

Judging a Great Institution by Small Defects

By J. H. PUELICHER

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It would be difficult to find a banker, understanding thoroughly the Federal Reserve System, willing to admit that we could continue a first-class commercial nation, without the Federal Reserve Banks, or mechanisms similar to them. Yet there is antagonism to the Federal Reserve Banks based in a measure on some minor mistakes in administration, but more generally on a misunderstanding of their purposes, of what should be expected of such a system.

The banker, as much as any man, is to blame for the present misconception. He found Federal Reserve Banks a ready scapegoat to blame for no matter what happened. If it seemed desirable to refuse or call a loan it was easy to say that the Federal Reserve Bank wished it, although it should have been refused because contrary to good banking practice.

Most of all was the system blamed for the fact that violent inflation which hundreds of business men and bankers hoped might be continued forever was finally checked by putting up Federal Reserve interest rates. There were those who blamed the system for not having put up the rate soon enough and others who blamed it because it put up the rate at all. The penalty for thus blaming every business mishap on this valuable system may be the loss of its much needed benefits. If we wish to save the present bank of the United States from the fate of its two predecessors we must make known to America, to its rank and file, the splendid usefulness of these institutions.

We must admit at the outset that in their administration mistakes have been made, that governors of Federal Reserve Banks and members of the Federal Reserve Board are human beings, and in the administration of the affairs of any institution by human beings mistakes will be made, but these have been so insignificant as compared with the outstanding usefulness of the institutions themselves that they should be judged by the good which they have performed, which, after all, has been along the line of their designed achievement, rather than by those errors which time and experience can easily eliminate.

Theory of Relativity.

Einstein is said to have made the statement that only 12 men could understand his theory. This statement referred to it in its mathematical entirety, and not to a common sense understanding. In a general way every one understands Newton's law of grav-

itation, although to grasp it fully one must know the calculus. In a similar way the layman can understand the relativity theory, stated by a famous mathematician to be: "One cannot determine the speed of any object moving at a uniform rate of speed in a straight line, by any experiment in motion or light, and the moving object changes its length in relation to speed and direction of its motion."

This theory had its forerunners in many countries, but is an outgrowth, more specifically, of the attempt to find the velocity of the earth's motion by a very delicate experiment with light. The theory also makes instantaneously a relative matter.

Saturday "Dress-Up" Day.

Saturdays once were almost universally pay days, but now, with many firms paying their help on other days, Saturdays have lost claim to that distinction. But another one still prevails, the New York Sun states. To the stenographer or girl clerk Saturdays are dress-up days. Even the most prim and most severely plain dresser blossoms forth on Saturday. The system started through engagements for the afternoon. Sadie, or Mamie, or Rose, wished to appear at her best when she met Tom, Dick or Harry, or whoever was going to take her to a movie or Coney Island.

When one of them quarreled with her particular beau and was without a companion for the afternoon could she admit it to the other girls? Certainly not. And so, whether an engagement awaits or not, the little stenographer dresses up every Saturday.

Looking Both Ways.

Billy Kane, an Irish hackman of Macon, Mo., was on the stand in a personal injury case. A man was suing the railroad, claiming he was hit through the negligence of the engine man. It was in evidence that three boys were standing on the edge of the platform as the train came in. The lawyer for the railroad was cross-examining Mr. Kane pretty severely, and the sharper he became the more exasperating seemed the witness' answers. Finally he demanded the witness tell him the exact position of those boys.

"Well, sir," replied Mr. Kane smoothly, "their backs was a-facing the east."

HEROINE OF COLONIAL DAYS

Why the Name of Hannah Dustin Has Been Honored in New England States.

Hannah Dustin was a British-American heroine. March 15 or 16, 1697, Indians attacked the house of Thomas and Hannah Dustin, at Haverhill, Mass., killing Hannah's week-old baby by dashing it against a tree, and making prisoners of Mrs. Dustin and her nurse, Mary Neff.

George Bancroft, in his "History of the United States, From the Discovery of the American Continent," says that Mrs. Dustin "achieved a startling revenge." The historian relates that after days of weary marches, Hannah Dustin and her nurse, with a boy from Worcester,

found themselves on an island in the Merrimac, just above Concord, in a wigwam occupied by two Indian families. At night, while the household slumbered, the captives, each with a tomahawk, struck vigorously, and fleetly, and with wise division of labor—and, of the twelve sleepers, ten lay dead. The gun and tomahawk of the murderer of her infant, and a bag heaped full with scalps, were choicely kept as the trophies of the heroine.

According to Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of the United States, Hannah presented the trophies to the governor of Massachusetts colony. The general court gave Mrs. Dustin and the Worcester lad each \$250. A granite monument was erected at Haverhill by the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts in 1874, on the tablets of which are inscribed the names of Hannah Dustin, Mary Neff and Samuel Leonardson.

Why Ozarks Were Popular.

Some think that the chief reason why prehistoric man settled in the Ozarks was because the housing was so good. The high hills are full of caves. Prehistoric man and prehistoric bears fought over their possession. No doubt some of these fights would make good historic literature, but being prehistoric, there was no history. Besides plenty of shelter, which the Ozarks furnished man 1,500 years ago, the food supply was superior. If he could not outrace and slay a bear with his club and turf it into bear steaks, the streams were full of fish and the hillsides full of blackberries. He and the bears fought over the blackberries, probably as furiously as they did over the caves. They were creatures of similar tastes.

Why Accuracy Is Greatest Asset.

The shorthand speed record is broken again, this time by Nathan Behrin, New York court stenographer. In the pencil sprint he takes down 350 words a minute with only two errors.

Few people can read that fast, or even think at a speed of 350 words a minute.

Best to go slower and avoid the two errors, in everyday life. Accuracy is a greater asset than speed. A small error upsets the whole thing. Just as no chain is stronger than its weakest link, a platitude? Yes. All truths are platitudes.

Why Candles on Birthday Cakes.

The custom of placing candles on a birthday cake—one for each year—comes from Germany. The Germans placed a thick one in the center, called Lebenslicht, the light of life.

Only he or she who declares his or her birthday may put out the light of life; it is unlucky if done by any other member of the family.

The lights are symbols of life and its portions the years. For persons advanced in years one candle must do duty as, otherwise, too many would be required.

Home Comes First.

The possession of a home and the thought and interest centered upon a home make for contentment, peace and thrift, and all the qualities that make the ideal citizen.

Money spent on the home is the greatest investment, spend a little more to keep intact that greatest of divine institutions, remembering also that beauty and cost are not synonyms and that it is possible to create a harmonious environment with a moderate outlay, providing one is willing to make the necessary effort to cultivate a discriminating taste.

Through the magnitude of its influence in the formation of character—the home rules the life of a community and a country. Better homes make better children, better children make better citizens and better citizens a better nation. Neglect of home is criminal—a neglect of country.

HOW

POWER-DRIVEN SWEEPER CLEARS RAILROAD TRACK

A power-driven track sweeper, now in successful use on the Pennsylvania railroad, is described in the Scientific American. It sweeps up and loads into cars the ashes, cinders and coldslut which rapidly foul the track in the mountain sections of the road where pusher locomotives are used. We read, says the Literary Digest:

"The traffic here is heavy and in climbing the grades the locomotives necessarily are worked at high pressure. The heavy exhausts from the smokestack throw out into the atmosphere a certain amount of fine material which falls on the tracks; coal is shaken from the tenders or from coal cars, and there is a gradual accumulation of material that is necessarily inseparable from the operation of lines over which a very heavy traffic is carried. The power-driven sweeper has proved to be a great success; it operates at an average speed of about four miles an hour, and the track is thoroughly cleaned. Not only does the new device do a good job, but the tests to date have shown that the cost of sweeping is approximately one-half of what it normally would be if done with hand labor."

"The sweeper is used chiefly on the pusher grades of the Pennsylvania main line through the Allegheny mountains. There are about 102 miles of track that require cleaning from four to six times every year. Primarily, this cleaning up is necessary to keep the signals working properly; also maintain the track in such condition that a proper inspection of the rail fastenings can be made periodically, and to prevent the ballast from becoming badly fouled."

"The sweeper consists, essentially, of a rotary steel broom, built up from steel splints one-thirty-second inch in thickness and three-sixteenths inch in width. The broom, which is three feet in diameter and seven feet long, is so suspended under the frame of an old flat car by special hangers that it may be raised or lowered as desired. This is done through the use of an airbrake cylinder connected with the train airline. The broom turns at about 100 revolutions per minute, and it is driven from a gasoline engine mounted on the deck of the car."

IF LONG YEARS ARE DESIRED

How One May Live Considerably Over Century With the Aid of Radio-activity.

Why waste time over foolish, unimportant health regulations? Why decide to eat less, drink less or smoke less in the hope that it will prolong life and bring ease to your mind? Make a bee line for big things, and resolve to live to one hundred and twenty-five years. It can be done!

At least, so Professor Scammell tells us, and he is the president of the Radium society, Dover. "Wonderful and wonderful!" is the motto of the day, and, like Alice in Wonderland, we are growing used to it. Monkeys' glands are quite a back number. The charm that works the miracle is radio-activity. If we allow ourselves to become radio-active, we will:

Live to the age of one hundred and twenty-five.

Grow fresh hair in middle life.

And, perhaps, have a third set of teeth.

The scientists are not absolutely certain about the teeth, but they are working to explode the theory that we only have two sets in this life and are hoping soon to provide us with a third. All that is necessary is to discover the exact chemical composition of the enamel.

Meanwhile, says London Answers, radio-activity will guarantee to increase our hair growth, lengthen our nails and brace up our muscular system generally.

Why Scientist Should Be Honored.

Malaria caused the downfall of the civilizations of Rome and Greece, say anthropologists at a convention of scientists in Boston. Both nations were free of malaria until it was brought in by slaves captured in battle, then spread by mosquitoes.

Smallpox germs, carried by soldiers of Cortez who were almost immunized against it, ravaged the Aztecs and weakened their military power until they were easily conquered.

Why Moon Affects Earth.

Observations now being carried out on the structure of the Tower of London by the staff of the National Physical laboratory, show that the building moves upwards and downwards in unison with the tides by a fraction of an inch, each day. This is a reminder that not only the sea, but the solid earth, responds to the pull of the moon. A series of elaborate measurements carried out with special apparatus have enabled the amount of this earth movement to be measured. Twice every day the earth moves upward by two-thirds of a foot and twice downward the same distance. Some big buildings, too, are very sensible to changes of temperature. The Eiffel tower varies with every change of temperature, a passing cloud causing it to decrease by as much as two centimetres, and the measured difference in its altitude on one day has amounted to nearly three inches.

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2.40 P. M.	To Portland	3.12
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How Radio Code Is Registered.

A machine that would take down telephone conversations in the absence of any one in the vicinity of the instrument was placed upon the market a number of years ago, but was not a success financially. A similar machine is now being developed to register radio code. It is quite possible physically to construct a machine that will register radio conversation. The day may be near when a whole concert can be received during the absence of the owner of a set and reproduced at his pleasure.

Why Helium Cannot Be Used.

Official statements in connection with the bureau of mines reinforce the view that helium gas is beyond reach for the inflation of noninflammable passenger airships. Four years' work by several official plants in the United States has produced 2,400,000 cubic feet of gas, which is the amount required (including reserve supply) for one big airship. The cost remains prohibitive, for the lowest figure hoped for it in the near future is 10 cents per cubic foot, and the hazy expectation that ultimately the cost will be reduced to 2 or 3 cents per cubic foot does not alter the facts.—Scientific American.

RICHARD LLOYD JONES SAYS

Power is Within You



All men have a love of power but not an equal capacity to gratify it. Power is something more than mere energy; it is a directed force. Whatever tension the steam gauge on a locomotive may show, the engine is a lifeless thing without a brain-guided hand to move its throttle.

Power is force under control. The waterfall is wasted energy; harnessed to a wheel it produces mill power.

Concentration is the secret of power. Hitch your energy to some fixed purpose.

To be noble is to be powerful. Negative goodness is never a contributing goodness; positive goodness is. Positive goodness has purpose. Energy put to purpose is power.

This world always makes way for the man of power and he makes room for many. So does real power direct for good.

The men of greatest power are they who give to the world a spiritual rather than a material force.

Napoleon was great because he directed his power to make himself a crowned master of men.

Lincoln was great because he used his power to make men masters of themselves.

Christ was the greatest because He used His power to spread the glory of the Golden Rule over the world, teaching men that they serve themselves best when they serve others.

His example brings to every man, woman and child the simple lesson that in all the world there is no sweeter thing than a soft and gentle power which unceasingly works for the good of many.

So it is that they who have the most power in the world are they who are most generous in heart.

Power cannot have too gentle an expression, for its opponent is always weakness.

Manhood is measured by the use made of its power.

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Etiquette

What & When to do it

By A. Leda

Any questions on etiquette will be gladly answered in this column if addressed to A. Leda, care of this newspaper.

Dear Aleda: If a young lady is asked to go on a picnic with a man, who furnishes the luncheon, the lady or gentleman?—Thanks, B. H.

The gentleman. The person extending an invitation is always the one to see that things are ready. However, as a man usually has no facilities for putting up a meal, the lady should ask if there isn't something she can do or something she can contribute.

If a girl meets a young man with whom she is acquainted on the street, should she say anything if he is talking with another girl?—B. H.

It is quite proper for her to stop and speak if she wishes, but usually more graceful if she just smiles or bows her head in recognition.

In a letter from a young lady in Connecticut, who is going to make a visit, she says: "My friends are Catholic and I want to know whether I should attend my own church, which is Protestant, or go with them. If I go to theirs, should I conform with their services?"—Miss A. R. Conn.

It would be very gracious of you to attend your friends' church. The chances are that they will ask you if you have any preference. Then mention your own. No, it would not be necessary to conform with their services.

HELPFUL HEALTH HINTS

Eye Lashes—A little yellow vaseline applied to the eyelashes each night will improve their growth and beauty.

Removing Dust—A paint brush used in place of a dust rag can get the dust in crevices where the dust rag cannot.

Hair—Brush your hair thoroughly. Brush it twice daily—night and morning. Then whenever you have time massage the scalp with the balls of the fingers; this starts the circulation going and one will soon find much new hair growing.

Poem

by Uncle John

While men ain't over-anxious to acquire a pair of wings, it's a laudable ambition to aspire to better things. . . . This world ain't synergistic with a life of snowy white—she'll spot yer robe with blood-smears, or she'll blind ye with her night. . . . She keeps a special sumidge-pot for the extr' worldly-wise, for the saintly-est of braggarts is the biggest bag of lies. But, from the meanest hovels to the palaces of kings, we find the admonition to aspire to better things. . . . It's a simple piece of business to indulge the honest soul, when she craves the high virtues that the devil can't control and, it's mighty nigh a certainty on white we can depend—if we store our bins with gratitude, the Lord will be our friend—which leads to the conclusion that a water thinkin' brings: We can't be mud mistakes, reachin' out fer better things



"I HEAR YO' CALLIN' ME"

It is estimated that 100,000 Negroes Have Left the Farm Districts of the South for Industrial Plants in the North

—Journal of the American Bankers Association.