

STRONGEST BUSINESS HOUSE IN WORLD IS MITSUI CO.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN. (Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.)

Tokio, April 1.—The Mitsui family of Japan is one of the oldest and strongest business concerns in the world. It has a finger in almost every kind of enterprise in the island empire, and its ramifications extend to all parts of the globe.

According to the historians of the Mitsui family their early ancestors were great warriors. But on one occasion, several hundred years ago, the leader of their clan was soundly trounced by a vicious rival, wherefore he turned his back upon warlike pursuits and opened a drygoods store.

From that time on the energies of the clan were applied to commercial pursuits with such success that the business founded by the defeated brave is now one of the strong pillars of the empire. The early Mitsui traders were the pioneers in the idea of cash retailing; they organized a plan for the collection and remittance of money, and established the first carrier's business in Japan.

As early as 1687 the Mitsui family was appointed by the government as its purveyor and controller of public exchange. In recognition of the services rendered at this time a vast estate in Tokio was conferred upon the clan. The Mitsuis have continued to render valuable service to the state. For two centuries they were loyal to the Tokugawa Shogunate, an emperor in name, but in fact when the present emperor was restored to actual power, the Mitsui family was financially ruined.

The holdings of the house of Mitsui are the common property of the members of 11 families, and the conduct of affairs is under the direct control of a board made up of the heads of these families. For this service the head of the house was created a peer, and other members of the family have been decorated and given various kinds of honors.

By laws and customs of inheritance, the estate of the father descends to the first born son by primogeniture. The younger sons must be adopted into another family, or falling to do this, must make their own fortunes independently. In the case of the Mitsui family, however, from the oldest to the youngest, there is no particular property to which any individual can enter his absolute claim. The properties are the common holdings of all. It is a collective body or joint association, working with a combined capital and under joint liability.

Organized in 1733. The family rules under which this great organization works were drawn up in 1743 (when George Washington was 1 year old), and they continue in force until this day, being only slightly modified to conform to the requirements of the laws of the country under its constitution. The original rules were left to the family in the last will and testament of one Takatoshi, and were codified by his son, Hachirobei.

Oregonians Know GOOD LIFE INSURANCE WHEN THEY SEE IT

That's Why That's Why That's Why Not One Death Our Risks

"Oregon Life" gained more business in Oregon in 1907 than any regular life insurance company. Our business for 1908 shows marked improvements over our splendid record of last year. April was, with but one exception, the biggest month this company has had since opening its doors. Has occurred in 1907—Not one death in 1908. As well as our investments are carefully selected.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR ANY CITIZEN OF OREGON TAKING LIFE INSURANCE FROM AN OUTSIDE COMPANY



IS BEST FOR OREGONIANS Home Office: Corbett Bldg., Cor. 5th & Morrison Sts., Portland, Or. A. L. MILLS, President L. SAMUEL, General Manager CLARENCE S. SAMUEL, Ass't. Manager

ber, railway sleepers, sulphur, matches and so on.

Tremendous Imports. Their import business is conducted on an equally large scale. Their commercial importance to the United States is shown by the fact that they are the agents in Japan for the American Bridge company, the United States Steel corporation and the General Electric company. The list of their imports includes such important items as steamers, warships, locomotives, steel bridges, electrical machines, pig iron, wire, lead, tin, zinc, machinery of all kinds, and materials for railway equipment, all of which are supplied with a great fleet which they own themselves. The Mitsuis find it inadequate to meet their needs, and are known as one of the great charterers of steam and sail tonnage in London and in the east.

This great commercial concern has been engaged in the mining industry since 1889, when it bought from the government the extensive Milke coal field. This tract comprises an area of 16,000 acres, or roughly, 25 square miles. Since the mines passed into the control of the Mitsuis no expense has been spared in providing the best and newest appliances to develop the property and make it one of the great mining enterprises of the world. There are several seams of coal in the Milke field, but only the first and second seams are capable of being profitably worked. These mines give employment to over 5,000 miners and workmen, and the coal is conveyed to market by 200 schooner-rigged barges. Aside from the coal mines, the Mitsuis also own and operate silver, copper, lead and sulphur mines.

Known World Over. A noteworthy fact about the Mitsui family is that, notwithstanding its long history reaching back to the sixteenth century, it has not taken on the crust of conservatism which characterizes so many old business establishments. That it is the head of so many phases of the industrial life of Japan, that it is the foundation of the national credit at this time, and that no Japanese firm is so well known in the world, all prove that its economical influence in Japan is of the first magnitude. But the interests of the Mitsuis are by no means confined to Japan. Enterprises which are conducted under the family name. The family owns stock to the amount of millions in other concerns in Japan and on account of its prestige, its voice is respectfully listened to in every joint stock company in which it holds a share. These private concerns which are really a part of the Mitsui foundation are The Bank of Japan, The Yokohama Specie Bank, The Nippon Kaisha, or Japan Mail Steamship company, and other prominent industrial corporations, such as cotton mills, paper mills, and sugar refineries.

Second only to the imperial household in influence, the Mitsui family cannot be separated from the great questions of world politics which center in China and Japan, and which are now forging to the front. It is certain that the voice of the Mitsuis will be always lifted against war, but even they have little influence in any other line than business. One of the reasons, it may be the Mitsuis who will cause war by leading the aggressive commercial campaign which Japan is conducting in North China and which is already disturbing the waters in the sea of world diplomacy.

"DIS STREET CAR PIZNESS IS GETTING UNGUESSABLE"

By George V. Hobart.

Der spring styles in catching a street-car seems to fluctuate vorse den der cotton market efer dit. Now it was dot der husband vakes up in der morning and says py his luffing wife, "Manatella, hurry my breakfast, please, because der car stops on der far side dis morning and I must huz."

Yesterday I hat some pizness down town, so I vent efer on der near side and waited for a car. Ven der car came py I hat my thumb out in der atmosphere varringly, but der motormans kept on to der far side and stopped. Py der time I ran efer to der far side he vas gone again and annuder car hat stopped at der near side.

Der gritted my teeth and made up my mind to anticipate der car, so I ran py standing half way between der near side and der far side so I could run to vich efer side der emergency called for. I vas atooding dars about a minute when der car vas now about a foot from der far side ven yust den a automobile backboard sneaked up behind me and der car der varetts started on me on my own personal far side and hoisted me efer to der near side yust as a car left for der far side.

I reached out my hand to grab der far side of der step, but I missed it and caught der near side and py dis der motormans grabbed der near side of der electrically machine and pushed it back. I vas atooding dars about a minute when der car vas now about a foot from der far side of der step and I vas mit der far side of der step and I vas mit der far side of der step and I vas mit der far side of der step.

D. DENKELSPIEL, Per George V. Hobart.

WILL SPEAK ON LAW POINTS FOR WOMEN

The Sunday "At Home" at the Young Women's Christian Association offers some special attractions this time. After the Crop and Bible Club and Little Journey room, which open at 4 o'clock, comes the musical program, an unusually good one, and the address. The talk for "Law Points for Women" by A. F. Fliegel. This promises to be a most practical, helpful talk for women, right to the point with some suggestions which "would cost you \$5 if you came to the office for them."

Johnson to Address Chicagoans. (United Press Wire.) Chicago, Ill., May 1.—Leading Democrats from all parts of Illinois have come to Chicago to attend tonight's banquet of the Irons Club, which Governor John A. Johnson of Illinois, is to be the guest of honor and the chief speaker. Much interest is manifested in the function, since it was announced that Governor Johnson's address was to be of national political importance. The present boom of the Minnesota executive is believed to have gathered considerable strength since the Johnson headquarters were opened in Chicago several weeks ago.



MALTED BARLEY is digested food. Hops are a tonic —also an aid to sleep. That's what you get in beer. That's why the doctor says "drink beer" when one lacks vitality. Beer quiets the nerves, not because of the alcohol. There is only 3 1/2 per cent. of that. But because of the hops, for hops are soporific. A bottle of Schlitz at bedtime induces sleep. In every way the drinking of beer is good for you, providing the beer is pure. It is only the wrong beer that leads to bad after effects and to biliousness. Schlitz beer is pure. We spend more on purity than on all other costs of our brewing. Even the air that cools it is filtered. And every bottle is sterilized. There is all the good of beer, and none of the harm, in Schlitz.



Ask for the Brewery Bottling. Common beer is sometimes substituted for Schlitz. To avoid being imposed upon, see that the cork or crown is brandied Schlitz. Phone Main 2779. Sherwood & Sherwood. 8 Front St., S. E. cor. Ankeny St. Portland.

SHAKE DUST OF FARM AT OCEAN BEACHES

Inland Empire Residents Will Flock This Summer to Coast Points. Inland empire people are showing more interest this year than ever before in summer tourist rates and travel to Oregon coast beach resorts. A movement has been started at Walla Walla to induce the railroad companies to put in especially low rates and improve train accommodations for this business. The Walla Walla Commercial club has passed resolutions on the subject, and these have been unanimously endorsed by a vote of the board of governors of the Portland Commercial club.

SPREE HABIT CAME FROM LONG PRACTICE. Mrs. Mary Reisenbahn has begun suit in the circuit court for divorce from Gotfried Reisenbahn, alleging that within the last year he has contracted the habit of going on sprees. They were married in Germany in 1882 and came to Oregon ten years later. Mrs. Reisenbahn wants \$2,000 alimony, the custody of the children, and one third interest in 160 acres of land near Buxton, said to be worth \$3,000. William Scheurer has been sued for divorce by Emma Scheurer, to whom he was married in 1891. His wife alleges that he deserted her in November, 1906.

A GREAT DRIVE



In paint satisfaction is made by the buyer of BAY STATE products. Used intelligently, the results are economical and satisfactory always. THE BIG PAINT STORE Fisher, Thorsen & Co. FRONT AND MORRISON STS.

DRIFTING TOWARDS BRIGHT'S DISEASE

Many people who are neglecting symptoms of kidney trouble, hoping "it will wear away," are drifting towards Bright's Disease, which is kidney trouble in one of its worst forms.



FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE stops irregularities, strengthens the urinary organs and builds up the worn-out tissues of the kidneys so they will perform their functions properly. Healthy kidneys strain out the impurities from the blood as it passes through them. Diseased kidneys do not, and the poisonous waste matter is carried by the circulation to every part of the body, causing dizziness, backache, stomach trouble, sluggish liver, irregular heart action, etc. If you have any signs of Kidney or Bladder Trouble commence taking FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE at once, as it will cure a slight disorder in a few days and prevent a fatal ailment. It is pleasant to take and benefits the whole system.

Two Sizes, 50 Cents and \$1.00. SOLD AND RECOMMENDED BY ALL DRUGGISTS