

## CAUSE OF RAILWAY WRECKS

There are times when the spirit of the law includes the letter; when individual judgment has no place in action. However broad a principle may be, its practical value is destroyed unless it is applied by the individual and demonstrated by him. J. O. Fagan, writing in the Atlantic Monthly on "The Confessions of a Railroad Signalman," illustrates this truth, and speaking as a railroad man, places much of the responsibility for railway disaster upon the disregard of essential regulations.

As far as speed and comfort go, there is little to be asked for in railroad service. But when we take into account the human lives which have paid toll to the American system, we cannot avoid the conclusion that something is wrong fundamentally. The popular discussions in regard to block signals, tried employees and faulty rules are endless and fruitless. Investigations and penalties are in effect secret, and the world remains in ignorance. It is the men who know the details of railroad life, the men who pull the signals and handle the trains, who must be heard from.

The significant facts in accidents are the personal conduct of employees, and not the nature of signals or the wording of rules. Most of the trouble can be traced to us railroad men, to our own personal behavior as railroad men.

There is a rule that a freight train must not leave a station to follow a passenger train until five minutes after the departure of the passenger train. This seems plain and positive, yet no attention whatever is paid to it by the engineers, conductors or superintendents and its violation is the cause of much loss of life. The fault lies not in the rule, but in downright neglect on the part of the men to do as they are told.

A flagman protects a train to the very letter of the rule when it is manifestly necessary, but when, in his opinion, it is not, he takes the chances. If an engineer encounters a single torpedo, the rule calls for a full stop. If he happens to have a clear track for a mile or so ahead he keeps on, and some day

## THE UNIVERSE.

### Man's Plea in This Eternity of Space and Matter.

The solar system is but a fragment of the universe. Every star is a sun with a solar system. It is possible that there may be millions of planets inhabited by beings higher or lower than ourselves. What we see going on is what we call the process of evolution—from broken fragments to coherent masses and to inhabited worlds, from chaos to cosmos, a struggle upward of the universe from something lower and disorganized to something higher and organized.

As to how life originates on these planets science is ignorant at present. It is an entire mystery. I would not have you think it will always remain a mystery, nor would I have a theologian shaken in his views if science should discover something about the nature and origin of life. I want you to realize that this process of evolution is not a process which negatives or excludes the idea of divine activity. It is, I venture to say, a revelation to us of the manner of divine activity. It is the way the Deity works.

The attempt to show that evolution is unguided, that it is the result of absolute change, fails. What is pointed to is not unguided random change, but guided change. The other could not be done in time.

What we have to realize in regard to our place in the universe is that we are intelligent, helpful and active parts of the cosmic scheme. We are among the agents of the Creator. One of the most helpful ideas is co-operation—helping one another. Co-operation—this in a new and stimulating sense—co-operation with the Divinity Himself. —Sir Oliver Lodge.

### The Doctor Habit.

One of the tendencies of ill health is to make one morbid. People who are constantly thinking about their ailments, worrying about their troubles, suffering pain, often develop a morbid passion for sympathy. They want to tell everybody of their aches and pains, to describe their symptoms.

Have you ever known a woman who has acquired the doctor habit, a woman who loves nothing in the world quite so well as an opportunity to tell the doctor of her ailments? She has

## GROWING HOGS IN IDAHO.

### Industry Is Receiving Greater Attention Than Ever Before.

Prof. H. T. French, Director Idaho Experiment Station.

The hog industry in Idaho is receiving more attention now than ever before in the history of the state. The tendency to diversify farm operations is stronger now than in the past. All alfalfa, or all sheep or all of any other one thing, unless it should be fruit, is out of date for the majority of farmers of Idaho, both in the northern part of the state, where irrigation is not practiced, and in the irrigated sections of southern Idaho. The most successful farmer, here as elsewhere, is the one who is making livestock on the farm one of the important factors. As the dairy industry increases in interest the raising of hogs will receive more attention. A farmer who is not adverse to milking cows will, as a rule, be a success in handling pigs, because no one can succeed in either line, to the fullest extent, unless he looks carefully after details.

In Idaho the dairy industry is growing, therefore I expect a more rapid development of the hog industry. In fact, there is a strong indication that this is the case just now in several sections of the state. In holding farmers' institutes in southern Idaho much interest was noticed in the subject of feeding and breeding hogs. Several shipments of pure bred stock have recently been made into southern Idaho. Pure bred Poland China, Duroc Jersey, Chester White and Berkshire pigs are found in increasing numbers in every farming section of the state. Poland Chinas predominate, no doubt; but the Duroc is becoming a close competitor in many sections.

Alfalfa pasture, with a small ration of shorts, ground wheat or finely ground barley, will grow pigs very rapidly. This, supplemented with separator milk, will produce a growth equal to that secured in the corn belt, and in quality we flatter ourselves that it is superior.

In growth, our pigs can be made to compare quite favorably with those fed on corn. Numerous reports were made last winter at farmers' meetings that it was not difficult to produce a pig that would weigh two hundred pounds at eight months old.

Some sugar beets and other roots can be fed, and are being used in feeding hogs in Idaho. Potatoes boiled and mixed with one and a half to two pounds of grain per hundredweight of pig, will produce good gains in live weight. Alfalfa, cut up with feed cutter, and softened by steaming or even a sprinkling of cold water, with a little grain, makes a good ration for brood sows during winter. A great many hogs are wintered largely on dry alfalfa hay, and they do very well.

In a state where so much cheap forage can be grown for hogs, there is great encouragement for the industry. Large yields of wheat and barley can be secured on irrigated lands, and often the wheat is of low milling quality, making it much more profitable to feed it than to sell it in the sack. A bushel of wheat will make from 12 to 15 pounds of gain in live weight when fed to thrifty young hogs weighing from 75 to 175 pounds. In young pigs even greater gains can be secured.

Field peas are grown in some sections for hog pasture, and serve an important purpose in providing good pasturage during the summer before the stubble fields are ready to glean. There is a period in summer when there is a lack of good pasture in the grain-growing sections of the state. Little alfalfa or clover is grown on many of the farms, and often pigs make very small gains during this period. Some farmers sow grain, such as wheat or barley, for hog pasture, but even this does not produce as good results as would a pasture of alfalfa, peas or clover.

Bluegrass and white clover will make a good pasture in some localities where there is plenty of moisture and good soil. This does not, in our opinion, give as good results, however, as the crops mentioned above. Idaho farmers are much encouraged in raising hogs from the fact that large packing plants are being established on the coast, thus insuring a steady demand for live hogs, and while the price may not be any more satisfactory than in the past, with a limited supply, there will be a permanency to the demand even though the number of hogs produced increases several times.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### Valuable Information to Pacific Northwest Inquirers

By J. L. Ashlock, Washington Experiment Station, Pullman.

Elma.—"I have a tract of land near Quincy, Wash., that I wish to irrigate. In order to do this I will have to use well water, and possibly do the pumping with a gasoline engine, or some other mechanical device. Will you please give me any information that bears on this subject?" A. L. C.

"I am quite familiar with the conditions around Quincy, and believe that irrigation in that region would bring very good results, providing the cost was not too much. In that locality the depth to water is quite considerable, and the cost of operating a pump would therefore be heavy. The farmers there use windmills quite exclusively, using gasoline engines only when the wind fails. However, the water is quite abundant when it is reached. I do not believe that it would be profitable for you to irrigate as many as ten acres unless you have a system of pipes to

conserve the water. The soil around Quincy is so light that the water will seep away and be lost, unless you put in such pipes. A ten horse-power engine would be sufficient to raise water for ten acres, but it might be necessary to sink more than one well. I am beginning to believe that irrigation will be necessary in the Quincy section to obtain the best results."

Baird.—"I have been quite successful with corn in this locality, except that the corn matures rather small. Can you advise me of varieties of corn that I might try?"

FARMER.—"I advise that you experiment with Kafir corn, since it seems that it will do well in your region. Try a good, early maturing Dent variety. This should be preferable to the Flint, and it certainly makes better feed. The conditions of your region require that you cultivate to retain moisture, as well as to destroy the weeds."

Cewelah.—"Is wood as desirable as cement for building a silo? Is silage apt to freeze in this country? What forage plants should be grown in the Cewelah region?" STOCKMAN.

"Brome grass might do well, if the soil is not too gravelly, but it should not be grown in rocky soil. Vetches will be desirable in such soil as you have, as these plants reseed themselves. If you can get lumber at a reasonable price in your vicinity, it would be more costly to build of cement than of wood. Silage stays warm, and it is not apt to freeze in this country; but if it sticks to the sides of the silo from any cause, it should be tramped down in order to prevent it from settling unevenly."

Leahy.—"I would like to know if it would be advisable to plant the Australian salt bush in this region? Has the plant any desirable qualities?" J. S.

"I advise you to let the Australian salt bush alone. The plant has a few desirable qualities, but we have heard that in the Walla Walla country it has developed into a pest. It resembles tumble weed in its manner of growth, and in windy weather will break off and roll for a great distance, scattering seed as it goes. Except when young and tender, it is undesirable for stock."

Washuena.—"I have a white clover lawn, and would like to know what sort of bone fertilizer is best to use on it." W. A. P.

"I question the advisability of using a bone fertilizer on your lawn. Commercial fertilizers are generally poorly adapted to the soils in semi-arid regions. Well-rotted manure placed on the land late in the fall and raked off in the spring would, I believe, be far more preferable. The soil in your region needs humus rather than fertilizing elements. Manure is well supplied with phosphates and nitrogen, and should therefore give your soil the needed stimulation."

Sunnyside.—"Would your station advise me to feed grain hay with alfalfa? I am a dairyman, and have been feeding only alfalfa." F. W.

"I am sure that there would be economy in combining alfalfa with grain. From four to ten pounds of grain per day should be sufficient, using rolled barley rather than wheat or bran. The bran would practically be wasted. You would get good results, I believe, by feeding about one-half a pound per day of linseed meal. Alfalfa is entirely nitrogenous in composition, and should be balanced by a more concentrated form of the carbohydrates."

## QUERIES BY FARMERS.

### Experiment Station Called Upon for Advice on Various Subjects.

From the Washington State College, Pullman.

A Seattle correspondent asks for a statement of the experience the station has had with the "novelty vegetables." He was informed as follows:

"The station has experimented with all of them, and finds that they will grow successfully in eastern Washington. The tomato and egg plant should be started early in the season in hotbeds, or cold frames. With this care a creditable crop will be matured. The egg plant is a native of warm climates, and, like the tomato, should be given a high, warm elevation. The okra and artichoke have each done very well with us, requiring only the ordinary garden culture."

A farmer of Arden wishes to know what apples would do well where he lives. Professor Thorner advised him as follows:

"For the soil and general climatic conditions you have, I advise the use in equal quantities of the Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Wegener. It is possible that you might make use of a great many other varieties, but these are apples that the all doing well, and sell for very good market prices in the annual markets."

"Vary the number of trees, according to whether you are going to irrigate or not. If you are going to irrigate, plant your trees from twenty-five to twenty-seven feet apart, in alternate rows. If you are not going to irrigate, you had better plant them on the hexagonal plan, placing the trees in the rows thirty-three feet apart, with the rows themselves about twenty-seven feet apart. It will not injure the trees to grow vegetables between them for the first three to five years, but, of course, you should plant nothing that will take the moisture or plant food from close to the young trees."

### Mild Punishment.

Stranger.—In your town they close the front doors of the saloons on Sunday, and open the side doors, do they? Isn't that whipping the devil around the stump?

Native.—Yes, and the whipping doesn't hurt him a bit, either.

## CZAR'S LITTLE SON.

### Lively Russian Youngster Who Is Constantly Guarded.

Despite early prophecies that he would grow up a sickly child or possibly die before attaining manhood, the Czarowitz Alexis, son and heir to the Czar of all the Russias, is to-day as bright and hearty a little lad as could be found in any American household.

Hedged in though he is with court ceremonial and constantly guarded against possible kidnaping by nihilists, Alexis manages to get as much fun out of life as the average boy of his age. He is never happier than when romping around the staid and sombre corridors in a game of tag with his sisters, and the silent guards stationed at regular and frequent intervals fail to attract his notice at all, except when one in-



TSAREVITCH ALEXIS

advertently stations himself in some favorite corner of the baby prince.

Alexis finds little enjoyment in the supposedly favorite game of king's men's, playing at soldiers. He finds the tin men and tiny fortresses too tedious. He wants to romp with other children and, if allowed his own way, would spend the day playing with boys in the garden, street, or anywhere, as long as he could have fun, active fun, and lots of it. Alexis' happiest moments are probably spent on his father's yacht, where, free from danger of death at the hands of revolutionists, he can romp with the loyal sailors at will

## PUSS TO THE RESCUE.

### Brought a Rabbit to Hungry Philadelphia Cave Dwellers.

When the first settlers came to Philadelphia, of course there were no houses ready for them, says Sel in the Cat Journal, so a good many of the men dug small caves in the bank of the river. They would dig several feet into the bank, then build walls of sod in front of the little caves. They made the roof by laying branches of trees on top, covering these with rush from the river and putting pieces of sod on the rushes. The chimney was made of stones plastered with clay.

These caves were used only until the men had time to cut timber and build the houses they wished.

One of the old families of Philadelphia owns a quaint silver tureen on which is engraved a cat seizing a rabbit. In the early days at Philadelphia Elizabeth Hard was living with her husband in one of these dug-out caves while he was building their house. The work went very slowly, and Elizabeth often helped her husband. She brought the water to make the mortar for the chimney, and even helped at one end of the saw.

One day she was very tired, for she had helped all the morning. Her husband told her to rest a while and then think about dinner. Mrs. Hard walked sadly away. The food was nearly gone. Only a few biscuits and a little cheese were left. Just then she saw her cat coming toward her with a large rabbit in its mouth. Mrs. Hard cooked the rabbit and had a nice dinner ready for Mr. Hard when he came for his noon rest. So kitty helped, although she did not know it.

### We Are Fortunate.

"Each day brings some new worry," declared the pessimist.

"Which enables us to forget the worry of yesterday," was the optimist's reply.—Washington Herald.

We have an idea that the women pay a good deal of attention to the hats worn by the milliners.

## THE POOR WIDOW HAT.



he finds that his judgment was at fault.

A green light with semaphore horizontal calls for caution. This should not be interpreted at will. It demands an actual, not a theoretical reduction of speed. It is not a piece of information to be stored away in the engineer's brain, to be utilized when a rear end or a broken rail is in sight. Instead, train after train runs past without reduction, provided the track looks clear. It should not make a particle of difference to the engineer whether the track was clear or not; he simply has to follow his instructions.

Practically there is no out-supervision of the American railway. Reports of employees are depended on for information in regard to violations. Unchecked negligence can be shown to be the direct cause of nearly all preventable accidents in America.

It is "up to" the management to enforce rules. It is "up to" the men to obey rules.

No practical system can enforce obedience at all times. The whole business resolves itself into a personal matter. It is up to all to do the square thing. Employees should be educated to appreciate the fact that successful and safe railroading depends, not on the multiplicity of safety devices, nor the reconstruction of rules, but on personal effort, and the conduct of conscientious, alert and careful men.

poured them out to unwelcome ears, to forced listeners, till she longs for some one who can really appreciate it all, who sympathizes with her in her troubles; so she sends for the doctor, or goes to see him.

This becomes almost a mania with some women, who have few outside activities to divert them. Their minds naturally revert to themselves and they think of their unfortunate condition until they become saturated with the poisoned thought.—Success Magazine.

### Practice Makes Perfect.

At the appointed time Edwin Jones had called at his best girl's home, but somehow Miss Wrinkle was not there to greet him.

He seated himself in the drawing room and anxiously awaited her arrival.

Presently the door opened; but, alas, it was only her eighty-year-old brother. "Hello!" exclaimed Edwin. "Is your sister busy?"

"She seems so," replied the youngster, "but I don't know just what she thinks she's doing. She's standing in front of the mirror, blushing just awful and whispering to it, 'Oh, Mr. Jones, this is so sudden!'"

The average woman feels proud of her housekeeping every time a bug, seen crawling on the bedroom wall, turns out Not to be a bedbug.