

You Who are Looking for Quality Merchandise at the Lowest Prices Should Supply Your Needs for Months to Come During This Big January Clearance Sale.



Clearance Sale of Womens' Suits and Coats

Select your new Suit or Coat here at a wonderfully low price. The newest styles, latest fabrics, best tailoring, all sizes, your choice one-half price.

Dresses for Every Occasion

Street, afternoon and evening wear. A great variety of styles and patterns. Your Choice One-Quarter Off.

The Season's Newest Waists

Lawn, Silk, Georgette Crepe, Crepe de Chene. Colors—White, Pink, Flesh, Navy, Green. Your Choice 1-4 Off.

Our Great New Stocks of Men's Suits and Overcoats at Clearance Sale Prices

Table listing men's suits and overcoats with sale prices ranging from \$9.75 to \$22.50.

Your Choice of any Boys' Suit or Overcoat at a Reduction of 25 Per Cent.

Extensive Stocks at Sale Prices

- Bed Spreads, Sheetings, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Curtain Serim, Cretonnes, Comforters, Blankets, Embroideries, Laces, Gingham, Percales, Dress Goods, Silks, Velvets, Outing Flannel, Towelings, Towels, White Goods, Linens

Ladies' and Misses'

Sport Shoes

A New Shipment, just received—Tan and Black and Patent with white tops. Sale Price \$3.60, \$4.05. Broken sizes Misses' Shoes—Tan, Black. Your Choice \$1.50. Gun Metal Shoes, with heavy soles, lace and button. Just the shoe for snow and rain. Sale Price \$3.15, \$3.60.

Entire Stock Ladies' and Misses' Shoes Reduced.

Sheep-lined Coats, Vests 1-4 off. Wool Work and Dress Pants 1-4 off. Mackinaws and Stag Shirts 1-4 off. Broken Lines Underwear 1-3 off. Men's and Boys' Sweaters, Reduced 25 per cent. Fur-lined Caps Reduced 25 per cent. Stetson Hats \$2.49. Gordon Hats \$1.98. Trunks, Bags, Suit Cases Reduced. Bargains in Every Department.

Read These Items Carefully -- Remember This Ad Only Gives You a Hint of the Many Bargains at This Store.

THE OBSERVER

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FRIDAY, JANUARY, 5, 1917. WHAT WOULD LINCOLN DO?

Certain shallow minds love to settle any question by some isolated quotation from the utterances of some great man. To their minds the quotation settles all doubt as to the wisdom or expediency of the project in question. Just now the press is full of discussion over Lincoln's letter to Charles Francis Adams, ambassador to Great Britain during our own Civil war. At that time Gladstone had hinted that proposals for mediation between the

north and south were being considered in England.

President Lincoln wrote to Ambassador Adams: "If the British government should in any way approach you, directly or indirectly, with propositions that you are forbidden to debate, to hear or in any way receive on the subject of our internal affairs, whether it seems to imply a purpose to dictate, or to mediate, or advise, or even to solicit, or to persuade, you will answer that you are forbidden to debate, to hear or in any way receive, entertain or transmit any communication of the kind."

"If the British government, either alone or in combination with any other government, shall acknowledge the insurgents . . . you will immediately suspend the exercises of your functions . . . We approach the danger of war with Great Britain and other states with a caution which great reluctance has inspired. But I trust that you will also have perceived that the crisis has not appalled us."

These were the words of a brave man battling for the Union. Now the press of this country and the Allies are twisting these words into an argument against, and using them as an answer to President Wilson's peace note.

Such a course is silly. No one knows what Abraham Lincoln would do or say if he were in the presidential chair today. But it is certain he would speak for humanity and would sturdily defend American rights on land and sea, whether infringed by Germany or the Allies. But he would be a man of peace, even though thrice armed.

President Wilson has a right to speak for peace since our welfare as a nation is involved.

Whether we should entangle ourselves in the European mess and join in a world-wide congress of nations in a theoretical attempt to preserve world-wide peace is another matter. We believe that we would do well to let well enough alone.

It looks as if we would have the snow with us for some time.

When the thaw comes, look out for your sidewalks. It might be a good idea to clear them off now.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Some Adamson Law Effects.

Evidences of our amazing national prosperity rush on us in tumultuous exhibits. Dividends distributed among inven-

tors reach a dazzling figure. The total of the holiday gratuities awarded to employes runs up into the hundreds of millions, exceeds, in fact, the budget totals of many considerable nations. Merchandising of every branch in every community reports volume of business, profits, speediness of turnover, prospects for the future unsurpassed in former years.

But the measure without which this unprecedentedly wide distribution of the rewards of industry would have been impossible is still being referred to as a cowardly surrender, a usurpation of congressional power, an unwise and vicious device of incapable statesmanship.

That measure is, of course, the Adamson law.

It is a little difficult to imagine the conditions that would exist now had the crisis not been dealt with which this measure was designed to meet. We may get some vague idea of it from the relative scarcity and advance in prices caused by the car famine that resulted from our too abundant, embarrassing prosperity.

Probably the strike, had it taken place, would have been over long before this date, but we would still be suffering from its effects. The railroads themselves, which are contesting the law and whose representatives denounce its beneficent purposes most savagely, would not have made \$1,098,000,000 in net profits. A strike would not only have checked the inflow of revenue, but would have caused heavy inroads on revenue already earned because of defense fund expenditures.

Did congress, in the exercise of authority it believes to be delegated to it, ever legislate with happier immediate results? With good fortune so generally diffused, should not even the most biased of the opposition be moved to a more tolerant, to even a kindly disposition, toward this well-considered piece of legislation that preserved the business world from convulsion?

Reasoning after the fact, if congress has not this power to avert calamity, it is not undeniable that congress ought to have it?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Ed Howe's Philosophy.

(From E. W. Howe's Monthly.) Boil a barrel of philosophy, and you may soon reduce it to a pint. In writing, remember that an opinion usually makes an enemy; information rarely does.

After a man reaches sixty or seventy the only help he can hope for is from a fairy.

Of course I have made mistakes; how would I know the value of com-

mon sense if I had not?

Possibly you have observed that Henry George Jr., a tremendous friend of man, died lately worth several million dollars.

So many people believe that when they are not sleeping or eating, they should be having a good time.

If a man works only eight hours a day, and has rules against doing too much, his age will advance more rapidly than his wages.

About the best example of repartee I know anything about was afforded by the man who found thirteen grammatical errors in "Murray's Grammar."

When an employer realizes that one of his men is becoming so valuable that a competitor may want him, a suggestion of more pay will come from the stingiest and hardest heart.

No Place for Knockers.

Secretary Meacham is right. Baker is no place for the knocker and fault finder. Everyone should join in the movements for the benefit of the city. There are big ones to come up this year and everyone should be ready to join in the good work.—Baker Herald.

Poor Boys' Chances.

Some people persist in believing that "chance" is the important factor in success or failure. That it is a factor that must be reckoned with is hard to deny. But that it is very far from being the main factor, everybody who has ever succeeded, whether in attaining health or happiness, wealth or power, agrees.

In Chicago the life story of the general manager of a great industrial concern has recently come to light. He began as a poor boy with a very humble job low down in the scale of the business which he now heads. It took him 30 years to reach the top, but he did it.

When asked whether there are any "chances" today for the poor and friendless boy, this man gave the following very complete and comprehensive reply:

"Rise early, work late, play hard, be merry, don't worry, and be good." It's a recipe that leaves little to chance; but spells hope and success for anyone with ambition and determination. It is a mighty good thing to memorize and follow in our determination to be one of the many that are going to make 1917 their banner year along with the rest of this vicinity.—Baker Herald.

Less Workers, More Production

The war has brought an economic miracle to England which may well amaze the world. She finds that, despite the work of four million

men withdrawn, and of two million men transferred from constructive work to that of making munitions, the remaining laborers maintain for these six or seven millions that are withdrawn from production and for themselves "a standard of living higher as a whole" than that which was maintained when the six or seven millions were at work. That is to say, the withdrawal of more than half the workers of the country has not lessened production or comfortable living. This great fact has been neglected and its tremendous implications unrealized. It shows that before the war work was so ill-adjusted that not more than one-half the possible production was obtained and the standard of living was twice as low as it need have been.—The Christian Herald.

What Are the Masses For?

The British debt is rising with appalling speed. Every week about \$180,000,000 are needed, nearly all of this for war. Most of this colossal sum is borrowed, chiefly from British subjects, in the form of various war loans, treasury bills, and so forth. The annual charges on the national debt as it will be next March will be much over a billion dollars. This sum equal to more than one dollar thrown away every minute since Christ was born. It means that the great masses will pay this stupendous sum to those mostly wealthy citizens, who have subscribed heavily to war loans. The millions who have given life, health and service are to bear this colossal burden, and those who have loaned are to reap interest.—The Christian Herald.

Two Unanswered Questions

We may wonder why the Lord gave so little—other may wonder why He trusted us with so much.—The Christian Herald.

Picked Up By The Stroller

After reading a copy of the Congressional Record, I don't envy Nick Sinnott. Congress must be a dreary waste of words.

"War is hell," remarked Commissioner McKennon so sapiently that the Stroller was compelled to remark that the commissioner had drawn a picture of the statu quo in words which certainly did not lack force.

Opening up his mail is the very best thing the Stroller does. There is always so much uncertainty about it. Bills can almost be detected from the outside of the envelopes. Letters from feminine correspondents tell their story in the handwriting and the stationery. But then there is the vast unknown. Who knows where the rest are from and their contents? Some might contain checks! One might tell of some rich relative leaving us a million! Others might speak a word of praise for some worthy deed well done. Or you might get a roast (verbal I mean, not a nice beef roast, although in the days of parcel post one would be very acceptable). It is said that we are not a nation of correspondents any longer—that we no longer write letters. Perhaps this is true and the reason may be that we are all writing books and magazines. But it is really a shame. There is so much pleasure in getting them that we really ought to write one or two once in a while. Letters cast in the mail box will return some day—outer be careful that they don't return to haunt you in court.

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