

THE OBSERVER

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LITTLE SAVINGS IN BUSINESS.

Whatever one may think of the trusts in general one must acknowledge that some of them have set high standards in lowering costs of production, reducing overhead charges and in general making trifling reforms that in the aggregate accomplish the great economies of industry. Business men in search of efficiency well might consider, for instance, the example which the Guggenheim smelting trust has furnished. It recently added a big smelting concern to its holdings and as a first step to reform in conditions offered \$100,000 to the man who after making an inspection suggested changes that would end in making the plant pay a stated sum per year. The prize attracted an efficiency doctor whose prescription brought about the desired result. The Guggenheims promptly hired him.

There are a good many plants in this country that would be the better for a careful diagnosis. It is the rule rather than the exception to see countless steps wasted in useless trips that a little thought would save; it is common to see energy expended in false motions that add nothing to production; it is usual rather than the unusual to note how often responsibility that might better be concentrated in one man is scattered over several, work duplicated by various employes and, in general, enough money to run another independent business thrown away in little wastes that escape attention because they are in themselves so small. The

statement of Louis D. Brandeis that he could save the railroads of the United States a million dollars a day by improved methods is applicable to more than railroads.

Instead of seeking outside advice, however, employers frequently can obtain the same results at no expenditure whatever inside the plant. In every establishment are employes who have had experience of more than average breadth. As a rule, however, they find it preferable to hold their tongues as to possible improvements rather than to invite the suspicion that they are attempting to feather their own nests by criticizing others. That this attitude prevails so generally is partly the fault of such employers as discourage suggestions from subordinates and partly the fault of over-sensitive employes. Some managers avoid the chance of being misunderstood as to their own reception of suggestions by posting notices that they are desired or by installing "suggestion boxes" in which the humblest employe may deposit his opinion as to any detail of the business. General efficiency will be furthered in this country when more heads of concerns take the trouble to develop the critical faculty dormant in their working forces or, when on talent for criticism is present, hiring outside "efficiency doctors."

Ex-King Manual is coming to America on a friendly visit. That is the only kind of visit to this country that pays.

It would be interesting reading if we could know just what kind of mental language a woman uses when an automobile splashes mud on her new gown.

The new administration doesn't care much for automobiles. There will be enough trouble without tire trouble.

"Dollar Diplomacy" is not the sort of diplomacy that is required to borrow a dollar from a tightwad friend.

Notice to the Public.

All closets in the sewer districts must be filled in. This becomes imperative at this season of the year as flies will soon be with us and water closets are a source of breeding and should be taken care of immediately. Otherwise official notice will be served by the health department of the city and the proper owners compelled to comply to this request or the city will fill these cess pools and closet holes and charge to the property owners. O hope that this notice will be sufficient.

A. L. RICHARDSON, D. V.
 City Physician.

Notice.

No hunting, fishing or trespassing allowed on our premises.
 M. D. SANDERSON,
 B. M. OLIVER,
 F. H. OLIVER,
 C. W. OLIVER,
 WALTER WOODS,
 Summerville, Ore.
 Dly 4-5-6t wkly 2 tp

FALL OF THE INCAS.

Fate of the Great Race That Has Left Only Traces Behind.

What became of the people who built the Cuzco ruins? Were they the ancestors of "those stolid and down-trodden Indians whom one sees today peddling their rude wares in the market place of Cuzco?" Mr. Bryce discusses the question in his "South America." He says:
 "The sudden fall of a whole race is an event so rare in history that one seeks for explanations. It may be that not only the royal Inca family, but nearly the whole ruling class, was destroyed in war, leaving only the peasants, who had already been serfs under their native sovereigns. But one is disposed to believe that the tremendous catastrophe which befell them in the destruction at once of their dynasty, their empire and their religion by fierce conquerors, incomparably superior in energy and knowledge, completely broke not only the spirit of the nation, but the self respect of the individuals who composed it."
 "They were already a docile and submissive people, and now under a new tyranny, far harsher than that of rulers of their own blood, they sank into hopeless apathy and ceased to remember what their forefathers had been. The intensity of their devotion to their sovereign and their deity made them helpless when both were overthrown, leaving them nothing to turn to, nothing to strive for."
 "The conquistadores were wise in their hateful way when they put forth the resources of cruelty to outrage the feelings of the people and stamp terror in their hearts."

VALUE OF GRASSES.

They Are in a Measure the Most Useful Plants in the World.

Probably the grasses are the most useful plants in the world. It may be that more than half the individual plants in the world are grasses. It is a great family of more than 3,500 species, embracing species that are so tiny that they hardly reach an inch in height and giant bamboos of the tropics that sometimes grow to be 100 feet or more.

Corn is a giant grass, and wheat, rye, oats, barley, rice and sugar cane are all grasses. Then there are millets, sorghum, Kafir corn, broom corn—all grasses.

The number of species of grasses is enormous, yet we have adopted into our system of agriculture but a few sorts. In part that is due to the ease or difficulty of seeding grasses. Timothy grass, for example, is so easily sown and the seed so easily gathered that it is soonest set of any and has become the standard hay grass of northern climes.

In some regions of Kentucky blue grass is the almost universal pasture grass because it comes in of itself. In other regions with different soil (poor and lacking in lime) redtop has possession. Naturally the farmer follows the line of least resistance, yet it is by no means certain that he has adopted into his agriculture all the best grasses that nature has provided. Some day we shall do more toward using how neglected grasses.—Joseph E. Wing in "Meadows and Pastures."

The Glacial Epochs.

Several times in recent years it has been observed that great explosive volcanic eruptions (Kraikato, Pele, Katmai) by charging the upper atmosphere in the isothermal region with fine dust have markedly diminished the amount of solar radiation received at the earth's surface. It seems evident, according to Professor W. J. Humphreys, that the effect of this process must be to reduce the temperature of the air near the earth, since the dust scatters a great amount of the solar radiation. Thus a period of excessive volcanic activity, if long continued, would produce the thermal conditions of an ice age. The geological record is said to furnish evidence that such a period actually began shortly before the last ice age and has continued with diminishing intensity to the present time.

Changing Tastes in Perfumes.

Perfumes were in common use in the ancient world, but it is curious to notice how views have changed as to the pleasantness or otherwise of various odors. The smell of aloes is now considered disagreeable by the majority of people, but in the old days aloes, both as solid extract and as wood, formed a staple perfume or aromatic. Saffron, too, was the most popular perfume of the Romans and was much in favor in England until about the sixteenth century. But who would tolerate the smell of saffron about house or person nowadays?—London Chronicle.

The Old Time Foundry.

An auctioneer at a late sale of antiquities put up a helmet with the following candid observation:
 "This, ladies and gentlemen, is a helmet of Romulus, the Roman founder, but whether he was a brass or iron founder I cannot tell."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

HIS PAST DIDN'T BOTHER HIM.

When Swinburne Was Very Close Unto Death by Drowning.

In Mr. Edmund Gosse's reminiscence article, "Swinburne at Etretat" in the Cornhill Magazine we retrace the poet's bathing adventure that nearly cost him his life in the late summer of 1868. The timely appearance of a fishing smack on the scene prevented the premature silencing of the voice that was presently to entrance the world (or some part of it) with the "Songs Before Sunrise."
 "I asked him," writes Mr. Gosse, "what he thought about in that dreadful contingency, and he replied that he had no experience of what people often profess to witness—the concentrated panoramas of past life hurrying across the memory. He did not reflect on the past at all. He was filled with annoyance that he had not finished his 'Songs Before Sunrise' and then with satisfaction that so much of it was ready for the press and that Mazzini would be pleased with him."
 "And then he continued, 'I reflected with resignation that I was exactly the same age as Shelley was when he was drowned.' (This, however, was not the case. Swinburne had reached that age in March, 1867, but this was part of a curious delusion of Swinburne's that he was younger by two or three years than his real age.) Then when he began to be, I suppose, a little benumbed by the water his thoughts fixed on the clothes he had left on the beach, and he worried his clouded brain about some unfinished verses in the pocket of his coat."
 So here again, comments the Dial, we have an instance of the failure of an actor in a real life drama to rise to the dramatic possibilities of his part. They do these things better in fiction.

SULPHUR SHOWERS.

Not Sulphur at All, Only the Pollen Grains of Pine Trees.

Many persons are aware that in spring, and especially in early spring, it happens that after a shower the edge of every pool of water in the streets and along the sidewalks will be bordered by a rim of pale yellow color. As the water evaporates this ring remains as a fine powdery mass, so much resembling sulphur as to have given rise to the name "sulphur showers." This so-called sulphur is, of course, not sulphur at all. When examined under the microscope it is found to be made up of a mass of the yellowish pollen grains of pine trees.

Instead of consisting of a single cell, as do most pollen grains, that of the pine consists of three cells, the two larger end ones being filled with oil and the other containing the ordinary fertilizing principle. The two air containing cells are larger than the other and act as balloons to buoy it up in the air.

In pines and allied trees fertilization of the cones, by which they are enabled to set and develop seeds, is accomplished by the wind that is, the pollen is produced in immense quantities and is transported through the air to the cones, which are often on separate, widely distant trees. Thus a often happens that the pollen gets on in the highest currents of the air, is carried for long distances and is only brought down to the earth by the rain-producing the so-called shower of sulphur.—Harper's Weekly.

How Wheat Perspires.

When you are perspiring furiously in the dog days it may or may not console you to think that an ordinary field of wheat is giving off moisture quite as furiously. Between the months of April and July, according to Sir James Dewar, a field of wheat perspires sufficient moisture to cover the surface of its ground to a depth of an inch. Another interesting fact is that it requires three and a half pounds of water to produce sixteen grains of wheat. Speaking of the solar radiation in tropical places, Sir James says that in six hours about four-tenths of a square mile receives heat equivalent to the combustion of 1,000 tons of coal while an area of 1,300 square miles receives in one year heat equivalent to 1,000,000,000 tons of coal—the whole estimated coal output of Europe and America.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Drummer's Tender Heart.

The commercial traveler had just finished a story of a disastrous fire, in which his firm suffered severely.
 "And what did you do when you heard of it on your journey?" inquired his friend.
 "Oh, I sent the boss a long telegram of sympathy! He likes that kind of thing. Cost me half a crown."
 "Half a crown?" exclaimed the other incredulously.
 "Oh, I charged it to my expenses, of course," explained the traveler.
 Kindly feeling and thoughtful economy could go no further.—Manchester Guardian.

Plausible Excuse.

Guest—Walter, are you sure this is oxtail soup? Waiter—Yes, sir. Guest—But I've found a tooth in it. How do you account for that? Waiter—Well, I don't know, sir; but I reckon dat us must have been biting his tail.—Sphinx.



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In every Xtragood boys' suit are twenty-five points of special merit—eleven in the coat and fourteen in the trousers. These include every good feature, known to modern clothes making and contribute the quality, style and worth that guarantee you best value and greatest satisfaction.

Xtragood Suits are Fully Guaranteed

You can buy your boy one of these better suits for as low as \$5.00. Others from \$6.00 to \$10.

Be sure to see the spring styles in NORFOLK SUITS and REEFER COATS before you select your boy's new outfit.



April 21st 1913

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BLACK CAT?

See Paper Next Week

West THE QUALITY STORE

The Test of Time

Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe.

This bank has been in business twenty-six years. It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank
 La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,160,000.00

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
 UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Mrs. King Goes East. King as far as Baker and returned on No. 5 this morning.

Mrs. Jesse A. King left Wednesday night on No. 18 to visit her mother at Quincy Ill, but will stop off at Aurora, Neb., where her brother, R. P. Squires lives. Mr. King accompanied Mrs.

WANTED—Girl wishes general house work. Write Box 419, La Grande, Ore. 4-10-6t

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