

is quite proper. There are others who effect much of the exchange for the pecuniary profit it brings, and ordinarily this is a safe business proposition. But the circumstances now are not ordinary; they are of a nature to warn against the speculative disposal of breadstuffs, to have it shipped from these valleys. The possessor of grain is under a moral responsibility not to follow a policy that will work hardship upon others. In case the shortage of wheat crop continues, the heavy shipment of the grain from here is sure to burden the people in time to come. Since such a continued shortage is imminent, the philanthropic sentiment of the public should be against robbing the granaries of this intermountain region, for merely money-making purposes. We may get the gold, but there are times when gold cannot be transformed into food. When trees put forth their leaves, then summer is nigh. The signs of the present in the grain supply ought to convey a like impressive lesson.

THE LUETGERT CASE.

Wonder what this country would do if it didn't have a huge criminal case always on hand? There is no need to speculate very much as to how it would then deport itself or what the probable consequences of such a hiatus, for the very simple reason that the period is not likely ever to arrive, judging of the future by the past and the present. "One woe doth tread upon another's heels so fast they follow," says Shakespeare's Ophelia; and so it is with our criminal cases celebre. One of them is no sooner disposed of than another is ready to take its place and absorb the attention of a world which, through the tyranny of custom, no longer looks askant upon harrowing details of gory deeds, but expects, and in some cases even longs for them. Each presents some new phases, some fresh developments in criminology, and herein is found the needed variety to prevent the whole situation from growing stale through constant presentation.

The case now on trial in Chicago is not altogether new as to methods and outcome of the alleged crime, but it presents some novel situations. Luetgert, a wealthy sausage maker, was estranged from his wife and she from him. He slept and partly lived in his office at the factory, while his wife remained at home. One evening she visited his office at his invitation, and that is the last anyone in the neighborhood ever saw of her so far as known. After a thorough search by the police, suspicion rested on the husband and he was arrested, examined and committed without bail to await indictment and trial. The theory of the prosecution is that Luetgert strangled his wife and then placing her body in a vat in the factory vaults, reduced it to a small quantity of pulpy fluid, impossible of identification, by means of a heated solution of caustic potash. Such pulp was found, perhaps a quart or it altogether, with two or three small fragments of bone and some rings which were fully identified as the missing woman's. To set all

doubts at rest as to the possibility of such a thing being done, the prosecution resorted to the revolting performance of subjecting a body to such treatment, the result being exactly the same residuum as was previously found in the vat. This is horrible enough in all conscience, but now the defense propose to do likewise to prove otherwise. They claim that in the case of the experiment by the state a carver which had been such for some time was used whereby disintegration was not only facilitated but made possible, and they will undertake to show that in the case of a human body from which life has just departed no such results can be obtained as are had under the other conditions.

The defense also claim that Mrs. Luetgert is still alive but for purposes of her own remains under cover. Detectives have been employed and put on the trail almost everywhere at an enormous expense, but they have not so far been rewarded by so much as a clue. Thus the case stands, and thus, with the customary and inevitable elaborations, reiterations and extensions, will the jury have to pass upon it. This body is not yet in existence and is not likely to be for several days, the state of the public mind in the neighborhood of the proceedings being such that it will require a great array of tallmen to make possible the selection of twelve men who have formed no opinion and are not biased. It is quite likely that we shall be well along in September before a verdict is reached, if indeed one shall be reached at all.

A TIMELY MEASURE.

If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, there is but one way by which a meeting between the two can be brought about—Mahomet must go to the mountain.

If better times refuse to make their appearance; if old money is withheld from circulation and new money will not come; if property does not advance in value so that taxation may properly be increased—all these together mean a steadily increasing pressure upon those who must bear the public burdens. There is then but one thing to do. That which we have must be given a negative advancement in power by narrowjacking down and cheapening the things which are to be done. There is no other present way.

The people are heavily laden with the burden of taxation, and receive in return no corresponding benefit. Even if no increase of expenditures were provided, the assessments against their property could not be curtailed, because of the natural growth of the municipality in spite of the depressed times, and the outstanding indebtedness, the interest alone on which eats up more than half the revenues. As we are not repudiators nor even those who seek to shun or put off the evil day, there is but one plan by which a better condition of things may be reached—economy all along the line, retrenchment everywhere, each item of expense gauged to the lowest possible standard consistent with the proper discharge of duty. With the amounts thus hus-

banded the public debt can be reduced little by little, each payment thereon bringing down the interest along with the principal, until finally they will have been so curtailed that the revenues will be ample for all purposes without making the taxpayer's load any heavier than it is; after that, the load itself can also be reduced should the occasion still demand and justify it.

With such object in view, the News commends in the heartiest and most unreserved manner the movement inaugurated by Councilman O'Meara at last night's session of the City Council. It is somewhat sweeping, but the times require such action. Perhaps the measure presented needs revision, which it is likely to receive, and wherever modification or enlargement seems to be demanded, let it be had. Independent of the supreme fact that this is the only way by which the city can make ends meet and escape actual bankruptcy, is the consideration that should have weight at all times—public office should be a matter of public duty, neither to be sought nor shunned, with only such compensation attached as the nature of the service and the requirements of the case, as ascertained in the light of justice and economy, seem to demand. This would mean that the "snag" industry would be subjected to a withering frost; that places would no longer be sought because of the money there is in them, nor, for that matter sought at all; and finally that we should find our way out of the wilderness instead of plunging further and further in.

It may occur to some that the Councilmen might be a little less discriminating and have given an example which should press upon themselves and the other city officers with equal force and not let their successors alone have to put the plan into practical working shape. This is quite a natural thought and under other conditions than those which obtain would be a decidedly happy one; but unluckily the city charter forbids anything of the kind, so there is no use discussing it.

UNIFORM DIVORCE LAW.

The action of the National Bar association, on the report now before it suggesting a uniform divorce law for all the states, is likely to have a very important bearing on legislation pertaining to the dissolution of marriage. At present, there appears a probability that the association will endorse the draft of the bill now submitted, and that its adoption to a marked extent in most of the states will follow.

The main points proposed for this new divorce legislation are that no person who has not resided for two years in the state where the suit is brought shall be entitled to a divorce; personal service in the state shall be had on the defendant; the divorce shall not affect the legitimacy of children; proceedings must be had in the county where the complainant resides; service other than personal must be made by order of the court; foreign marriages may be proved by acknowledgment, cohabitation and other circumstantial testimony; alimony and transfers