

THE OBSERVER

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OIL DRIVEN SHIPS?

"We are standing today upon the threshold of the age of oil," writes Lewis R. Freeman in the October number of the Review of Reviews.

His article presents a convincing picture of the inroads that oil has made on steam power. The invention of a crude oil consuming engine has brought the non-steaming, motor driven, ocean going ship into existence.

"Up to the summer of 1912," says Mr. Freeman, "the superiority of the ocean going steamer driven by internal combustion engines was largely a matter of theory. The question was answered, when a Danish company which operates a line from Copenhagen to Singapore, completed and dispatched on its maiden trip a 7,000 ton vessel equipped with oil engines, the first ship of great size ever put into commission, using oil."

The advantage claimed for oil over coal is that, with less space taken up, there is an increase in horsepower results; it can bunker a large amount of fuel, while cleanliness and the absence of smoke add to its desirability.

The part which the United States,

the greatest oil producing nation of the world, will play in the naval and trade revolution likely to follow the abandonment of the steam driven ships, is interestingly detailed by the writer.

THE MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Municipal reference libraries have come to stay. Beginning in Baltimore in 1907 they have spread throughout the country until today most of the cities at all in the public eye for progressiveness in municipal matters have them.

The idea on which the municipal reference library is founded is sensible and sound. No careful business man branches out along new lines in his work without at least seeking to learn if others proceeded him and, if so, if they have succeeded. The whole aim of modern science, in fact, is to minimize, so far as possible, the inevitable risks of experimentation.

Because our cities, unlike those of some European countries, are not connected by some means of an organic national act, there has been only such interchange of ideas among them as immediate local interest dictated. Until information was needed, and needed directly, little or no attempt was made to keep in touch with one another's activities. Constantly, therefore, it is coming with a shock of surprise to cities that what they look on as a momentous innovation is not an innovation at all but a well-defined accomplishment with the channel safely marked and the danger points made plain.

The municipal reference bureau is an application of business methods to the running of a city. It puts at the finger tips of the man at the helm the chart and the code of signals for the voyage. When information of franchises, sewers, bridges, charters, playgrounds, street railways, health regulations or pavements in other cities is wanted they can get it simply by asking the librarian.

As a writer points out, however, it should be in the city hall, although under the control of the public library. In fact, it should be the bureau by which the city exchanges reports, documents and other detailed information with other cities. Today a great deal of such matter, coming from the other cities, is cast aside by city officials because for the moment it is useless.

A municipal reference library is not

CHILDREN WHO ARE SICKLY

Mothers who value their own comfort and the welfare of their children, should never be without a box of Mother's Own Sweet Powders for Children, for use throughout the season. They Break up Colds, Relieve Feverishness, Constipation, Teething Disorders, Headache and Stomach Troubles. Used by Mothers for 24 years. THESE POWDERS NEVER FAIL. Sold by all Drug Stores, etc. Don't accept any substitute. Sample mailed FREE. Address, Allen S. Gumbel, Le Roy, N. Y.

a cause about which it is possible to stir up intense public feeling but it is useful and a practical thing which should appeal to practical men. It deserves a better boost from those who think.

AN AMERICAN BOY.

A little shaver was having the time of his life coasting down the Sixth street hill. Several trips had been successful. On the third he essayed the best speed of the morning. He was coasting for a record. His start was good, but when he came to the middle of the hill the little wagon struck a clod, whirling the little vehicle to one side and causing him to roll out rather forcibly.

Electricity has adapted for forty-two purposes about the household. When it got rid of washing clothes by the backache method it made enough of a hit with the women to last a while.

Don't worry. Women are getting there fast enough. A Portland woman has installed a time clock in the hall. Husband has to punch it when he comes in at night.

The congressman who wants a Monroe doctrine day should be reminded that we now have one every day in the year.

Eye trouble causes genius, say the scientists. That's why so many men who see double recite poetry to the telegraph pole.

The tenth is the last day to pay water rent with out penalty. 1-8, 2t. WATER SUPT.

HOMES OF THE SYRIANS.

Where It is Little Trouble to "Take Up Thy Bed and Walk."

On the right as you enter the house stands a small structure of sun dried brick, called mekhdah. It is about five feet high, six feet long and a foot deep. On the inner side it is divided into openings of different sizes and serves the cosmopolitan purpose of a china closet, kettle cupboard, a place for father's Turkish pipe (nargile) and tobacco and whatever other little articles it may be convenient for the moment to thrust into it.

The mekhdah (fireplace) is at the forward end of this structure. It is such a fireplace as you would build at a picnic-square, open at the top for the kettle to set in and at one side to admit the fuel. It is built of clay mixed with straw and fine quartz. There is no chimney. The smoke floats in the house with the sufferance of public opinion. The ceiling is black and shining, as if it had been varnished. The earthen floor is painted frequently with red mud and rubbed with a smooth stone until it shines. It is furnished with straw mats, cushions and in the winter season soft and fluffy sheepskins.

There are no chairs, no bedsteads. The family sit and sleep on the floor. The bed consists of a thick cushion for a mattress, stuffed with wool or cotton, a pillow of the same material and a quilt for a cover. So when Jesus said to the man he had healed, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk," the man did not have very much to carry. In the daytime the beds are either rolled up, each one, in a heap and left on the floor next to the wall or put in a recess in the wall, constructed for the purpose.—Atlantic Monthly.

Big Guns Bend.

One of the most serious problems of army and navy engineers is the bending of great guns by their own weight, wire wound guns being the worst offenders in this particular.

Ambiguous.

"You remember I missed you several times last year." "Yes," said the galbe. "Well, I'm a better shot now."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

There is a vast difference between those who have something to say and those who want to say something. John Timothy Stone



HERE IT IS!



Greatest Corset ever made for the price . . . \$3.50

COME AND SEE IT!

Entire Line of Henderson and Nemo Corsets Reduced

Silk Dresses For Spring Have Just Arrived

Through a resident buyer in New York we have arranged to have the advance styles in Spring Garments shipped us as soon as they are shown. We did not expect this shipment to arrive before February 1st, but now that they are here they must all be included at reduced prices during our Annual Sale.

All Reduced 25 Per Cent

SEE THEM IN OUR WINDOWS AND READY-TO-WEAR DEPARTMENT

Entire Line READY-TO-WEAR APPAREL Reduced 25 to 50 Per Cent

Not one Garment in our Entire Line Reserved

MEN—Save \$5.00 to \$7.50 on a New Suit. Save \$5.00 to \$10.00 on a New Overcoat. Includes all New Styles in such famous makes as "Benjamin," "Society Brand," "Hirsch Wickwire," "Fidelity" and "Kenyon."

Every Article in the Store at Deep Reductions at

West's 16th Annual Clearance Sale

THE TELEPHONE

By furnishing quick service in communication multiplies a man's capacity and makes it possible for the business man to transact more business.

EVERY TELEPHONE A LONG DISTANCE STATION HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM

It's The Time For Good Resolutions

We know of no better first-of-the-year resolution than that of resolving to do your stationery trading with us. This has the double advantage of being a resolution you can keep and also one it will pay to keep.

There is every reason for making such a resolution and no reason for not doing so. We have the goods you want, of the quality you desire and we are sure to treat you right in every way.

Newlin Book & Stationery Co.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

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

Table with 2 columns: Financial details. Capital \$100,000.00, Surplus \$140,000.00, Total Resources \$1,000,000.00.

For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon