

tenants of the deep may be numbered by thousands of species. Among the finned tenants of the profounder parts of the ocean, we find the most startling departures from the types with which we are familiar in coastal waters. In general shape they differ little from their kindred which dwell in the sunlit shallows. The differences are largely in the mechanism of the senses, especially of the eyes. These organs undergo surprising variations with reference to the enduring of the darkness of these deeps. In certain of the species the sight not only fails, but the visual apparatus entirely disappears; in others the eyeballs become very much enlarged and the nervous apparatus increased, and are evidently arranged to catch mere glimpses of light. As it is certain that no trace of sunlight can ever penetrate through the deep which overlies the realm where these animals dwell, the adaptation of these eyes to the needs of different vision at first appeared to be a very inexplicable matter. Some recent discoveries provide us with what seem to be an adequate explanation of the enigma. It has been found that certain of the denizens of the deep sea-floors have phosphorescent parts of their bodies which serve to give light in the manner in which it is yielded by the familiar fire-flies and glow-worms. The end secured by these light-giving parts is probably the attraction of the sexual mates of the creatures. In the utter darkness of the ocean this indispensable end could be attained in no other way; even the fishes appear to have this beautiful provision for avoiding the most serious evils of the darkness in which they are compelled to exist.

It is evident that the fishes with large eyes would also have a decided advantage in the pursuit of food, for their keen vision would enable them to discern the glimmer of the phosphorescent light for some distance through the still, clear water. The difficulty comes in the case of those fishes which under the same general conditions of existence in darkness, combined with the same need of food, and of finding their mates, have not only failed to better their sight, but have abandoned it altogether. There is, perhaps, no other simple instance in which we may so well perceive the cardinal difficulty which the extreme selectionist encounters in his effort to explain all the complications of the organic world by the single hypothesis of the survival of the fittest. Here are two groups of like creatures introduced to the conditions of utter darkness after long ages of experience in the realms of light under circumstances which, so far as we can perceive, are absolutely identical, the creatures enter upon widely divergent paths of variation. The lesson we may read in these facts seems plain; it is to the effect that environment alone is not competent to determine the way followed by a species in its process of change.

J. R. Shephard applied to Registrar H. Grinnett for registration this morning. On the presentation of the elector's oath, Shephard refused to take it. Grinnett then refused to register him. This will be made a test case by the Republicans to try the constitutionality of the Idaho test oath.

### THE CENTER STREET GRADE.

The property owners on the east side of Center street, who have entered a respectful protest against the intended manner of grading a portion of that street, are very indignant because of the unwarranted statement made when the petition was presented to the Council on the 18th inst. A councilman was reported as saying, in reference to the protest, "that it was all a bluff game anyhow." A local newspaper states that the protest is not likely to receive favorable attention, and a member of the Council said that it is necessary to cut down the street because the grade is now so steep that it is almost impossible to run the fire apparatus up there. As it seems that the indications are against favorable reconsideration of the matter by the Council, I beg the privilege of presenting some of the facts to the public through your columns.

In the first place, the signers of the petition are owners of the lots on three blocks only of Centre street, the first three blocks on east side of said street, just north of Mr. McCormick's residence. That portion of the street is, for most of its length comparatively level, and does not need to be cut down for the purpose of reducing the steep grade. The steep ascent, from either end of the street, is made before those blocks are reached, therefore to cut the street down in that section is superfluous, and a wholly unnecessary expense, so far as making the ascent easier is concerned. We are given to understand that the city wants the dirt that can be obtained by lowering the grade, to fill depressions in other streets (they would "rob Peter to pay Paul,") and can thus obtain it cheaply. Surely this can not justify the city in permanently damaging the property involved in this matter.

As stated in the protest, if the street is cut down as ordered, to a level with the west sidewalk, access to the lots on the east side will be made considerably more difficult than at present; and, as most of the owners are now under the necessity of climbing lengthy flights of steps to get onto their lots, they naturally object to the contemplated great increase of their inconveniences. They are not ambitious to be elevated to the rank of cliff dwellers, without wings to aid in carrying them up the unsightly unvalled heights which the city proposes leaving in front of their habitations.

Such grading would also add very materially to the already too steep incline of streets leading eastward from Centre Street to Capitol Hill. Instead of increasing the difficulty of access to that desirable location, there should be an effort made to render it more easy. I am hardly prepared to believe the rumor that there has been, and is, a determination on the part of boomers of "additions" in other portions of the city to detract from the advantages of Capitol Hill as an eligible location for the best class of residences, certainly I can not think that any of the city councilors are parties in the matter; nevertheless the effect of grading Centre street, as intended, would be an aid to real estate schemers in such a plan.

It is true that the street should be

properly graded, from the east to the west side, making it as level as practicable in that direction, so that the street cars and wagons may have room to travel without danger, but the method decided upon, viz., cutting it down to a level with the west sidewalk, is a manifest injustice, and altogether in favor of the west side residents and the Street Railway company. Besides, I think it can be shown that a cheaper, and certainly more equitable way to adjust the difficulty is that suggested by some of the interested parties. I allude to the proposition that the height of the street, from level of west sidewalk to level of east sidewalk, be equally apportioned by a wall one-half such height being built along the edge of the water flume on the side, and a similar wall to retain the sidewalk on east side. This would provide the full available width of the street for traffic; it would not interfere with grading the streets leading to Capitol Hill; and it would fairly divide the present disadvantages of the grade between both sides of the street.

Furthermore, if the street is cut down to a level with the west sidewalk, as ordered, and a retaining wall is not erected to support the east sidewalk, the requisite slope will materially reduce the width of this narrow street, making traffic almost impossible, and assuredly dangerous, when the car track is laid in the centre.

I apologize for intruding on your space; this is a longer explanation than I intended making, but it seems necessary in view of the assertion that our application "was all a bluff game anyhow." Yours respectfully,

D. M. MCALLISTER.

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 26, 1892.

### AN ELECTION DIFFICULTY.

In the Third District Court this morning, Richard W. Young, J. Fewson Smith and Wm. J. Tuddenham, planted a suit against Lucius E. Hall, arising out of the Salt Lake municipal election on February 10th, 1890. The complaint states that at that election the plaintiffs were duly elected to hold the office of councilmen for the Fourth Ward, for a term of two years; that the defendant Hall, one Louis Cohn and one Warden J. Noble, each pretending to have been elected as councilmen from this same ward, unlawfully usurped and intruded into said office, and unlawfully acted for a period of seventeen months; that under the laws of the Territory and the ordinances of Salt Lake City each of the plaintiffs was entitled to receive for his services as Councilman the sum of \$250 per annum, and the further amount of \$5 each for every special meeting of the City Council. But the defendants, pretending to act as Councilmen, unlawfully drew this allowance, claiming the same as salary, the aggregate amounting to \$418.35. Plaintiffs had made demand upon the defendants for such money illegally drawn by them, but they had not returned it, nor any part thereof. Hence judgment is demanded for \$418.35, legal interest, and costs of suit.

Le Grand Young is the plaintiff's attorney.