

satirized, or the incidents of Holy Writ utilized in a comic picture to influence voters, or express exultation over the result of an election. When local cartoonists think to increase the popularity of their papers by using such material for such purposes, they show that they are remarkably ignorant of the temper of this community.

### CULTIVATE MORE LAND.

The glorious weather we are having, and which, at this writing, gives no sign of impending change, ought to be utilized by persons who have no other lucrative employment, in preparing for cultivation pieces of land on which crops have not this year been raised. This remark applies not only to country districts, and stretches of land not hitherto brought under cultivation, but it has especial reference to this city, and other towns in the Territory, where there are city lots that have not been utilized for crops during recent years. Formerly, every piece of land under an irrigating stream was utilized, but it has ceased to be fashionable to cultivate garden lots as was done in past years.

In this city there are hundreds of acres of land in the rear or surrounding the houses of the people, which could be cultivated as gardens, with great profit to the owners or occupants. It is of the most fertile character and might, as well as not, be made to produce great quantities of food. Hundreds of families who buy all the vegetables they consume might easily relieve themselves of this expense by planting the grounds that surround their residences. The work to be done this fall consists in clearing the land of rubbish, putting the fences in order, cleaning out old irrigating ditches, etc. If fertilizing material is at hand, it may be applied this fall, but, as a rule, the land we are now speaking of is rich enough to produce heavy crops without being fertilized. Many a family in this and other cities in the Territory could add to their incomes and cut down the cost of living in this way, to say nothing of the improvement in the appearance and the enhancement in the value of their premises.

In many country districts there is much land that might be cultivated to excellent advantage, which has not been heretofore, not to speak of the tracts that would make good dry farms. In fact there is land everywhere among our settlements that has not been put to the test of seeing what it can be made to produce. Here is a great source of lucrative employment, and it should be utilized more extensively than it has been in the past.

### ELECTROCUTION.

The question whether electricity is sure to kill, is, according to a dispatch, about to be submitted to actual tests in the state of New York, where, it is well known, condemned criminals are executed in the electric chair. Ever since the law was enacted, experts have claimed that the application of the current was not the actual cause of death, but that the culprits were killed

by the knife of the surgeon performing the autopsy. Lately the agitation on this subject has become so strong, that Governor Flower has consented to permit scientists to use the supposed corpse of the next condemned man as a subject of experiments, with a view of ascertaining the possibility of resuscitation.

That a question of this importance had not been definitely settled before the law was framed is a matter of surprise. One would naturally think that legal enactments of this kind should be based on knowledge and not on suppositions. A statute under which a human being is condemned to suffer the death penalty in a certain way and which places the executioner under the necessity of experimenting with a corpse to see whether that mode of carrying out the law is effective or not, is certainly queer, to say the least. But supposing the governor has the legal right to "permit" such ghastly experiments with the body of an executed criminal—a view, however, which is by no means clear—it is perhaps well that the matter be thoroughly inquired into at once and the law repealed if found absurd.

There is room for doubt as to the effectiveness of electricity to kill. From time to time reports come to hand of wonderful resuscitations of persons who have been exposed to high electric currents. Nikola Tesla subjects himself to millions of volts of the same kind of current that is used for electrocution, and some time ago a lady reporter of a New York paper submitted herself to interesting experiments from which she escaped unharmed. Animals have been revived after being apparently dead. They fell into a cataleptic state on being subjected to the "deadly" current, but by application of restoratives their various organs resumed their functions.

Professor d'Arsonval, of France, recently expressed his opinion that electrocution was not effective. He laid before the academy of science a report of an accident by which the victim had been subjected to a current of 4,500 volts for fully as long a time as is allowed in Sing Sing. When rescued there was no sign of life, but by means of artificial respiration he was restored. Another authority, writing in the *Electric World*, says:

It must be presumed therefore that electricity seldom kills outright, though the condition of suspended animation which it induces would result in death if not counteracted. If the body has actually been submitted to a current that will produce destructive tissue changes all efforts at resuscitation will of course be futile. If, on the other hand, only respiration and the heart's action have been temporarily arrested, there is a condition of syncope simulating apparent death by drowning, or from anaesthetics, and the physician knows that patients in this condition are frequently revived.

Laymen will appreciate the nature of this condition if it is explained as one of exaggerated faint and would not feel appalled upon encountering it if previously instructed how to cope with it. In an ordinary fainting spell the necessity to stimulate is universally appreciated. In syncope resulting from an electric shock stimulation is likewise indicated, but more vigorous measures are required. This is the only difference.

The concurrent opinion of those who

have closely studied the matter seems to be that it is always uncertain whether the electric current really kills; they do not doubt that death actually follows, either as a result of the application of the dissecting knife or in consequence of the gradual dissolution that ultimately sets in; they assert, however, that in the case of any and all of the electrocuted criminals there was a possibility of revival by the application of proper restoratives. No less authority than Tesla contends that he can bring back to life a man "killed" in an electric chair, if the attempt is made immediately after the execution.

The way some of the physicians treat the matter will not meet with general approval. One of them is quoted as saying:

Some of the men had no autopsy performed on them, I believe, and they were buried immediately. Now as to whether they ever revived I am not prepared to say, but if they did—well, when a person lies under six feet of earth he would not have much time to contemplate his fate before nature would do what the current had failed to do.

If the law substituting electrocution for the common method of disposing of criminals was framed as a concession to humane considerations, and not in order to give scientists an opportunity to experiment on human beings, it would seem from all this to have been premature. Electricity is as yet not thoroughly understood. The doubts expressed as to its sufficiency in the hands of the executioner are so well founded that the clamor for the repeal of the electrocution law will have to be heeded. The principle recognized in antiquity that "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," is correct as long as the death penalty must be considered necessary in the education of the human race. And surely, if there is a well founded objection to the rope or the bullet, science of today is not so poor in resources that it cannot suggest a means whereby the end is accomplished with a minimum of pain and yet with an absolute certainty, both vindicating the law and satisfying the well understood sentimentality of an advanced age.

### GIVE US THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Since the enabling act for the organization of the State of Utah became a law the News has been devoting some attention to the task of collecting suggestions and general information touching the Constitution that is to be. We arrogate to ourselves no especial credit for this work. It is something that no doubt every citizen in the Territory has been doing in his own way, as a regular duty to the State. We are all interested alike in the work and should be equally zealous to secure a worthy and capable instrument for our standard of law. With the numerous examples and the varied experiences of the other states before us; with our own unparalleled experience in probationary government for an index of our wants, we ought to be able to begin our new political life with as perfect a constitutional guarantee as is possible at this stage of the world. It is very important that we start