

THE OBSERVER

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AN UNFORTUNATE BREACH.

The Albany Evening Herald quotes from the Spokesman-Review of Spokane an editorial which should set every brain in this part of the country vigorously thinking. It is written to deplore the fact that Oregon and Washington import so much canned fruit and vegetables "from California, Maine, New York and Iowa," while great quantities of fruit and vegetables raised at home cry in vain for a market.

"The shelves of every grocery are piled high" with these canned goods brought from a distance, says the Spokesman-Review, adding that "it is nothing else than waste when a rich and productive region fruitful in a high degree and smothering in a growing surplus of raw materials permits enormous quantities of orchard and garden produce to decay for lack of market while it continues year after year to drain off its money in the purchase of by-products that should be packed at home." This is sound sense. Why do not our grocers stock their shelves with canned goods packed at home? The answer is that not enough are packed to provide a steady and reliable supply.

And why are not enough packed? The answer is that no market could be found for the output. The grocers blame the farmers and canning establishments. The farmers and cannery men blame the grocers. The latter say that the farmers are too lazy to prepare their by-products for market. The farmers retort that if they should prepare them and offer them for sale the grocers would continue to patronize the big Eastern combines.

Manifestly the trouble at the bottom of this singular condition is lack of co-operation. The merchants and the farmers do not understand each other. Mention "farmer" at any ordinary meeting of retail merchants and the word evokes a volley of scornful adjectives. Mention "local merchant" at a farmers' meeting and those present at once display their mail order catalogues. This breach between two classes so essential to the community as farmers and retail merchants should be healed in some way. No doubt meetings where both were represented and free discussion encouraged would help a good deal.—Oregonian.

IN THE BOOK OF BLOTS

For many years a professor of economics in an eastern university has been collecting data on trusts that failed. At first thought such activities seems a waste of time, because the failures have removed themselves from this vale of tears, but second consideration reveals the study as one of immense moment, ethically and practically.

In the astounding success of a few trusts, it is important to know that for every one which succeeded several have fallen by the wayside. Safes all over the country are full of worthless securities foisted upon investors during the flush years of trust expansion at the beginning of

the century. Dozens of other combinations capitalized on a basis of monopoly continue a losing fight against the independents, their watered stocks rating upon the exchange at less than a quarter of their face value. So it is highly important to know that attempts at monopoly have failed in many instances and what caused led to their defeat. The professor's researches, instead of being a purely academic research in economic history, hold deep advantage for financiers, inventors, legislators and the general public.

Evolution proceeds upon a basis of trial and error. Society, like the child building block houses, tries ever to surpass its last achievement. The successful man profits by his own failures and those of others, arriving at last by practice and observation at the correct solution of his problem. The inception of most great inventions is shrouded in a cloud of failures. Two of the world's most successful scientists have acknowledged the debt they owe to the failure of others. Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, said that he was steered along the right track by observing the false starts of his contemporaries. Watt, the inventor of the steam engine, declared that one of the most a "Book of Blots." Sir Humphrey Davy, sometimes called the "father of chemistry," considered that scientists would not do their full duty until they publish their failures as carefully as they did their successes and so kept other searchers after truth from falling into the same errors.

Fame distinguishes between failures and the successes, but both serve in the advancement of truth.

WILL THE GARDEN PLAN SUCCEED?

Gardens for the unemployed. This attractive vision is being brought near realization through the co-operation of various public and private agencies in Chicago. The plan is to arrange for the tilling of 1,500 acres along the shores of the drainage canal. The land is the property of the sanitary district, the trustees of which have offered it free of rent for the purpose. The task of getting the unemployed to the land, financing them from seed time to harvest, providing for their housing and transportation and instruction in the fine art of gardening, is being considered by the City Gardeners' association with a view to distributing the burden between public and private agencies.

Rarely have Americans contemplated commercial agriculture on such a large scale. The tract will be broken up into half-acre lots, and additional thousand acres will be devoted to pasturage. Chicago may thus imitate certain Hungarian cities in the ownership of herds and flocks of food animals. Important, too, is the fact that agriculture, the most highly individualized of all pursuits, will here yield to co-operative efficiency. What can be done most cheaply in the mass will be handled that way. The tract will be plowed and harrowed as a unit by the most modern of farm implements, loaned for the occasion by the manufacturers. The International Harvester corporation also volunteers to loan tools to the gardeners.

Discussion of this project, moreover, has roused owners of vacant properties in the suburbs of Chicago to offer them to the cause. Wherever soil and situation combine to make their working profitable, these will be accepted. In this way it is planned that 10,000 Chicagoans out

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of industrial unemployment or on part time can apply their labor power to intensive agriculture without investment and under advice of skilled superintendents.

The success of the plan, attractive as it is in prospective depends altogether upon the manner of its working out. It may be fairly supposed that the authorities will use judgment in selecting and preparing tracts.

Colonel Lawson, the man who can shoot straight enough to kill a rat, which statement is vouched for by ex-Governor West, has been "canned" at the state prison. And why shouldn't he be? The good of the service prompts such changes, and you notice the change came without much ceremony.

The American woman who was put in a German prison and kept there for six days evidently got out of her place. When women take hazardous chances in order to be war correspondents they must expect to put up with some of the inconveniences that follow.

Passion Films Censored.

Columbus, O., Mar. 9.—That demoralizing effect which scientists say emanates from movies into the brains of certain humans who constantly watch love, passion, pathos and comedy thrown on the screen is at the minimum in Ohio.

Of eighty three reels, latest to be inspected by the Ohio Board of censors, seven reels were entirely suppressed and twenty suffered cuts that will make the small boy who watches them less bloodthirsty and the lovesick young girl less reckless. This is what the movies characters did in these films but could not do in Ohio.

Kiss for twenty feet, (Kisses are always cut to three feet in Ohio) drink poison, drink liquor, stage a thirty foot fight, (fights are flashes only, if at all), kidnap someone, murder someone, smoke opium, take off their pajamas and otherwise disrobe, gamble, put poison tablets in a glass of water, forcibly hug a girl, abduct someone and tie them to a load of dynamite, drink from a bottle, sit on a man's lap, and several other little scenes that the censors thought would have effect on the movie patron.

Moving picture manufactures are conducting a campaign against the Ohio censors on the constant "cutting and pasting" of films is an expense

manufacturers fail to figure on. It is strict, anyway, and ought to be eliminated the Ohio censors are too inated.

Miami Bicycle



This is the newest thing out in bicycles. Come in and see the new band brake. Works like a motorcycle. Finest machine on the market. Fully warranted. See my show window this week.

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