

what they are doing

Meeting are received and discussed reports of Committees, and papers giving the results of researches made by individuals.

The recent Annual Meeting which was the Sixteenth, lasted from June 24th until June 28th inclusive, and of the 1500 members of the Society about 400 attended, bringing with them about 100 ladies.

In regard to the relation between our subject and municipal corporations, we feel that we can but feebly state the case. We will not admit that there is any such thing as "boodling" among civic officials, but still we claim that a very great part of the public's money is wasted by mismanagement and ignorance, rather than wholesale dishonesty.

Councils, you save \$1,000 on your engineers and you lose \$100,000 on your contractors and cheap masqueraders, and then the work is seldom satisfactory. By all means employ honest, intelligent, well trained men, and pay them salaries that will enable them to be so. And so too have at the command of your Purchasing or Stores' Departments, men of knowledge and judgment and put your faith in them, for their pride is quality, economy and efficiency, rather than patronage, slick deals and quick fortunes.

Queer things about taxation

Once upon a time the editor of this paper became possessed of the laudable ambition to own a home. Having managed to save up a few dollars, he purchased upon the payment plan, some property which had been taken in on mortgage by an Eastern investment company.

The house was in such bad repair that it was not fit for occupancy. The cellar was full of stagnant water, weeds grew rankly about the house, the porches were rotted and sagging, the house unpainted. The lot was a couple of feet above the sidewalk, and the earth had washed and caved, making it impassable. The place was an eyesore and a menace to health; we wanted a home and saw its possibilities.

It was located in a good neighborhood, and from it we had a beautiful view over a pretty valley. Being rather handy with tools, we went to work before and after office hours. We repaired the porches, painted the house, sodded and terraced the yard and drained the cellar and put in curbing and parking. We worked early and late, until at last we had, as many people told us, one of the prettiest homes in the town—and then the assessor came around and doubled our taxes.

We were fined because we had worked hard and converted disorder into order, ugliness into beauty, and had wiped out a plague spot in the neighborhood. It is also true that the owner of a few vacant lots adjoining our place immediately advanced them in price, but neglected to cut the tail weeds which grew on them. It may be added that his taxes were not increased, notwithstanding the fact that he held his lots at a higher price.

We have told this story because the statement itself ought to cause some one to do some hard thinking. There surely is something radically wrong with a system of taxation in which a person is fined for merely being industrious.—Delphos Republican.



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