

ands of men who seek it may turn with every assurance that it will yield at least a livelihood, the soil. Newly settled localities on the east, west, north and south of this city are calling for more help in the struggle to subdue the elements and compel them to respond to the needs of man; and the response is certain if the effort is put forth. Meanwhile it is proper for the Legislature to consider, with wisdom combined with generosity, the situation, and afford what relief it can consistently.

One point rises prominently in this connection, which demands consideration. Whatever funds are provided with a view, primary or secondary, to the relief of the needy, ought to be laid out under such regulations as will insure the greatest possible amount of relief for every dollar spent. On the day succeeding that on which Governor West appointed the board of seven persons, since known as the Territorial Relief commission, to expend the \$2,000 appropriated by the Legislature for improving the Capitol grounds, the News urged co-operation between that body and the General Relief society which had been rendering such excellent service all winter, and whose work was so well organized. But we have not heard that any co-operation has been attempted. It is stated, as a matter of fact, that out of the first fifty men employed by the new commission, fifteen had just been discharged by the General Relief society, as having had work to relieve their present needs. This society has a general acquaintance with the situation as it prevails, and is thoroughly representative in character. With it are closely associated the Bishops and the ministers of all denominations throughout the city, who are in the best possible position to hear of all deserving cases of need. We are sorry that there should be any diffusion of effort in the disbursement of the funds that are available for these purposes. Such diffusion makes it impossible properly to economize means, or properly to guard against the deception of bilks and tramps. It is not yet too late to take steps to avoid this; at least, let it be done in any future appropriations for the benefit of the poor.

#### MAKING SUGAR.

Sugar is nothing more than charcoal and water. That is what the chemist says, and if you doubt it he can demonstrate the truth of his statement before your very eyes. It only requires a little moistened sugar, a few drops of sulphuric acid and the application of heat, and the sugar is separated into vapor of water, or steam, and charcoal, or carbon. There are twelve parts of charcoal to eleven of steam, or, more strictly speaking, chemical analysis shows that the best sugar (that from cane, maple and beets) consists, by weight, of twelve parts carbon, eleven parts oxygen, and twenty-two parts hydrogen. The poorer grades of sweetening substances, such as grape sugar, dextrose, glucose, honey, molasses, etc., consist of six parts each of charcoal and water; but this slight difference in

composition makes considerable variance in sweetness.

Although the experimental science of chemistry has taught us of what elements various substances are composed, there are very few instances in which a method has been discovered whereby the elements may be combined to produce the desirable compounds. It is one thing to analyze a substance and determine its component parts, but it is an entirely different thing to take the elements and by imitating or duplicating the processes of nature, unite them in the proper proportions and under the particular conditions necessary to produce the substance analyzed.

Sugar is one of those substances which, while it can be easily separated into the different elements of which it is composed, is not so easily produced by a reverse process, because the particular time, temperature and method of combination which in nature are so steadily and successfully worked out, are not yet within the general knowledge of men. When they are ascertained, if ever, sugar probably will be about as cheap as salt, or cheaper, and the sugar cane, sugar maple and sugar beet will be put to other uses than sugar production; for carbon, hydrogen and oxygen can be more easily and cheaply obtained from other sources.

That time, however, is not yet; though how soon it may be here none can tell. France has held the front place in the development of processes for sugar making, and now it is announced that a Frenchman has discovered a comparatively simple and inexpensive means of making sugar from the original elements. His method is kept secret, of course, but the general description which he has made of it to scientists and government representatives is that he commences his operation on carbon, and then successively adds, at certain temperatures and pressures, the hydrogen and oxygen, the result being sugar already refined and prepared for use. He says a large profit can be made and yet the sugar be retailed at two and half centimes, or half a cent, a pound. If he really has made such a discovery it will be one of the most marvelous in this age. The French chemists do not believe it, nor any others as yet for that matter, but as the alleged discoverer is to soon have an opportunity for an official demonstration of his process, it will not be long before it will be known whether his claim is a fraud or a great acquisition to human knowledge. In the meantime there need be no limitation of the beet crop in Utah for the coming season on account of any anticipated competition by the Frenchman's plan.

#### THE ENGLISH GAME OF POLITICS.

The British house of commons under the leadership of Mr. Gladstone has been induced to acquiesce in the amendments of the house of lords to the local government bill—a fact that, however dramatically treated by the Grand Old Man in his speech advocating concurrence, is significant of weakness in the much-vaunted plan of appealing to the country for the

"mending or ending" of the legislative powers of the peers. It is less than a week since the lords themselves were humbled into a complete back-down from their amendments to the parish council bills. Had they shown equal pliability with the measure just now acted upon, the conflict before the electors which Gladstone alludes to so threateningly might have been longer postponed, but when it came it might have been easier settled. By exercising the right to amend, and by forcing the representative house to admit, even under protest, that the amendments are not unworthy, the cause of the peers before the country is materially improved. As a branch of the legislative machine they have shown that they have defined and proper powers, and that in their use of these the lower house has been compelled to acquiesce. They have, perhaps unconsciously, but still effectively, matched the liberal chief-tain in politics—and that of itself is no small achievement.

We do not see just how the radical program of extinguishing the house of lords is going to be carried out without a complete destruction and rehabilitation of the national constitution, and we do not believe this can be done while England is a monarchy. Nevertheless, the popular feeling against the peers is growing sturdily and swiftly, and corrections of some of the more glaring abuses will doubtless have to be made in the near future. After laboring three months on the bill for Ireland's home rule, the house of commons had to see their work promptly and contemptuously rejected by their titled colleagues. The next measure of importance emanating from the lower house, the employers' liability bill, received more courteous treatment, but it was badly mangled and riddled by their lordships' amendments—so much so that Gladstone himself concluded to drop it. The third government measure, the parish councils bill above referred to, was with the country the most popular of them all; and on this measure, as stated, the peers were adroit enough to get into harmony with the commons, rather than leave so potent a weapon unblunted against themselves as their defiance of popular will in killing the bill would have been in the hands of their arch-enemy. Last of all comes the local government bill, which though originating in the commons, goes into the statute book with the impress and distinctiveness of the lords' vital amendments. Of the four measures, the upper house has accordingly killed one and carried one; the commons killed one which the lords had badly wounded, and carried one in face of the peers' protests. Numerically the honors are easy; but while in their one great victory the commons have secured an important popular advantage, the lords have shown themselves quite as adept in finesse—that is, in flexibility where that was necessary and in obstinacy where that would be safe—as their most devoted admirer could desire.

The government's policy as announced in the "Newcastle program" is now fairly well concluded. Gladstone's promises have been carried out so far as he and his party are concerned. Whether the showing is