

THE OBSERVER

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UNCLE SAM IN BUSINESS.

Along with his other accomplishments, Uncle Sam must become a business man. He is not that now, though he is engaged in certain branches of business. He is handling exclusively one line of business in which he is spending hundreds of millions of dollars and he doesn't know today and hasn't known definitely at any time in the last 50 years how much are his profits or how much are his losses.

Uncle Sam's business is growing wonderfully. If it were not, he would have been bankrupt long ago. Not only is his business growing but it is extending. He is entering into new fields of commerce and trade and he must inevitably enter into many more. It is only a matter of time, and possibly a very short time. When along with his postal and express business he must acquire the telephone and telegraph business, and perhaps the railroad business.

But before he goes into these he must adopt new business methods; he must establish a new system of book-keeping; he must set aside a branch of the government, by some manner of means not yet devised, that will be permanent and not influenced by politics or by the political fortunes of the country.

Congress is seriously discussing the matter of taking over the telephone and telegraph because of the recommendation of Postmaster General Burleson that they be acquired. Whether or not the time is opportune for carrying out the proposal is an open question. There is no argument over the statement that such action must come in time.

But, until Uncle Sam shows conclusively that he is not only capable of handling the business in which he is now engaged, successfully from a

financial point of view as well as from the service standpoint, there will be opposition of the most pronounced type to acquiring the telephone, the telegraph, or any other additional line of business.

Uncle Sam nor any one else can select a competent city plant manager or a city service manager for a telephone exchange merely on the whim of a congressman or a party leader, as Uncle Sam is doing now with his postmasters. Nor can Uncle Sam conduct the telephone or telegraph business until he is in a position to know just where that business stands financially, not only once a year.

There is just one other problem for Uncle Sam to solve before he becomes the sole custodian of the nation's public utilities and that is the matter of securing and retaining the highest efficiency among his employees. The Civil Service has been a wonderful help in this direction but it is not the solution. The Civil Service has in a measure divorced a part of the business from politics but it has not fostered the ambitions of Uncle Sam's employees. Rather it curbs these ambitions. To abolish the Civil Service without adopting some equally effective safeguard against the dispensers of political plums would be fatal and the man or set of men who can offer a substitute for it that will give the employee the same opportunities that he would have in any successful privately owned business will be acclaimed a national benefactor, and deservedly.

Miss Hobbs is to be melodrama-ed. How easily the ladder of cheap vaudeville and second class stage performance is scaled. But where do the royalties for all these moving pictures and dramas go? Into the state treasury? Its the state money that has paid the expense for all this folly that has made Miss Hobbs a stage heroine then why should the state not receive the royalties?

Baker county's grand jury is making a clean sweep. The whole layout at Copperfield has been indicted along with some of the governor's pet witnesses. But Col. Lawson did not show up even though the grand jury subpoenaed him. Why was that? Can any one tell?

"Bob" Stevens of Portland has withdrawn from the gubernatorial race, but as yet we have seen no letter from Gus Moser congratulating the ex-sheriff on his good judgment. Still, several of the candidates could withdraw and they would not be missed.

We are inclined to think Cleeton of

Multnomah county did not injure his chances for the supreme bench when he rendered decision to the effect that penalty on unpaid taxes does not attach until after September 1.

Judging by the pictures of the London suffragets that have reached this side the attempt to ruin the painting of Venus may be set down as a private grudge.

One of our ablest prima donnas lost her voice just as she appeared in costume to sing in "La Boheme." It is only fair to state that it could not have been concealed anywhere about the costume.

Shall Portland be metered or not metered? That is the burning question which even the waters of Bull Run cannot extinguish.

President Wilson has appointed a football star as minister to Uruguay, possibly because the name sounds so much like a college yell.

The Bull Moose of Maine are standing on a "dry" platform. Evidently the Maine Moose is like a camel.

With the slit skirt and the V cut sleeveless waist, the question of vaccination becomes more or less a women's problem.

That good roads day should be a reality. So don't give up the idea.

University of Michigan student dislocated his knee while dancing and is now in a hospital. Our strenuous university courses are causing more breakdowns every year.

Now that the women are wearing colored hair the only thing for men to do is to have brilliant landscapes painted on their bald spots.

Those who believe in equal rights probably will grant men the privilege of paying \$45 for an Easter hat.

Now that President Wilson has had his eyes treated by an oculist, maybe he'll be able to recognize Huerta.

THERMOMETERS.

Difference in Principle Between the Fahrenheit and Centigrade.

The difference in the numbering of the Fahrenheit and the centigrade thermometers is a difference in principle, that between circular measure and the neat simplicity of the decimal system.

When Fahrenheit had found that his thermometer was capable of giving him a means of measuring heat the necessity for a scale presented itself. He was able to establish two constants of temperature—that at which a mixture of salt and snow melts at one end of the scale, that at which water boils at sea level establishes the other. Evidently with some reference to the fact that in circular measure the maximum distance possible to measure from one point to another is 180 degrees, he scaled 180 equal parts between these two limits. He scaled the thermometer below his freezing point to its reading on a winter day colder than the oldest inhabitant could remember to have experienced, and here he established his zero. It chanced to be 32 degrees below his freezing point.

The centigrade, on the other hand, establishes its zero at freezing point and 100 degrees at the boiling point. These constants are selected because they may be so conveniently reproduced at any time and therefore obviate the necessity of maintaining an officially scaled standard, as must be the case with measures of length and capacity.—New York Sun.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

Different Methods on Which Arc and Incandescent Lamps Work.

The arc light and the incandescent light work on totally different principles. It was noted many years ago that when an electric circuit was broken the current jumped across a slight gap, producing a brilliant flame. The shape of this flame was roughly an arc from one conductor to the other. Thus the word "arc" was adopted. All arc lamps burn in the air and not in vacuum. The light is produced by the

Our Exclusive Shoe
---Department---

offers the largest assortment of the season's new styles in high grade footwear for every member of the family. Experienced shoe fitters and an extraordinary large stock of America's best footwear—That's the reason of our increasing number of satisfied customers each season.



In the Mens' and Boys' Dept.

J. E. Tilt Dress Shoes.

The shoe that makes customers out of every purchaser. Many new lasts for spring on display \$4.00 to \$6.00.

Connally \$3.50 Dress Shoes

The best possible value that we can find in a \$3.50 dress shoe. Just a little better than any other at the price.

Pat Cogan's Boys Shoes

We have tried out several lines in our endeavor to find the best wearing shoe on the market for boys. Now we have it.

Prices from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

West & Co
THE QUALITY STORE

In the Womens' and Misses Dept.

All the popular lasts in Ladies' and Misses' shoes are here. Among the most favored styles are:

Mat Kid with Kidney Heel . . \$5.00
 Patent, Moire top Kidney Heel \$6.00
 Baby Doll, Patent with cloth top \$3.50
 Mary Jane, Patent Pump . . \$2.50
 English Walker, Dull Calf . . \$4.00
 Tan Sneaker with rubber heel \$4.00

The above shoes as well as our entire stock are from the famous "Pingree" and "Utz & Dun's" lines of high quality footwear.

Romper Shoes for Children

a complete new line of these popular foot shape lasts just received, \$1.75 to \$2.25.

current lighting across a small air gap, between the two electrodes, or carbon pencils, and heating the tips of the carbons white hot. Floating particles of white hot carbon also add to the brilliancy. A mechanism is necessary to "feed" in the carbons as fast as they burn away, or otherwise the gap would increase until the current could no longer jump across and the light would go out.

The incandescent lamp, common in most homes and office buildings, is obtained from a piece of white hot wire, heated by the passage of an electric current. The wire must be enclosed in a glass bulb from which the air has been exhausted, otherwise it would quickly be burned up and consumed. The wire filament is now made of tungsten, which resists the flow of electricity with so much vigor that the current, in working to get by the obstruction, heats the wire to incandescence, hence the name.—New York World.

The Human Machine.

Is there one of us who does not sometimes treat a person like a machine? Do we always think of the railroad conductor as more than a machine for taking tickets? Do we not often treat our fellow creatures like masks on flat cars without substance and personality? I have been striving for years to overcome in myself and in my medical fellows the professional habit of treating a person as a "case" or a walking disease. But the habit of impersonality persists, like original sin, in myriad forms and unexpected ways. In law courts we treat a human being as a "prisoner at the bar," as the "plaintiff" or "defendant," to the exclusion of the fact that he is as real and sensitive as ourselves.—Atlantic.

Juvenile Logic.

Marie is a very bright kindergarten pupil. She came home to her parents the other day and told them that the kindergarten teacher had said she will grow up to be a very nice looking young lady if she is a good girl, but will grow up to be a very ugly woman if she is a naughty girl. "Is that true, mamma?" asked Marie, and she was informed that if the teacher said so it was true. Marie then sat still for awhile, pondering seriously. "But, mamma," she suddenly burst forth again, "why was the kindergarten teacher so naughty when she was a little girl?"—Philadelphia Record.

Feathered Police.

"Our aerial police force" is the picturesque and at the same time accurate phrase that the state ornithologist of Massachusetts has applied to the birds. They concentrate rapidly on any unusual irruption of insects or of the

smaller animals that we class as vermin. They guard alike the property of rich and poor, demand no salary, accept no "graft," and ask only to be protected in the performance of their beneficent work.—Youth's Companion.

Cubic Feet.

A cubic foot of water contains one and one-half gallons (1.728 cubic inches) and weighs sixty-two and one-half pounds. One cubic foot of bituminous coal weighs from forty-seven to fifty pounds. One cubic foot of anthracite coal weighs about fifty-three pounds.

Fate of the Peacemaker.

"Your face seems cut up. Accident?" "No, fight. Tried to stop a husband who was beating his wife." "And the husband hit you?" "No, the wife."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Himself Again.

Kindly Old Gentlemen regular visitors to the zoo-keeper, bows your sick lion today? Has he got back his appetite for fresh meat? Keeper—"That's us, sir. It's just eaten the veterinary, sir, that was given 'im 'in 'is physic, sir."—New York Post.

Relic of the Past.

"No, woman, you treasure another man's photograph?" "Don't be foolish, Henry. This is a portrait of yourself when you had hair."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Chinese Writing.

The British museum contains the oldest known examples of Chinese writing in the form of inscriptions on bronze's tops.

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Fishing license issued by B. W. Hughes at Moose Billiard parlors. —Adv. 3-24-14.

ATTENTION BREEDERS!

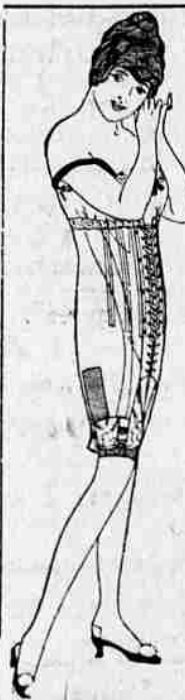
The grandly bred stallion, HAROLD WELCOME 2:11 3/4, will stand for service the season of 1914 at the Fair Grounds, La Grande, Oregon. For further information address G. A. Lincoln, owner, or Chas. Butcher, trainer and manager, La Grande, Oregon.

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