

for track or siding granted by the commission is now limited to twenty-five years. Under the old system all city sup-plies were bought by contracts made as a result of recommendations by committees of the council of thirty-two aldermen. The recommendation of the committee could be accepted, or it could be rejected with a huge row in council, personal quarrels, vote swapping and petty politics as an aftermath, with a good chance for no contract at all. Under the commis-sion, all purchases for the city are made through a central purchasing office, for which one of the commis-sion, all purchases for the town. The result is a better quality of sup-plies at better prices. A council of thirty-two members was not the only cumbersome body under the old form of government. There was an independent health board, an independent park board and an independent water works com-mission. These boards were usually composed of politicans selected as a reward for political service. When internal quarrels it often spent its time scrapping with the boards, till the poor citizen was hopelessly be-wildered. The commission government charter

wildered.

The commission government charter provides for a health officer, a su-perintendent of parks and a superin-tendent of water works. Each of these officers comes directly under one or another of the commissioners, who is held responsible by the voters for the work of his department. A compe-tent doctor with a competent assist-ant is at the head of the health de-partment and men specially qualified have been chosen for the other posi-tions. The movie habit is just as strong in

The movie habit is just as strong in The movie habit is just as stong in Reading as anywhere else and under the commission every moving picture theater has been made a healthful place for children. Markets and other establishments that offer food for sale have been han-dled like the theaters—inspected reg-ularly and graded.

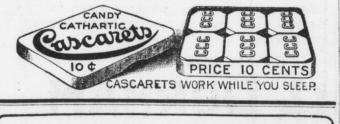
that offer food for sale have been han-dled like the theaters—inspected reg-ularly and graded. Since the commission started op-erations a new reservoir for the city water system has been put in. A new pipe line for augmenting the supply has been laid and water rates have been reduced. Plans are being made for a municipal slaughterhouse and a municipal hospital. A garbage in-cineration plant, owned by the city but not used for several years by the old council, has been put to work, and rates for collection of garbage have thereby been reduced. The rates for public lighting have been cut 10 per cent. Muddy, unsanitary alleys have been paved and hundreds of connections with sewers have been required. Viaducts across railroad tracks have been built and more than 100 squares of asphalt, brick and ma-cadam paving have been laid. Such are the principal results of two years of commission government in "Reading.

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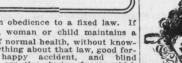






We are all greatly indebted to those who tell their experiences. And among the read about and are of immediate im-properties of the reader of the store of the spec-tal determines of the spec-tal determines of the spec-tal determines of the spec-of the store of the store of

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