the treasurer for \$15,000.00. The treasurer turns this warrant over and issues a check on the back of this warrant for \$15,000.00, and that's the last of the auditor's work. Thus the engineering department reports last year show expenditures of \$190,246.98. The same department has spent on the gravity water system more than \$700,000.00, and yet our auditor, to whom we pay some \$2,100.00 annually, besides certain unknown expenses, does not audit this at all! He is auditor as far as the treasurer is concerned only.

You see in the early days bicameral governments worked all right, but as the commercial, business spirit in America has developed, these chambers, (Councils in the cities; assemblies and congresses in State and nation) have turned over their detail work to committees which, unlike the Councils, have held their meetings in private, and just there is where the people lost out, and the publicity of committee meetings is the only solution of the evils of our present systems. Let the people know and the remedy will be applied. Now very few people know anything about the workings of the city government just on this account. They read

in the papers that the Council met and passed perhaps without discussion many appropriations, the 'advisability of which was not even questioned in the Council. And then they blame the whole Council, thinking them a committee of fools, and they do not know that under our present government it is not the Council as a body that does the governing, it is government by committee pure and simple, and the people need not concern themselves about the discussions which go on in the Council meetings, this is not where the people lose, they have already lost out in the committee perhaps. Likewise in Congress, the people need not concern themselves about what is said in Congress by the Senators there about the tariff. The tariff bill is made by the committee, and the committee meets in secret and the Republicans have gotten so bold on this committee that even the Democratic members of the committee are not even permitted to meet with them when they are deciding what to do. Likewise when the engineering department is to expend any money for Lynchburg. Mr. Long's committee passes on all appropriations and they are brought before the Council, and the other Councilmen who get no pay whatever for any of this work, but who have their duties to attend to and other committees to look after, cannot be expected to know the details of Mr. Long's department, so they simply as a rule vote to sustain the committee report. Thus you see the whole Council by its vote shares the responsibility of the decision, but does not share the

power in any such given case. Now you never will have success in running city affairs until you have **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY** coupled with **PUBLICITY** of all the cities affairs, and the plan of government by commission is the only plan that has succeeded wherever it has been tried. Now it can be readily seen that if you attempt to have commission government and still retain the cumbersome Council as some have proposed, you are of necessity bound to have a failure, for you do away with the best feature of the plan, namely, individual responsibility.

Now when any expenditures are to be ordered in any department the head of that department makes out his list of expenditures, say for \$15,000.00, and takes it to the chairman of his committee, thus Mr. Shaner appears before Mr. Long, and Mr. Long perhaps is very busy and has the utmost confidence in Mr. Shaner, and so he O. K.'s the order and thus the transaction is done. And just here is where the crookedness has developed in other cities. Suppose the head of the committee were not what he should be, (Do not misunderstand us. Lynchburg has an exceptionally fine body of Councilmen. Go down to Richmond and see what they have there and you'll feel proud of Lynchburg's Council.) would not there be an opportunity for graft? And perhaps all of Lynchburg department heads and committeemen of the Council are not what we think they are! "Ah, there's the rub!" Who knows! Who knows!

Another point. Suppose Mr. Long does have time and inclination to carefully go over this estimate of Mr. Shaner, as he perhaps always does, still Mr. Long is no expert in the needs of engineering. Nor are all our heads of committees expert business men and accountants, and thus a committee chairman must make mistakes which an expert paid commissioner would not make. Then, too, the paid commissioner would feel much more responsibility and would study his department thoroughly and many thousands of dollars would be annually saved to the citizens. In the meantime a good plan would be to make all committee meetings public. On many occasions Councilmen of the city of Lynchburg have opposed making public even the results of their actions in committee. Publicity won't hurt anything but the evil.

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Did it ever occur to you that nearly every head of department in the city government from Mayor down was a failure in private life before he came into office?

* * * * *

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

Let's illustrate it. Let the citizens elect five men of known integrity and business ability at a sufficient salary and require them to meet as a City Council at a stated hour daily, such meetings to be always open to the public.

Let the chairman of the committee be Mayor, and let him have charge of the first of the five departments enumerated below, and let the Council designate the departments to be looked after by the other four Councilmen or commissioners.

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

These are the departments fixed by law in Iowa, and success has been so marked in Des Moines that the Legislature has made the law apply to all cities over 7,000 in population in the State.

The law making this form of government also provides as follows:

“The Council shall print each month in pamphlet form a detailed itemized statement of all receipts and expenses of the city and a summary of its proceedings during the preceding month, and furnish printed copies to the State library, the city library, the daily newspapers of the city, and to all persons who may apply therefor at the office of the clerk.”

The advantages of this system are in part as follows:

1. Efficiency.
2. Individual responsibility.
3. Publicity.

These three remedies will right any bad government.

In Virginia the departments might be varied to meet the different conditions here.

One thing worthy of mention in Des Moines is this. When the plan was adopted a political ring had charge of affairs, and a citizens' organization tried to put in a reform body of men. The old ring won at the polls, and still the plan has succeeded, even with the old ring crowd, beyond all expectation, and Des Moines is so proud of her city government that they are advertising their city all over the country by distributing a little pamphlet called "The Des Moines Plan of City Government," and they give many interesting facts about the city calculated to boost it before the American people. The Iowa law fixes the salary of Councilmen for cities the size of Lynchburg at \$2,500 for the Mayor, and \$1,800 each for the other Councilmen or commissioners.

The following was published in the Kansas City Times of last May concerning the commission plan, as a dispatch from Des Moines:

"What would happen in Des Moines today if the question were re-submitted? was answered by James G. Berryhill, who was one of the leaders in the campaign for the adoption of the commission plan, and who supported the candidates named by the Business Men's League. This ticket was defeated.

He said: "Nine out of every ten votes cast in the city would be for the proposition. I am sure that I have not over-estimated the change in public senti-

ment. I know the people of Des Moines, and they have already been convinced of the wisdom of the commission plan. * * * * * The result of the election is the best argument for the commission government. The Councilmen elected are doing so well that even the business interests of the city that gave their support to the unsuccessful ticket are perfectly satisfied with the administration of the men who were elected.''

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Have you ever been struck with the idleness of city officials as compared with men in private business?

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CONCERNING DOGS.

Gentlemen of the jury, the best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one

that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and poverty, in health and in happiness. He will sleep on the cold ground, when the wintry winds blow, and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journeys through the heavens.

If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard against danger, to fight against his enemies, and when the last scene of all comes and death takes the master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death." Such was the speech of Senator Vest, of Missouri, in a suit for \$200.00 damages against one who had shot a dog. He had spoken in a low voice without any gesture. He made no reference to the evidence or the merits of the case. When he finished judge and jury were wiping their eyes. The jury gave a verdict

of \$500.00 in favor of the plaintiff, \$300.00 more than the suit. It was even said that some of the jurors wanted to hang the defendant.

* * * * *

It is well to call attention to such appreciation of the worth of the dog at a time when legislation is pending in the City Council which very seriously effects the standing of man's most devoted friend, especially since that friend cannot speak for himself. In taking the part of the dog we are taking the part of the home, for without the dog many a Lynchburg home would be unprotected. Let the Council go slow in putting any additional tax on dogs. The proposed \$5.00 and \$10.00 tax would legislate out of the city most of our canine protectors, and would be so prohibitive that only the rich would have dogs at all, and thus the revenue therefrom would be less to the city than at present.

With the average man the dog is not a luxury, but in the nature of a necessity. The vicious dog should, of course, be muzzled and restrained, but the harmless and noble protector and hunter should not be subjected to any hostile legislation.

* * * * *

If you don't like **THE IDEA**, read the Lynchburg News or the Farmers' Guide.

We are at a loss to know why Mr. Yancey did not try to prosecute the Strother Company and make a test case before the town went dry, when if this Byrd law applied to druggists he could have secured large license money from Lynchburg druggists to help out the city treasury.

In section 7 of the Byrd liquor law, the following language occurs:

“Any druggist who desires to sell ardent spirits or alcoholic bitters, shall take out a retail liquor dealer’s license and shall, in all respects, be deemed a retail liquor dealer, and be subject to the requirements of this act; provided, the provisions of this act shall not apply to liquor used by any druggist in the preparation of medicine.”

It is thus very clear that if Mr. Yancey is sustained in his appeal the druggist will have to pay a license in dry territory which he never has had to do, but the law reads “the act shall not apply to liquor used by any druggist in the preparation of medicine.”

Yet Mr. Yancey is spending the people’s time and money in **TESTING** one of the clearest clauses in the law, when he should be prosecuting to the fullest extent open and flagrant violations of other parts of the law.

Furthermore, this same Byrd law is being openly violated in other particulars in Lynchburg, in one case by a Councilman, and by others in the open sale of **INTOXICATING** drinks, besides the cases mentioned in

our last number. We have every reason to believe that our police force would do their duty and enforce the law if they were so instructed. But the Mayor is head of the police department in Lynchburg, but it seems that he, instead of immediately stopping the infraction of the law, is awaiting the action of an adverse attorney in **TESTING** this part of the law also. A Commonwealth's Attorney has no right to **TEST** any law in the interests of anybody. It is his duty to protect the people against those who would violate the law, and if the violator is not satisfied with the law, it's up to him, the violator, to test it. Let not the attorney earn a fee from the people in an attempt to break the people's law. Let the violator **IN EVERY INSTANCE** be prosecuted. There are very few laws which moneyed interests can not nullify as it is, without the assistance of those who should enforce it. So long as the open violator of the law is not punished, as is the case in Lynchburg at this writing, April 21st, just so long is somebody failing to observe his sworn oath of office. Get that? It's up to somebody to get busy.

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In onion there is strength.

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MONTHLY REPORTS.

We are informed by an old Lynchburger that at one time the city published monthly, in the daily pa-

pers a detailed, itemized account of all checks made by all officers in the name of the city. Will some good Councilman confer a favor on the citizens by offering the following ordinance:

Be it ordained, etc., that every city official or employe who handles any city funds shall make monthly detailed, itemized accounts of each check and expenditure made by him, such account to show amount of payment, to whom payable, to what special account charged, and for what in detail (As, **So MANY TONS** of such **CERTAIN KIND** of coal), and further, such statement to set forth amount of money on hand at beginning of month, and amounts of moneys received during month, in detail, and balance on hand at end of month, and that the clerk cause such reports to be published monthly in pamphlet form for the use of any citizen who may call at his office for same, and in one daily paper.

Likewise will some one propose the following:

“Be it ordained, etc., that the president of the Council or Aldermen be instructed to employ an expert accounting house to examine into all the expending departments of the city government and make a thorough report as to the advisability of all methods of accounting, expending and auditing in use and make recommendations as to changes necessary to the wisest and most efficient and most economical management of city affairs.”

Such a report would help Councilmen in their future

work, and would accomplish an immediate righting of any wrongs which might be found to exist under the present lax and unbusiness-like management, and might save to the city thousands of dollars during the present year without waiting for the monthly reports to disclose or cover up any past mismanagement.

If there has been no bad management, then the findings will be an admirable advertisement for the city, and in either case the city will be the gainer.

Now if the Council will not do this much for the citizens they should at least offer some valid objection to it. Thousands of Lynchburgers feel that they have no advocate in the other publications of the city, and they also feel that their protests and claims as voiced by the **IDEA** should have the serious consideration which is due from Councilmen.

* * * * *

Mr. Marshall and his committee are to be thanked for the excellent work done by them for a new market. By all means let the Council endorse these well wrought plans.

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It has been suggested to us that the discrepancies in the reports of Mayor and Treasurer as to fines, which we referred to in a former number, is due to the possibility that the Mayor's report contains total fines for city and State, whereas the city treasurer reports only city fines. As a matter of fact this is not the case.

The Mayor reported a total of fines collected, \$11,075.38.

The Chief reported a total of fines collected, \$11,008.05.

There is a discrepancy here.

Then the Mayor reports city fines "has been collected and paid into the city treasury," \$10,506.13.

The Treasurer's report shows, "Mayor for fines," \$10,440.80.

In like manner we find discrepancies in the reports recently from the press for the year just ended.

The Mayor reports that there have been collected and paid into the city treasury \$7,467.65.

The Treasurer reports, Mayor for fines, \$7,223.05. A difference of \$244.60.

If there is any valid reason for this the citizens have a right to know what it is. This is the people's business, and we will be glad to set the city officials right in the eyes of the people by publishing any explanation of any party concerned.

If parties concerned either continue to keep silent or offer an excuse which is not valid, then the people have a right to think that there is a screw loose somewhere.

In fact the silence of parties concerned is leading fair-minded citizens all over town to think that there is much more wrong-doing than the **IDEA** has ever begun to suggest. We will make this very emphatic statement: That if the **IDEA** had made any blunder

whatsoever, you can just bet your sweet life that the parties concerned would have raised a howl that could be heard all over the United States. As it is, in the language of the Latin "Dum tacet clamat," which is to say that their very silence cries out against them. Straighten yourselves out, gentlemen, straighten yourselves out! or else prepare for election time.

* * * * *

Have you tried and failed, or just failed to try.

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It would give us pleasure to employ our space in commending the good as well as in condemning the bad, but there are so many demands on us for exposing evil just now that we can not find time for the more pleasant work of throwing bouquets, but the Lynchburg News and the Mayor are serving the public so well in that capacity that we have found it of more importance to enter the field unexplored, as far as Lynchburg publications are concerned, of criticism of gross public evils.

We will take this opportunity, however, to say that Lynchburg has, as far as we have been able to discover, a more respected and worthy and high class body of men as Councilmen now than any city in the State, and perhaps in the nation.

The trouble in Lynchburg is not with the personnel of its Council, but with its worn-out and cumbersome

system of government with an ancient charter and an ancient plan.

Likewise, Lynchburg's police force is recognized to be as fine a one as can be found. As far as departments are concerned Lynchburg's troubles are in the difficult problem of engineering and the shamefully run department of justice, or as some are free to call it, the department of injustice, with absolutely unfit men as Corporation Judge, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Mayor.

To go back to the Council, the thanks of the citizens are due to those unselfish men who have given so largely of their valuable time, with no money remuneration whatever, to the arduous work of the Council committees.

Take Mr. Long's work. A prominent merchant said yesterday that Mr. Long gave about one-half of his time to his department work for the city, and in return he has gotten the condemnation of many. Now we think Mr. Long has made his mistakes, who has not? Still we should not expect him to neglect his private work on which his income depends to look after public affairs for nothing. He is no expert in engineering, and most of the blunders of his department are because he had to rely on others who were paid by the city to look after such matters.

All honor to the clean, unselfish men on the Lynchburg Council. Now let's get busy and pay a commission of shrewd business men to do that work for us.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM.

Morris Hillquit, prominent author and politician of New York, in writing in the Outlook of April 10, in reply to Mr. Roosevelt's editorial on Socialism, says: "There are approximately thirty to forty millions adherents of Socialism in the world, and the socialist literature in all languages comprises several thousand books and pamphlets. * * * * The movement is represented in each country by an organized party with a definite and explicit platform and program, and these platforms and programs, identical in all substantial points, are the indisputable expression of the views and methods of the Socialist movement.

To avoid all possible misconceptions, the Socialist party of the United States has formally summarized the objects of the Socialist movement in the following terse definition:

"Socialism is the modern movement of the working class to abolish the private ownership in the social means of production and distribution, and to substitute for it a system of industry collectively owned and democratically managed for the benefit of the whole people." This is the Socialism of the Socialist party, and of the Socialist movement. Socialism is chargeable with all that is expressly affirmed in or can be legitimately inferred from this statement. It is not responsible for anything else.

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Get back numbers of **THE IDEA** at Shepherd's.

The discrepancies between the religion that is now affected and that taught in the New Testament are large enough to engulf the whole modern world.—Joel Chandler Harris—“‘Uncle Remus’ Home Magazine.”

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Let everybody root for the Lynchburg ball team.

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A FEW ASSERTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

A great many do know, but this matter should be brought to the attention of every right-thinking person within its corporate limits as well as within a radius of twenty-five miles of the city of Lynchburg. The firm of Adkins & Co., 320 Twelfth St., are dealers in cheap, medium and high grade furniture. They sell for cash or credit, and are money savers. A nice line of Metal Beds, Refrigerators, Go-Carts, and Matting. Spring goods arriving daily. If interested in anything in this line it will pay you to call on them before placing your order. Remember the place and number, for we cannot be responsible for your mistakes. Catch the **IDEA!**

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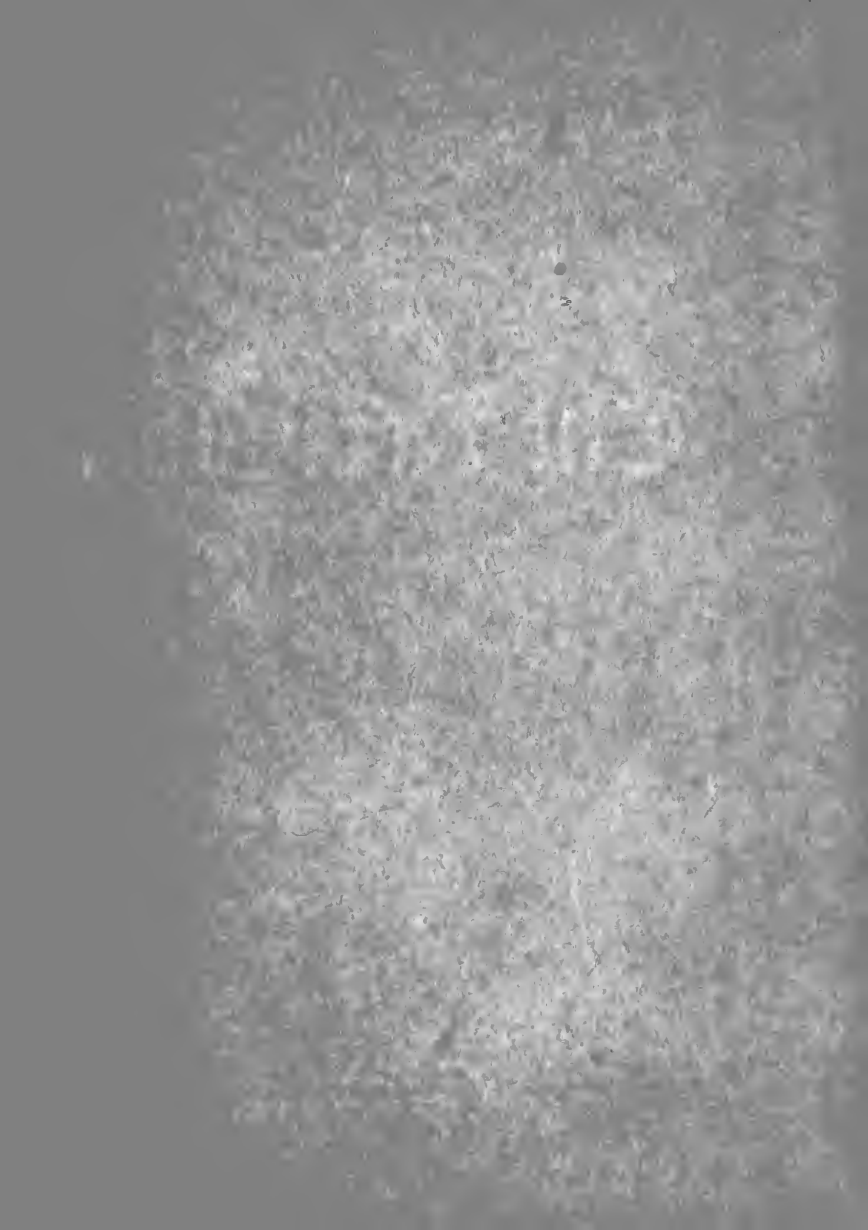
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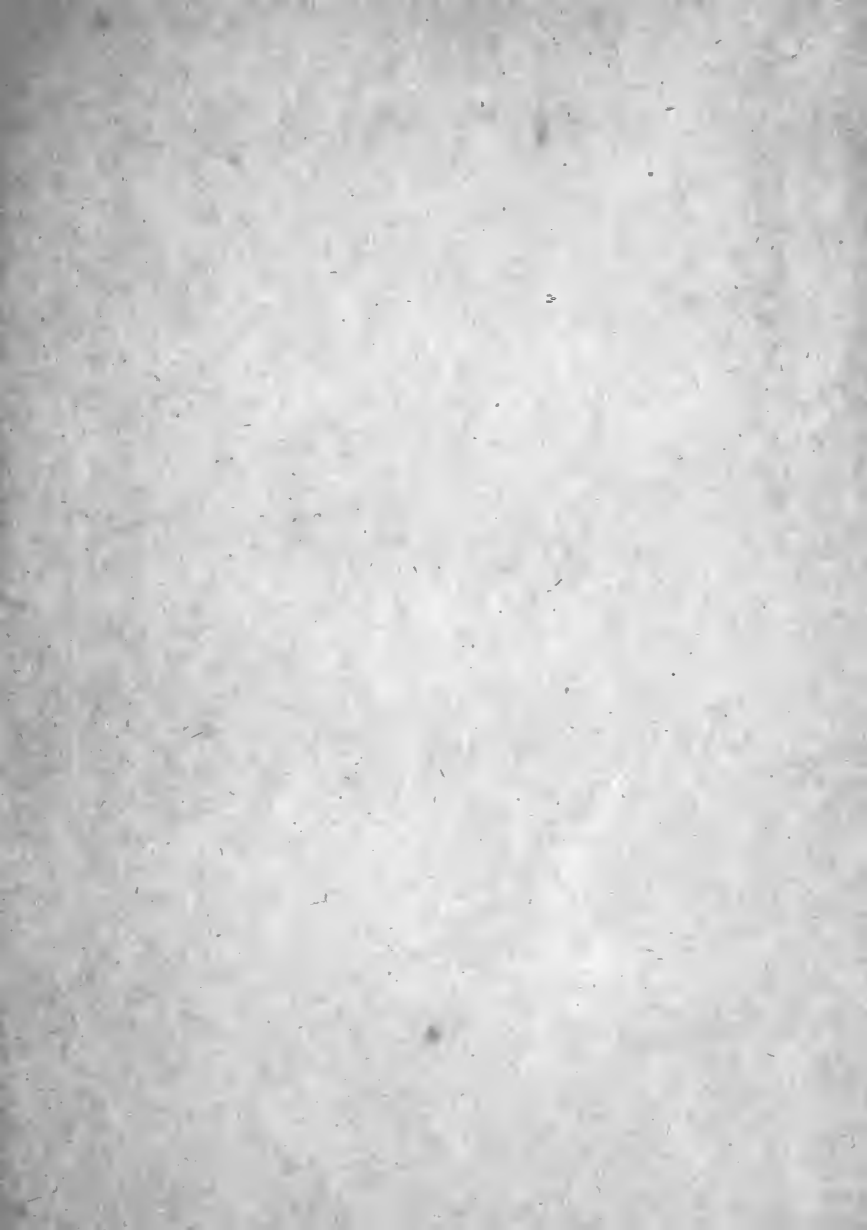


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