

In this suggestion we think there is something worth considering. During the month of January the plumbing inspector issued but twenty permits, a labor of about twenty hours, for which he received his monthly stipend of \$90. Could he not also attend to the duties of sanitary inspector and thus be given work equivalent to his pay? It would seem so, and to the present alone the consideration of the feasibility of such a move may properly be suggested. If they see in it the merits of a just and equitable retrenchment, let them abolish the office of sanitary inspector; or, if that be regarded as necessary, let the man who looks after the plumbing business for less than an hour a day be dispensed with and the sanitary department take up his work.

This is but one pointer of a number that might be given—the cutting of the needless force in the treasurer's department, for instance. But it will do for a present suggestion, and to intimate to the city fathers that while the reduction made has been highly commendable, all that can be profitably done in this line has not yet been accomplished.

STATE RESERVOIR SITES.

There is before the State Legislature and committee a proposition regarding the sale of State reservoir sites that we think should receive careful consideration, not because of any virtue it possesses, but for the danger there is in it. The State receives 500,000 acres of government land for reservoir sites, and the proposition is to sell these sites, the object of course being to get a little money. But there is another side. If these sites pass from State ownership they must of necessity go into the hands of corporations sufficiently large to make monopolies. This should not be. The State can forever retain those reservoir sites for the benefit of the people. Companies who desire reservoir sites can take them up under the general laws now; but when the State selects its half million acres of reservoir sites, they should be maintained for the public good, not for private schemes. Unless the selling proposition is clearly shown to be the best for this end, which it does not appear to us to be, it ought to be rejected. The public good should be the first consideration.

THE IRRIGATION SURVEY.

The Irrigation survey, according to news from Washington, has been suspended from March 1 to June 30, or until a new appropriation is available. This survey, which includes the measurements of streams and the determination of the water supply from artesian and other wells, is being carried on by the U. S. Geological survey, under what is known as the division of hydrography. This division has also in charge the measurements of streams in all parts of the country, both East and West, in order to determine the extent and value of the water powers and the water resources available for industrial and municipal purposes. The amount appropriated last year

for this purpose was \$20,000; and when it is remembered that work is carried on from the Potomac to the Sacramento, and from the Missouri to the Rio Grande, it will be seen how inadequate the sum is. The attempt to stretch it to cover the most important points, especially during the low water period, has resulted in the expending of the greater part of the appropriation. Congress has been asked to appropriate \$4,500 to carry on the work during the period of floods, which in parts of the country where storage reservoirs must be built is the time for which information is most needed.

This is one of the few pieces of work carried on by the government which is of immediate value to our State, and our Senators and Representative in Congress should be urged to supply this small deficiency at once so that the work need not be stopped, and to appropriate a sufficient sum to extend the work next year. The sum of \$50,000 would seem to be none too great for this work, since it is being carried on economically in twenty states. At the same time such an amount is utterly insignificant when compared with the millions appropriated for rivers and harbors.

AN EASTERN publication named Today is responsible for the statement that buying legislation is a familiar part of the science of railway management. It says that the legislative investigations in New York proved that the Erie road spent \$1,000,000 in a single year, to influence legislation, and the New York Central \$205,000. The corruption money spent by the railroads of the United States is estimated at \$30,000,000 a year. It also says that it is a matter of common knowledge that the railroads practically own the legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and many other states; and that they do not always stop with the legislatures, but in Pennsylvania have captured the courts. John D. Lawson, author of "Leading Cases Simplified," warns the student of railway law "not to pay much heed to the decisions of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, at least during the past ten or fifteen years. The Pennsylvania railroad appears to run that tribunal with the same success that it does its own trains."

EMPRESS EUGENIE is reported to be developing tastes of such an eccentric character as to give rise to serious doubts about her mental equilibrium. Thus she is lavishing the most extravagant care and attention upon a little hedgehog which she picked up in her wanderings about her English country place at Farnborough. The velvet and satin-lined basket in which its nest has been arranged is of silver gilt, studded with jewels, while every day the widowed empress changes the dainty ribbon with which it is adorned. She talks to the little animal by the hour and insists on taking it about everywhere with her in her walks, her drives, and even at table, while at night it sleeps on a little console beside her bed. And yet some people who lavish so much care and attention on a pug dog are not regarded as in danger of losing their reasoning faculties.

THE UPPER house of legislative bodies is coming in for its share of criticism these days. There is the

British house of lords, the French senate, the United States Senate, and now there are unkind remarks about some of the bright particular stars of the less numerous branch of the Utah Legislature.

TO SOME of our law-makers, law-interpreters and law-enforcers is commended the example of "rigid government" and "close construction" furnished by President Lincoln in his reminiscences of a certain judge, of whom it was said that he would hang a man for blowing his nose in the street, but that he would quash the indictment if it failed to specify which hand he blew it with.

WHAT is the Monroe doctrine good for if it will not reach to and include the North Pole? That beautiful spot belongs at least half as much to the American hemisphere as to the other side of the world, even though the latter claims Nansen as a citizen.

THERE is a very general impression that this man Corbett who talks so much about his championship, could not be pulled within range of this other slugger, Fitzsimmons, with a log-chain and a span of mules.

CURIOSITY as to what the bear saw when he came out to look for his shadow on the 2nd of February is now supplanted by the query as to whether it is the lion or the lamb that is to typify the incoming of March.

THE GIFT of language has heretofore been held to qualify its possessor for the law or for Congress. Latterly it appears to have found its most fitting place with alleged habitués of the prize ring.

GREAT SALT LAKE.

He who stands upon your shore
And sees the line your restless hand
Is etching on your floor
Of mingled salt and shifting sand,
Knows well it was the same hand traced
The lines which mountain yet retain
High up their slopes—still uneffaced—
Which mark for miles your old domain.

'Tis ages since your ripples kissed
On mountain side that boundary line,
Which fades away in purple mist
Like memory made dim by time;
Yet ranges which you once embraced
Now old and burned by desert sun,
Still show the time your kisses traced
When you were great, and they were young.

It matters naught how wide your sway—
Your greatest charm is not your power,
For rippling on your sands of gray
'Tis plain that beauty is your power;
And flashing from your sun-bleached bed
That brilliant beauty still is seen—
In native pride you lift your head,
And seem to say, "I still am queen."

And holding court in desert's sand,
The sunset lends you pomp's glare;
While mountains, robed in purple, stand
Like courtiers upon your shore,
And pay their tribute to your youth,
As granddaughters gray, by love beguiled,
Or moved by duty or by truth,
Pay tribute to a little child.

But o'er your waves of rainbow tints,
And through your pomp of sunset's gold,
A nameless silence ever hints
Some secret which remains untold;
However gay your mask of youth,
It cannot hide that awe or dread,
Which lowly whispers of the truth,
Until one feels that you are dead.

And in the desert's burning sand,
Like wrinkled glans dumb with age,
The distant mountains sphinx-like stand
And show their ancient vasa-lage—
And yet they seem to draw away,
For shrinking back, as if from harm,
Into the tinted mists they seem to say:
"Your birthright—battered for a charm!"
—FRANK QUALTROUGH.