

**THE OBSERVER**

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**THAT FREIGHT INCREASE.**

Every day it grows more apparent that the railroads are soon to ask for an increase in freight rates. But it also is apparent that the interstate commerce commission will be very slow in granting the increase. The companies will be obliged to show a marked change in conditions from that which existed two and a half years ago, when the companies asked for, but were refused, a 10 per cent increase.

In the coming application, the railroads operating east of Chicago and north of the Ohio will ask for a flat increase of 5 per cent in freight rates. The companies will base their strongest argument on the fact that the Erdman commission recently granted the firemen an increase of wages making the cost of operation considerably higher than it was.

The railroads are relying to some extent upon a tentative promise made when the interstate commerce commission rejected the last request for an increase in rates. This promise was that when the companies were able to prove that they must show larger earnings in order to meet cost of operation, the commission would grant an increase. At that time the commission said:

"We do not say that the carriers may not increase their incomes. We trust they may, and confidently believe they will. If the time does come when through changed conditions it may be shown that their fears are realized or approaching realization, and from a survey of the whole field of operations there is evidence of a movement which makes against the security and lasting value of legitimate investment and an adequate return upon the value of these properties, this commission will not hesitate to give its sanction to increase which will be reasonable."

The railroads evidently will have to put up a strong case before there will be any hope of securing the increase in freight rates which they so evidently desire.

It is proposed to divide California into two states because of their un-

equal representation in the United States Senate. It would appear to the easterner that President Wilson is having enough trouble without doubling it.

A Michigan woman 80 years of age, has sued for divorce. She might have waited for death and saved the attorney's fees.

House cleaning time is here. Sleeping with the tame cactus and the gasoline stove belittle the dangers of war with the Japs.

Nearly time for the June college graduate to charge forth and change the rules of the universe.

Because a man takes home the small fish is no proof of a limited vision.

**Lemonade a Germicide.**  
 Lemonade made with soda water, seltzer or carbonic water is one of the most perfect germicides that can be taken into the body, according to the London Lancet.

"It has long been known that water charged with carbonic acid gas loses after awhile what bacteriological activities it possessed," says that authoritative medical paper. "This observation has been confirmed, the evidence showing that the germicidal effects are greater as the pressure of gas is increased. It would seem to follow that deep natural waters charged with carbonic acid gas must be sterile, at all events before they reach the surface, and numerous examinations have shown that natural aerated waters exhibit a freedom from active germs. In the case of lemonade, however, there is present, besides carbonic acid gas, the citric acid of the lemon, and citric acid, even in weak solutions, is a germ destroyer."

**He Didn't Fit the Suit.**  
 "I have always been convinced that New York takes the lead in most things," said the comedian, "but I was unaware until lately that the clothing salesmen here are expert anatomists also."

"I had occasion to visit a downtown business office, where I heard a clerk telling the other employees of a suit of clothes which he bought and paid for, but which did not fit properly. He decided to return the suit and insist upon receiving another in place of it. Acting upon this decision, he left the office. Shortly afterward he reappeared with the same suit of clothes and a disgusted look.

"What is the trouble?" was asked.  
 "Confound it!" he exclaimed, pointing to his chest. "After talking to the salesman I discovered that I am too fat here, too thick here and my legs are too short."—New York Times.

**A Spendthrift Duke.**  
 The sixth Duke of Devonshire, son of the "Gainsborough" flutcher, came into a colossal fortune on attaining his majority. The whole of his property was in his own hands. The entail had been cut off, and his father's death had interfered with the resettlement. "There was, therefore, no curb on his extravagance," says his biographer, "and so great were the inroads that his mode of life made on his wealth that toward the end of his life he felt constrained to sell the Yorkshire estate of Londesborough." This famous and foolish duke believed in keeping up the dignity of his position and would drive to race meetings in a coach and six with twelve outriders. When sent as ambassador extraordinary to St. Petersburg for the coronation of Nicholas I. he spent £50,000 in excess of the sum allowed him by the government.—London Globe.

**THE DANGEROUS AGES.**

Times in Our Lives When Grim Death Eyes Us Enviously.

There are certain ages wherein death is very imminent, and of all these ages the most perilous is the age of an hour or two. Yes, it is just after birth that we are in most danger of death, and the next most perilous age to this is seventy-one years.

The age of three is the next most dangerous age. Almost one-fourth of all the babies born die during the third year.

From three on to the age of forty-five life is comparatively safe, but forty-five, especially for women, is a trying time, and many are carried off.

After passing forty-five in safety men and women may reasonably hope to reach seventy-one. Here again they are in great danger—the greatest save for the first few hours after birth.

Longevity is a hereditary quality. It passes from father to son and from mother to daughter. He who had an octogenarian father may hope to become an octogenarian himself, and she who had an octogenarian mother may hope to become an octogenarian herself. But a father's longevity does not pass down to a daughter, nor does a mother's pass down to a son.—New York Tribune.

**Illegible Writers.**

The illegible letter upsets the saintliest temper. We all know people who fill reams with their ideas or their facts and take it for granted that our leisure permits us to unravel the riddle of the writing. Perhaps they are proud of a hand microscopically minute. Perhaps they cultivate a defiant eccentricity that spurns the formal precept of the copybook and fashions its own weird and novel system of shorthand. There are society women who appear to think it a point of breeding to make chaotic masses of cubist and futurist dashes that seem to bear about the same relation to conventional chirography that a baby's "grogoo" does to speech. Why should the spirit of mortal ever be proud of such tortured and twisted penmanship?—Philadelphia Ledger.

**With Muscle and Brain.**

The boy who can master the science and art of the higher craftsman will hold just as responsible a place in the world as the practitioner at the bar, the occupant of the pulpit or the physician. Indeed, the wholly competent artisan, the worker with muscle and brain who knows how, is the backbone of the nation. If it were not for him there would not long be need for the specialized professions. He is the weaver of the larger social fabric, the mason who sets the foundation stones of the country's industrial structures, and many a man who is now a doctor, lawyer or preacher would not only be happier and better off, but enjoy more real dignity, if he, too, were one of the "sincere artisans" of the day.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

**THE BRAVE HEART.**

Whatever life shall bring to me, That will I take most thankfully.

Some bitter cups my lips must drain,  
 Some days be dark with mist and rain.

Life is not play, but battle long,  
 And favors neither weak nor strong.

And only he of faithless heart  
 Would stand from strife and stress apart.

Only he in coward guise  
 Would have life ordered otherwise.

—Arthur Wallace Peach.

**SAYINGS OF TODAY.**

The American college of today is between the upper and nether millstones. The German-American university has now become the home of scholarship and research. If the American college is to repeat in the twentieth century the inestimable service it rendered to American civilization in the nineteenth century it must recognize the dawn of the new era. Let the typical graduate be trained not only in scholarship and culture, but how to loaf wisely.—Henry Louis Smith, President Washington and Lee University.

I feel as if I am making a twentieth century flight into another world. Comparisons are impossible. It will take me some time to get my breath. What a lot Europe might learn from wondrous America! But then one must consider. It is much easier to build up a new country than to change an old one.—C. de Bruyne, Alderman of Ghent, Belgium, Visiting New York.

**EYES OF NEEDLES.**

Why They Never Rust Nor Cut the Very Finest, Softest Thread.

Millions of needles are sold daily. It was not so long ago when the thread in the needle was cut by the sharp edges left in the eye after manufacture. The smaller the needle the sharper the edge and the greater the annoyance to users. Then, again, the eye would rust, for a woman will dampen the end of the thread on her tongue in order to make a point so that the needle may be threaded more easily. Complaint was loud and long, and orders were passed down the line to produce an eye in the smallest needle that could not cut the finest and softest thread in the world.

This was done by inventing a new machine in the shape of die cutters for the making of the eyes. The points on these minute augers are so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye or detected by the most delicate sense of touch. A microscope is necessary. So it was essential to invent new machines to manufacture the dies and to sharpen the tiny drills.

Polishers and burnishers had to be made that would finish off every rough edge in an instant almost because needles sell a dozen or so for a few cents. When this was done the needles were placed in a rack, through which the eyes projected and held so tightly that when immersed in water only the eyes were covered. In this way the heads of the needles became the negative pole of a powerful battery, and in a few moments the eyes of several million needles were gold plated and hence rendered rust proof.—Harper's.

**DAMP, DARK DAYS.**

And Their Depressing Effects Upon the Human System.

Next time it is a dark, dreary day and you are sure that you have some really terrible ailment don't worry. Just cheer up and realize that there is nothing the matter with you except that the weather is damp, and the first sunny day will be sure to set you right.

At least this is the opinion of Dr. Rankin, a London physician, who has been giving lectures on the subject of health and happiness. He attributes most of the ordinary woes of humanity to the damp weather and explains his theory scientifically.

"In damp weather," he says, "the skin does not perform its functions properly. Products which should be thrown off in perspiration remain and clog the skin. Under ordinary circumstances in a normal temperature the amount of vapor passing from the skin reaches thirty ounces per day. In moist air the amount passing out from the skin is reduced to seven or eight ounces.

"As perspiration contains poisonous properties, it is not surprising that during damp weather these poisonous properties which are retained in the body lower the vitality and produce various temporary ailments."

So it's really a comfort to know that when we do not feel "well" in damp weather it is no sign of constitutional ill health, but just the weather.—San Francisco Chronicle.

**Castle Garden.**

Castle Garden was built by the United States in 1807 from the plans of Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Williams, C. E., and was called Fort Clinton. In 1822 it was ceded to New York city. In 1824 it became a place of amusement and about 1826 got the name of Castle Garden. In 1845 there were Ethiopian minstrels there, in 1847-9 theatrical companies played there, and in 1850 Jenny Lind sang there. In 1855 it was closed as a place of amusement, and the commissioners of immigration took it as an immigrant depot. In 1870 it suffered from fire and on July 9, 1876, it was burned to the ground. It was rebuilt at once. In 1892 the depot was moved to Ellis island, and Castle Garden reverted to the city, which in 1896 opened an aquarium there.

**When Father Sings.**

Little Mildred lives on the Kansas side and is four years old. She has a good voice and likes to sing. Her father has a very poor voice and wouldn't carry a tune on his shoulders. He is aware of his falling. So is Mildred. Whenever he starts to sing the rasping noise grates on her music loving ears, and whenever Mildred is naughty father threatens her thus:  
 "Mildred, if you don't behave papa will sing."  
 Mildred immediately turns up her nose, puts her hands behind her back and walks away. But she always behaves.—Kansas City Star.

There is a noticeable difference in color and markings between the wildcats of North and South America. Both animals are of about the same size, but the South American cat is covered with round black spots much like those of the leopard, but smaller in size. These spots contrast strongly with the surrounding fur, which is of a grayish white color, very different from the reddish color of the North American wildcat. The fur of the South American wildcat is not so thick as that of his North American cousin, but the skins are said to dress well and make good robes and rugs.—Fur News.

**SPECIAL SALE WHITE LINGERIE DRESSES**

"Values up to \$10.00"

**\$3.90**

25 of these dainty dresses to make your selection from. Materials are of sheer batistes, and voiles, trimmed with heavy embroidered patterns and pretty laces. All very attractive styles.



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- NEW NECKWEAR
- RATINE TRIMMINGS
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- WINDSOR CREPES
- SUMMER PARASOLS



**WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**

The idea of the mastership of man over woman has changed to the idea of equal partnership and right between man and wife, and the loftiest type of family life that I know is in the homes where that equality is accepted as a matter of course. Votes for women will not cure all evils. If I thought that I'd take 'em away from men. But in no state where suffrage has been tried has it done damage, and in every state it has bettered social and industrial conditions. All the arguments against it are duplicated in the arguments against manhood suffrage a century ago. Our democracy is based on the theory that the average man shall be the controlling factor in the government. Our whole effort is toward that. We have made the average man the master. All we propose to do now is to put his partner alongside him.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

**SAYINGS OF CATO.**

Grip the subject; words will follow.  
 An orator, son Marcus, is a good man skilled in speaking. Buy not what you need, but what you must have. What you do not need is dear at a penny. Praise large farms, but till a small one.

**BEREAVED.**

Let me come in where you sit weeping—aye.  
 Let me, who have not any child to die.  
 Weep with you for the little one whose love I have known nothing of.  
 The little arms that slowly, slowly loosed  
 Their pressure round your neck, the hands you used  
 To kiss—such arms, such hands I never knew.  
 May I not weep with you?  
 Fain would I be of service—say something  
 Between the tears that would be comforting—  
 But, ah, so sadder than yourselves am I  
 Who have no little child to die!  
 —James Whitcomb Riley.

Furniture for three rooms, a snap if taken at once, cost about \$400.00, will sell for \$100.00, everything in good shape, used about eighteen months. No terms, must be cash. Call at the Observer office. 6-4-tf

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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.

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