

## THE OBSERVER

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## HOW "JITNEY" ORIGINATED.

When the jitney bus became epidemic every one began asking the meaning and derivation of the name. That jitney signified a nickel was soon established, but how the word came first to be used in that sense was not so easily discovered. According to a letter, received by the Chicago News, from one who signs himself No. 1234 E X, the term "jitney," known and used in every city from New York to San Francisco, was originally coined within prison walls—"in a certain large reformatory," in the word of the writer, who continues: "The rules were very strict about tobacco and as smoking was easily detected and severely punished, the inmates' craving was universally satisfied with chewing tobacco, that is, what they could get of it, which was mighty small compared to the demand."

Nevertheless, a certain trusty, whose name was Jedney, would smuggle tobacco in for any inmate who furnished him the money to buy it up-town. He drove a dray for the prison, and in consideration of the risk he took he kept half the stuff as his commission. In this connection I remember they used the expression "60-40" and "50-50," describing the split. It was the first time I heard "50-50," and that was sixteen years ago.

Finally Jedney was paroled and a little, stout, bow-legged colored boy got the dray, and I was standing by when a "runner" came to this colored boy and showed him a dime he had slipped to him by somebody going through on a visit of the grounds, and wanted to know if he would get him in some tobacco. The colored boy, as heir to Jedney's perquisite of office, accepted the proposition and established his basis of doing business with these words: "You-all get a jitney's worth for dis here dime, 50-50."

From that time on a dime bought a "jitney's" worth of tobacco within the walls of that institution.

And the first one I heard use that word outside was a graduate of the reformatory who spoke of going to a "jitney" show when first started.

That the negro boy confused "Jedney" and "jitney" seems to be only an inference.

## Chicago Drys Hopeful.

Chicago, Mar. 12.—Temperance forces are today planning the greatest fight they have yet undertaken. Their plan is to make Chicago, second largest city in the United States, as arid as Sahara. A fund of \$200,000 is being raised for the assault in force on the Middle Western metropolis. Work of raising a "preliminary fund", of \$25,000 already has started. As soon as the \$25,000 is in the hands of the general committee of church and temperance workers, every ward in the city will be combed

by workers for signatures to a petition asking that the question of closing up every saloon in Chicago be put to a vote in April, 1916. Temperance workers declared today they will make the Chicago fight the most spectacular one in the history of organized war on intemperance. The bitter struggle waged at Springfield some weeks back when a sharply drawn alignment of wets and drys completely disrupted party organizations and held the lower house deadlocked for the longest time in the state's history, was merely a forerunner of the temperance fight that is planned. Speakers of national fame will be brought to Chicago to aid in the fight. They will be led by G. F. Rinehart, "the man who made Arizona dry." "Billy" Sunday will be called to help, and an effort will

be made to get such prominent temperance advocates as Secretary of State Bryan and Secretary of the Navy Daniels to speak at different times. On every available display sign space the committee will paste placards and erect monster electric signs reading, "Did Bozoe Ever Do You Any Good," in letters five feet high. These signs will be lighted and blazing from sundown to sunrise. Great mass meetings will be held weekly. Smaller meetings will be held mornings and afternoons every day in the week after the real campaign gets well under way. A publicity staff of a half dozen or more men and women, some of whom already have been arranged for, will be named to keep the newspapers of the city and all over the state supplied with "features."

That the saloon men are admittedly alarmed over the fight which they have openly been told was to be waged against them, can be seen in the marshalling of forces on that side of the liquor question. Many Chicagoans saw in Mayor Harrison's defeat at the recent municipal primaries for re-election, the finger of the saloon interests. Harrison, during the closing months of his incumbency, has closed up many of the worst drink resorts in the city. The famous Hinky Dinky Kenna and his able aid, Bath House John Coughlin, feudal lords of the old levee district, formerly were with Mayor Harrison, foot guns and horse. At the recent primaries, they "declared neutrality." Their wards went overwhelmingly against Harrison.

Another Tradition Wrecked. For half a century common belief has been that Horace Greeley, founder and once editor of the New York Tribune, was the author of the expression: "Go west, young man go west." Certain it is that Greeley used it, not once, but many times in editorials urging easterners to avoid the congestion in states on the other side of the Mississippi, and it was due to his effort that the expression became a sort of a slogan.

But now comes a writer in the Missouri valley, the editor of the St. Joseph News-Press, with the assertion that not only did Greeley coin the phrase, but he admitted that he did not, and the author was John B. L. Soule, editor of a Terre Haute, Ind.,

paper, who wrote it for a caption for an editorial at the suggestion of a friend who had just returned sometime in the early fifties, from a tour of the great area between the river and the Rockies.

In connection with this it is stated also that Greeley's first use of the expression was in copying the Soule Editorial, which he afterwards discussed at some length in succeeding issues and emphasized following his trip to the coast, so nicely described in Al D. Richardson's "Beyond the Mississippi," book long since out of print; more's the pity, for it was a wonderful revelation of the possibilities of the great empire referred to as its author found it.

However, even if all of us or many of us have been mistaken as to the authorship, it matters little, for the advice was good, and is still good, for the west yet represents to enterprising Americans the land of opportunity, and while the placers are not so prolific as in the days of forty nine and a few years following, there is plenty of gold for all those who seek, for in the grain fields and the orchards, the vineyards and the gardens, the timber tracts and the waiting farms may be found a plentitude for all who seek it.

## Motor Fads and Fancies.

Among the new mascot fads is the Russian bear in natural wool, so that weather does not affect it. He rides standing over the top of the radiator cap.

Sweaters of silk and dwool in black and gold woven in geometrical patterns on the striped ground have woven sashes, finished with tassels and the stripes running up and down. They are quite new and very smart. During this season when flowers are scarce and expensive the vases are filled with artificial flowers that look quite like the real thing. Gardenias and poinsettias seem to be the most popular favorites.

If frayed wire ends come in contact with the magneto it will immediately lose its value as a spark-producing instrument.

Under a new State law chauffeurs and demonstrators in Kentucky are being examined as to their fitness to operate automobiles.

Contracts aggregating \$900,000

## Facts From West's Exclusive Women's Ready-to-Wear Dep't.

### For the Women who Would be Correctly Apparelled to Moderate Cost

The newest New York styles are always shown at this store first. Not only that, but the styles shown here are correct in every detail and no matter where you go, be it to the Panama Exposition, or a trip elsewhere, your garment if bought at this store is sure to be right in style. Not one single suit, coat, dress or skirt left over from previous season.

## Men's Tailored Suits and Coats

All Women's and Misses' suits and coats from this store are designed by men and tailored by men tailors. Giving each garment distinctive style features, and the best of workmanship—such as only a man tailored suit or coat will have. Every woman wants her apparel to be different, exclusive and correct in style. Among the scores of new styles now on display, no two suits or coats alike.

## Our Alteration Department

is in charge of an expert fitter and all work is guaranteed. This extra service costs nothing extra and gives you the satisfaction of knowing that your garment fits faultlessly.

## Not in Any Previous Season Has Such Pretty Apparel Been Sold at Such Moderate Cost

We are showing beautiful suits in serge, white and black checks and poplins at ..... \$20.00 other suits in Belgian blues, white and black checks and other colors that are unmatchable values at \$22.50 New coats on display in checks at ..... \$7.50 and \$10.00 The most exclusive styled coats at ..... \$15 \$17.50 and \$20 Every garment marked in plain figures.

Suits ..... \$15.00 to \$32.50  
 Dresses ..... \$10 to \$30  
 Coats ..... \$7.50 to \$30



### Exclusive Agents for the Following High Grade Lines

For Women—

"Fownes" gloves, "Nemo" corsets, "Henderson" corsets, "La Princesse" front lace corsets, "Black Cat" hosiery, "Utz and Dunn" shoes, "Pingree" shoes, "Fox" dancing slippers, "Puritan" undermuslins and others.

For Men—

"J. E. Tilt" shoes, "Nettleton" shoes, "Gordon" hats "Stetson" hats, "Manhattan" shirts, "Interwoven" hosiery, "Keiser" neckwear, "Kenreign" raincoats, "Eagle" caps and "Best Ever" suits for boys.

**N. K. West & Co.**  
 THE QUALITY STORE



### See Window Display, New Spring Suits for Men

and note the careful little style details about which a local man when taking a measure knows nothing about. The N. K. West store is exclusive agents for "SOCIETY BRAND" SUITS, "BENJAMIN" SUITS, "HIRSCH-WICKWIRE" AND "FIDELITY" SUITS. The finest suits made.

## \$15.00 to \$27.50 About the Fit

There are five physical types of men—the regular, extra tall, short, stout, and besides—young men who require specially designed youthful models, all kinds are here thus assuring a perfect fit for every type of man. We show box back models, English form fitting models and plain easy fitting conservative models.

## MISREPRESENTATION IS NOT OUR METHOD

Of getting business. We don't mark our goods up in order to quote special prices.

A better broom than Our Competitors' so called:-

\$1.00 Our regular price 65c  
 80c Our regular price 50c  
 75c Our regular price 45c  
 60c Our regular price 35c

**HARRIS GROCERY**  
 408 North Fir Street, Cross Track

## To Investors and Builders Just a Word

I have some very choice city lots, acre tracts and five-acre tracts for sale on the most reasonable terms. It will be to your interest to call on me.

**J. A. RUSSELL**

## 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.

**F. D. HAISTEN**