

THE OBSERVER

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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

The voices of many men prominent in politics, business and other lines of endeavor have been heard in connection with the solution of the trust problem. All have offered theories of a control of large combinations of capital which they consider will bring results satisfactory to business men, investors and the general public.

In an article in the January number of McClure's magazine, Mr. Cook endeavors to show the acute danger to the United States of private monopoly control. He proposes "as a simple and practical way out," the establishment of an industrial democracy through the agency of a 25 billion dollar securities holding company which shall take over the stock of all the

railroads and operate them. Mr. Cook declares that either such public control as can be secured through a holding company, the stock of which is guaranteed by the government of the United States, or government ownership are sure to come in this country. In his opinion, government ownership has not always been a success, and that even in Switzerland, France and Italy, where the railroads have been nationalized for a considerable time, the experience with government ownership has been far from satisfactory.

"Popular sovereignty, with ignorance and poverty in control, early bankrupted many in the north," he says. "Popular sovereignty bankrupted American cities like Elizabeth, N. J., and Memphis, Tenn., and in the great development of municipal enterprises in recent years it has piled up in American cities a pretentious burden of debt, \$1,718,000,000 in 1908, according to the United States bureau census. That amount is more than one half of the national debt at the close of the civil war, when intelligent men despaired of the nation's solvency. Were it not for the constitutional limitations and prohibitions, the city would be greater still.

"Public ownership of railroads and other means of transportation are not untried experiments in the United States; indeed, after beginning the transportation enterprises of the country were quite largely undertaken or aided by states and cities. With scarcely an exception, those experiments were failures. Judge Thomas M. Cooley in his history of Michigan wrote a graphic account of that state's disastrous experience with railroads and canals, drawn from his own observations."

WHY VENTILATE THE DAIRY BARN.

One of the great causes of disease of animals is unfavorable external conditions, for no living thing can thrive unless the surrounding conditions are favorable for its growth. All animals have a certain capacity of enduring unfavorable influences. This capacity is usually spoken of as "vital resistance." This may be great or small, but every animal must have more or less of it or it cannot continue its struggle for existence.

It was recognized more than a century ago that impure air induces disease. Impure air is not the cause of the disease, but constitutes an unfavorable surrounding condition. The vitiated air of stables reduces the vital resistance of an animal, rendering it less adaptable to the extremes of conditions to which it may be exposed and more susceptible to infection, against which it has no sure defense.

Dairy barns are very frequently poorly ventilated. The dairy cow is then not only required to live, but to work under unfavorable influences and she often falls a victim to such diseases as tuberculosis, pneumonia, bronchitis, colds, etc. Foul air is one of the prime factors in the production of such diseases.

Since the advent of sanitary science in connection with ventilation the air space allowed for each animal has been increased, and a number of methods of ventilation have been devised.

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Annual Clearance Of suit cases and Trunks Our entire line reduced 20 per cent. See the prices in window

New shipment of J. E. Tilt Shoes just received and included at annual sale prices

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"THE TELLTALE KNIFE" Sellig A well knit and interesting melodrama.

"AT THE STROKE OF TWELVE" Essanay A very strong dramatic story.

"LOGGING AND MILLING SWEDEN" Pathe Faithfully reproducing these important operations in that northern country.

"HEROES OF THE MUTINY" Vitagraph Gratitude and love make heroes in this thrilling drama.

"MOTHER STRONG ON HYPNOTISM" Pathe Comedy, with no lack of vigorous laughs.

"ONLY A BUNCH OF FLOWERS I PLUCKED FOR YOU ONE DAY" Sung by SHERWOOD WILLIAMS

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The stability of this institution, The substantial men behind it, Its reputation for progressiveness, Its large loaning capacity, Its spirit of accommodation, have attracted customers whose deposits aggregate over \$700,000.00. Promote your interests by allying yourself as a depositor with this strong and successful institution.

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON. CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00 SURPLUS 115,000.00 RESOURCES 1,000,000.00

United States Depository

The exercise of a little care in such matters will protect the health of animals, prevent premature death, and also make possible the highest working efficiency of the herd.

THEATRICALS SUFFER THIS SEASON.

This is the most disastrous season for theatrical companies that has been seen for years, judging by the mourning of 1,000 to 1,500 actors and actresses who are in Chicago, idle, swarming at the agencies and "stalling" at hotels and boarding houses. Whether it is due to the moving picture shows or the bursting of the vaudeville bubble the results are hard on histrionic genius and all surplusage, furs and wardrobe that can be "soaked." Forty companies have "closed" during the last three weeks in the surrounding states and beat a more or less orderly retreat to Chicago. There is real pathos in plenty among these people of the stage. Company after company has returned to Chicago within the last week," said a booking agent. "There are 200 applications for every place I can offer." "At least a thousand actors and actresses are looking for work here now," was the statement of another office which closed three companies recently. "Usually when the new year comes around there are a large number of companies going out, but this year it is all coming in and nothing going out." "There are hundreds of chorus girls here now looking for places where usually it is hard to find any at this time of the year." Harry Askin said. "Managers are complaining that they cannot get enough shows and the owners of the companies are saying they cannot get audiences. I am placing a large number with the southern stock companies, but hundreds are going to be out of work during the cold spell. I am afraid."

"THIS IS MY 33RD BIRTHDAY"

William T. Foster, president of Reed college, the great educational institution that is being built near Portland, Ore., was born in Boston, Mass., January 18, 1879. After graduating from Harvard college in 1901 he taught English at Bates college for two years. In 1904 he went to Bowdoin college as instructor in English and argumentation, and became professor in 1905. The year 1909-10 he had a leave of absence from Bowdoin, which he spent at Teachers' college, Columbia university, in the study of the college curriculum. At Columbia university he also filled a position as lecturer in educational administration, and completed the residence requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy in education and sociology.

Congratulations to:— Austin Dobson, the noted English poet, 72 years old today. Olga Nethersole, the famous emotional actress, 42 years old today. Willis S. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau, 56 years old today. E. S. Candler, Jr., representative in congress from the First Mississippi district, 50 years old today. Seth Low, former mayor of New

York City and president of the National Civic Federation, 62 years old today.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

- January 18. 1641—Marquis de Louvois, the great war minister of Louis XIV, born. Died July 16, 1691. 1689—Baron de Montesquieu, famous French author and scientist, born. Died Feb. 10, 1755. 1797—Weekly mail service established between the United States and Canada. 1802—Town of Detroit (Michigan) incorporated. 1812—Amos S. Blake, constructor of the first locomotive ever seen in New England, born in Brookfield, Vt. Died Feb. 18, 1895. 1871—German empire proclaimed. 1873—Lord Edward Bulwer Lytton the English novelist and playwright, died. Born May 25, 1803. 1900—Statue of Daniel Webster unveiled in Washington. 1911—Henry Cabot Lodge re-elected United States senator from Massachusetts.

Ten thousand cigar makers in Westphalia, Germany, are on strike.

Notes from the Labor World.

Denmark's trade union membership at the end of 1910 was 131,563. The state labor department is displaying great activity in the enforcement of the eight hour law in Oklahoma. Hotel, coffee house and restaurant employes in Serbia must not be kept on duty more than 12 hours during the day or ten hours at night. The South African Labor Herald, a paper devoted to the interest of wage earners, has been started in Cape Town, the initial issue consisting of eight pages. The total number of workmen's houses already constructed near the city of Havana amounts to 395. These are sold to the workmen on small annual payments. According to the preliminary report of the census bureau, the average wages of men employed in the manufacture of explosives in this country only reaches \$686 a man a year. Nearly 1,000,000 women in the United States are either farmers or farm laborers, and the number is said to be rapidly increasing, due to the popularity of the homestead in the west.



After a Cold Auto Ride

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