

the streets or any of them. The month of August is certainly not the time of year for the sort of economy which results in the accumulation of dirt. It seems quite certain that a "sober second thought" would hit upon some method of saving the city treasury from a deficit without the accumulation of a surplus of dirt.

The fact that a portion of the floor of the new High School building fell yesterday, even under the enormous weight of 128,000 pounds of wet sand, is not reassuring. It raises a fear lest the carelessness that allowed such a weight to be piled on the floors may extend to the workmanship on the building itself. The catastrophe fortunately did not involve the loss of human life, and may result in good if it leads to a thorough inspection, by persons interested only in the security of the building, of every portion of the work as it proceeds. It should be known by the public when the High School building is completed that it is as strong as the best material and human skill can make it. There must be no chances taken.

The gratifying announcement is made by City Engineer DONNELLY that public improvements amounting to nearly \$700,000 are in progress in Kansas City. That money, properly expended, will result in a substantial improvement in the condition of the streets. It will put down a good many miles of solid thoroughfares, and thus supply an urgent want. It will make the city much more presentable and will prove a great convenience to the general public. Besides promoting this desirable end it will furnish employment to a large force of laboring men and extend the means of support to many families who would suffer without this means of dependence. The funds disbursed for this purpose are twice blessed. It benefits the city which gives it and it places the workingmen who receive it in a position to encourage trade by purchasing for themselves and their families the necessaries of life. It is good business policy for the city to go on with public improvements and to keep money in circulation.

MAYOR HARRISON of Chicago in gloomily threatening the country with riots unless "Congress gives the people money," ranks himself in the same category with Governor WASTE of Colorado, who threatens to ride his horse in blood to the bridle bits if his views on silver legislation are not carried out. The fluency and flippancy with which men of prominence and authority invoke riot, battle, murder and sudden death on the peaceful people of the United States, if this, that or the other financial scheme is, or is not, carried out, would be shocking if it were not silly and disgusting. A riot in a great city like Chicago is the "steepest earthly type of hell," yet Mayor HARRISON, by anticipating, sanctifying it, unless "Congress gives the people money." And how is the money to be "given" and how much of it? Is it to be doled out to the people direct as a charity? And, when so disposed of, how soon will be the need of another deal to avert the possibility of riot? There is no danger that it will not be averted, no difficulty that may be surmounted by the peaceful and lawful means of a few people, and the greatest danger, the most to be feared, is that all-

opinion, the use of the two metals is, impossible under present conditions. If his reasoning is right one metal or the other must give way. He prefers a gold standard to a silver standard. So do the people of the United States. If the continued operation of the SHERMAN law will land the country on a silver basis it ought to be repealed at once. If it would not do that the opponents of unconditional repeal ought to be able to show where the logic of the President is at fault; and to show plainly why the continued purchase of silver is not dangerous.

#### A TIME FOR SELF-CONTROL.

CARTER HARRISON, the Mayor of Chicago, took occasion in a public address yesterday to use this language:

There are 2,000,000 people in Chicago today unemployed and almost destitute of money. If Congress does not give us money we will have riots that will shake the country.

The tendency of all that sort of talk is mischievous in the highest degree. Its effect is to augment popular discontent, and to suggest reactionary methods of redress. Appeals of this character are especially reprehensible in such times as these. It is easy to intensify the prevailing excitement, and it is to be sincerely regretted that demagogues can always be found in this country who are eager to improve such occasions. It is well known that the sensitive condition of capital and the consequent restriction of credit has exerted a discouraging effect upon industry, and that many workingmen have been thrown out of employment. That result is to be sincerely deplored, but it will not be obviated by any such means as CARTER HARRISON suggests. There is no reason to fear that the existing depression will continue for any protracted period. A revival of activity in industry and trade is looked for in the near future, and awaiting that desired condition it is the duty of every community where there is enforced idleness among the workingmen to exercise a spirit of philanthropy and to tide over the emergency by a display of mutual helpfulness. We pretend to be a Christian and a law-abiding people. It is a good time to exemplify these boasted virtues. There is plenty of food and money in this country to prevent suffering and to provide against want. It will not reflect much credit upon the experiment of self government in America if the present crisis fails to bring out the power of the people to stand firm in the hour of trial, and to show ourselves worthy of those great moral and political principles which we profess.

#### ACT QUICKLY.

It is the judgment of the President, as expressed in his message, that the maxim, "He gives twice who gives quickly," indicates the duty of Congress in relation to the currency question. This well quoted epigram furnishes a suggestive text to the lawmakers, which is worthy of all acceptance. It is clearly manifest that whatever is done by Congress ought to be done quickly. There is no excuse for temporizing or delay. The popular feeling of suspense will not be allayed until the question which Congress has been called to consider is settled. To prolong the matter and to defer final action beyond a reasonable period of debate will only tend to further distrust business and to augment public distrust. The issue in controversy is not new. It

The plan recommended by the President is in the interest of early relief from the financial embarrassments which afflict the country, and it will by no means defeat his long-cherished purpose of lightening the burdens of taxation which protection has imposed upon the people.

There has never been any reason to doubt the President's thorough loyalty to the cause which he espoused when it had few friends, and which he has made popular by his valiant advocacy, and the reference which he makes to it in his message is a convincing assertion of his undiminished eagerness and earnestness of purpose regarding the great economic reform.

#### THE desire of the people of Oklahoma for

statehood is natural and proper, but there is another party in interest beside the people within the present limits of Oklahoma, viz. the Union itself. The admission of a new state is a matter affecting the interests of all the states. There should be an avoidance of premature action. The whole of the territory which is to be contained in the new state (which should include the present Indian territory) should be not merely opened to white settlement, but be occupied and controlled by white people before a state constitution is adopted. The constitution to be submitted to Congress should represent the views and wishes and sentiments of the whole people of the whole territory and future state. It is not desirable to have a sectional or minority constitution—what in Oklahoma might be called a "sooner" constitution. While it is to be hoped that Oklahoma will not be deprived for an unreasonable time of the rights and privileges and dignities of statehood, it should first be definitely settled of what the new state is to consist, and in a general way who is to live in it.

#### Are There, Then, No Children Now?

It is claimed that the children of to-day do not read the story books of a former generation of children, that they do not read Mr. JACOB ABBOTT'S "Rollo" books, saying nothing of the "older favorites," as "Sanford and Merton," and the narrative of the oldest inhabitant, "Robinson Crusoe," that, in fact, they do not read stories of the impossible or supernatural; that they do not care anything for fairies, or monsters, or giants or anything beyond the probable, the actual, or, in fact, the commonplace; that to them there is no Jack the Giant Killer, with his bean stalk, nor Cinderella with her ugly sisters and her beautiful glass slipper.

If this is true, it is calculated to inspire most melancholy reflections, for the admission would mean that there are no more genuine children such as lived on the earth before the flood, and for many generations after it. It would destroy a long cherished belief that children, little children, have been always the same, a belief strengthened by the fact that boys rolling hoops and spinning tops have been found on Egyptian monuments, and rag dolls with eyes and noses like those in vogue to-day have been exhumed from the dusty depths of most ancient cities, buried long ages from the sun.

If it has come to pass that children no longer believe in fairies, notwithstanding that Titania and her train continue to enchant grown people in a "Midsummer Night's Dream," if it has come to pass that a healthy boy no longer finds an interest in worthy Robinson Crusoe, whose parents as everybody formerly knew, lived, in Hull, and, with him, in his pottery and his goods and his man Friday; if it has come about that this fascinating

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