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How Charles M. Schwab Spurred Them on to Greater Efforts.

In telling how he increased the efficiency of one of his departments Charles M. Schwab, the famous steel man, says in the American Magazine: "It was near the end of the day; in a few minutes the night force would come on duty. I turned to a workman who was standing beside one of the red mouthed furnaces and asked him for a piece of chalk."

"How many heats has your shift made today?" I queried.

"Six," he replied.

"I chalked a big '6' on the floor and passed along without another word. When the night shift came in they saw the '6' and asked about it."

"The big boss was in here today," said the day men. "He asked us how many heats we had made, and we told him six. He chalked it down."

"The next morning I passed through the same mill. I saw that the '6' had been rubbed out and a big '7' written instead. The night shift had announced itself. That night I went back. The '7' had been erased, and a '10' swagged in its place. The day force recognized no superior. Thus a fine competition was started, and it went on until this mill, formerly the poorest producer, was turning out more than any other mill in the plant."

STING OF THE HONEYBEE.

About the Most Effective Infernal Machine in Existence.

In proportion to its size, the sting of the honeybee is probably the most effective infernal machine in existence.

The stinging apparatus is smaller than that of a rattlesnake, yet a single sting has been known to kill a man. When we realize that it is almost invisible and consider what it can do we cannot fail to be astounded. It seems the very quintessence of devilishness.

The honeybee's sting is complicated—so complicated that many words and much ink have been used in discussing its construction and use.

It is generally conceded that the sting consists of a shaft of three parts, the principal one being a sheath within which move two barbed lancets. Like the barbs of a fishhook, the lancets are not easily extracted from the flesh into which they have been driven. The sheath and the lancets combined form a hollow tube through which the poison flows from the poison sac.

Two hairy, soft projections, evidently very sensitive, inform the bee when she is in contact with a stinging object.—Popular Science Monthly.

Frohman's Little Safe.

When Charles Frohman was treasurer with Haverly's minstrels he conceived a novel stunt of arousing curiosity in small towns. He bought a small iron safe, about three feet high, and on it had painted in big letters, "Treasurer, Haverly's Mastodon Minstrels." Now actually there was little need for this safe, but it was always carried on the first load of baggage that went to a hotel. It would be placed in a conspicuous place, and then Frohman, waiting until the proper moment, would bustle up to it with an air of great importance, open it, put in two or three \$100 bills, close it and go away. When the crowd had gone he would slip back and get the money out again. It proved a good advertising stunt.—Charles Frohman, Manager and Man.

The White House.

A prize of \$500 was offered in Washington's administration for the best design for a house to serve as a home for the president in Washington. James Hoban, an Irishman from South Carolina, was the successful competitor. His sketch contained so many wings and colonnades that the public was horrified, and frills and gingerbread decorations were eliminated. The result was the two story White House as we know it now. Washington laid the cornerstone of the building in 1792. It was completed in 1799, the year of Washington's death.

Liberty and Equality.

Liberty is never the fruit of philosophical deductions, but rather of everyday experience and of the simple ideas arising from facts.—Mirabeau.

Liberty—I say it with a sigh, men are perhaps not worthy of thee. Equality—they desire thee, but they cannot attain thee.—Turgot.

John O'Groat's to Land's End.

The distance in English miles between John O'Groat's, at the extreme north of England, to Land's End, in the farthest south, is about 480 miles as the crow flies, though by the ordinary lines of travel, of course, the distance is something more than that.

Cause of the Trouble.

Specialist—Your heart is acting rather irregularly. Is there anything worrying you? Patient—Not particularly. Only just now when you put your hand in your pocket I thought for a moment you were going to give me your bill.—Puck.

When He Remembers.

"Willie, don't you know that it is wrong to fight?"
"Yes, ma, I know it's wrong, but I never think of it that way unless the fellow who tackles me is one I'm sure I can't tick."—Detroit Free Press.

Must Have Been in the Dark Age.

"How many years ago did he live?"
"Who?"
"The man who said that two could live as cheaply as one?"—Detroit Free Press.

He who is firm and resolute in will molds the world to himself.—Goethe.

BEING PRESIDENT.

The Strain and Isolation That Come With the Office.

UNDER GUARD ALL THE TIME.

When the Chief Executive is in the White House the Regular Police Are on Watch, and When He Goes Abroad Secret Service Men Shadow Him.

It is a fierce light that beats upon the White House—quite as fierce as any that beats upon a throne. Until he is relieved from it a president never realizes the unconscious strain that he has to undergo. The joyousness that comes after he has laid down the burden and the contrast between the life succeeding that in the White House and the life passed in it reveal to him the nature of what he has gone through.

Of course it is pleasant to be treated with consideration by every one; it is human nature for the incumbent to enjoy the respect that is rendered to the office. But there is an isolation for the president that it is impossible to avoid. He is the only person in the government service who has that kind of isolation. Few see him except by special appointment. The office separates him from society. There is no neighborly dropping in; there is a curtain between him and that body of men with whom he was accustomed to associate.

It is not true that that keeps him from knowing what is going on or that it saves him from feeling the shafts of criticism. The suggestion that he hears only the kindly view of what he does from his cabinet and from those who are near to him does not cover the whole ground. He has candid friends, and he reads the newspapers.

From congressmen and from visitors who frequently turn their steps to Washington the president hears the news from all over the country. He sees the newspaper men every few days, and unless he is always using them to give the public his view of pending questions he can learn much from them. If he is open to information at all he can exercise very excellent judgment as to the state of the public pulse.

It is pleasant to dispense the hospitality of the White House, because you know that most of your guests will remember all their lives all the circumstances of their visit. The government is generous with the president in salary and in paying his expenses of living. He can save a substantial sum each year and still not be niggardly in his hospitality.

Three presidents of the United States have been assassinated, and congress in consequence has thought it wise to enjoin upon the chief of the secret service of the treasury department the duty of guarding the president against assault. Three or more experienced men are assigned to that duty, and they attend him wherever he goes.

Of course when he is in the White House the regular District policemen, who watch the approaches, make the presence of the secret service men unnecessary. Whenever the president goes abroad, however, the secret service men are expected to be in his immediate neighborhood—in the vehicle in which he is riding or in another that follows; whenever he makes a railway journey they are in his private car.

These secret service men become very skillful in detecting the presence of persons who are demented and who in their excitement may become dangerous. Of course if a man wished to kill the president and sacrifice his own life for it the secret service precautions might not prevent him from carrying out his purpose, but there is greater danger from demented persons than from deliberate murderers. My own impression is that if there had been as great precaution taken when President McKinley was at the exposition in Buffalo as is taken today that tragedy would not have occurred.

The assassin in that case had his hand in his pocket, where he had concealed a revolver wrapped in a handkerchief. If it had happened today a secret service man would have seized the assassin's hand in his pocket, found the revolver and arrested him long before the man had reached a point where he could carry out his purpose.

Although I recognize the necessity of such precautions, I am bound to say that they are often irksome to the president. The secret service men are as considerate as possible and are well trained men, who mind their business, but that constant dogging of the president's steps arouses in him the unconscious feeling of being under surveillance and guard himself rather than of being protected.

An impression has gone abroad that the president may not leave the country. There is no law that prevents his doing so, and there is no provision in the constitution that he would violate in leaving the national jurisdiction. There is a constitutional direction that the vice president shall act for the president in case he is disabled. If he went abroad in such a way as to prevent his directing affairs he might well be held to have disabled himself, and the vice president might act for him in his absence.—William Howard Taft in Youth's Companion.

Her Old Habit.

Medium—Ah, I hear the knocking of your late wife! Patron—That so? Who's she knockin' now?—Puck.

How apt men are to hate those they injure!—Fielding.

ELECTING A PRESIDENT.

Power of Congress to Deal With Electoral College Returns.

The electoral commission established the precedent that congress should not seek to go behind certificates regularly submitted by recognized state governments. That principle is also embodied in the Edmunds law of 1887, which defined and enlarged the power of congress to deal with electoral college returns.

This act directs that if any state shall have provided by law before the selection of electors for the final determination of contests regarding their appointment the state's decision shall be final unless the regularity of the state's action is questioned by both houses of congress.

If two or more returns are received these rules govern:

First.—If the state shall have determined that the votes forwarded in one of the returns were given regularly those votes shall be counted.

Second.—If two authorities, each claiming regularity, shall both have determined that the different sets of voters were regularly cast then congress must decide which set shall be accepted.

Third.—If the state shall have made no determination, then congress shall be free to determine. But if the houses cannot agree the votes of those electors whose appointment is certified by the governor shall be counted.

The general purport of the act is to recognize the right of congress to decide all disputed questions in regard to the counting of electoral votes which the state has not decided or has decided irregularly.—New York Tribune.

BUILDING A BOOK.

Cases Where the Ending Was Written Before the Beginning.

There has been more than one instance in the history of literature of a book being written upside down—that is, its end becoming its beginning or its beginning becoming its end.

Probably the most outstanding instance of the topsy turvydom is "The Idylls of the King," Tennyson's great masterpiece. As every poetry lover knows, this great series of poems ends with "The Passing of Arthur," and there can be no doubt that this is the proper and inevitable close of the wonderful pageant of the king's life. But Tennyson wrote that closing passage when he was a youth of twenty, and it was not until forty years later, the whole series was finished and published in one book that the old poem of his boyhood was found to fit into its place as naturally as the broken arm or foot of a classical statue fits the place from which it has been removed. Thus the first became last.

A case of double change is presented by the novel "David Harum." The first part of that book to be written by the author constitutes now chapters 19 to 24—that is, almost the last chapters in the book. Then, when the author had practically finished his book, he found that two of his main characters were not introduced to the reader at all until he was halfway through the work. He therefore wrote last of all the two opening chapters for the express purpose of introducing these two essential personages to the reader. This is probably a record case of topsy turvy authorship.—Pearson's Weekly.

The Larch in Labrador.

The soil and atmosphere are so cold and dry in Labrador that scarcely any vegetation thrives at all. The larch is a species of pine tree which is found in all northern countries, but its growth is so stunted in Labrador that a specimen found on the most southern part of that dreary land was but nine inches in height and the trunk was but three-eighths of an inch in diameter. A careful examination of the miniature tree revealed its age to be at least thirty-two years, for there were that number of ring growths shown in its small trunk. The very cold currents pouring down from the north and the fact that Labrador has less sunshine than Alaska, together with several inland climatic conditions, make the summer seasons shorter and colder than are those of Alaska.—Exchange.

Durable.

"I want a slogan," said the manufacturer of phonograph records, "something that will convey the idea that our records never wear out."

The advertising man lit a fresh cigarette and thought for eight seconds by the clock.

"How will this do?" he asked. "One of our dance records will outlast the best hardwood dancing floors ever built."—New York World.

Raw Food Must Be Washed.

"Gritting of sand between the teeth while eating vegetables raw is a certain sign that they have been cleaned improperly, if at all," says the New York Medical Journal and adds that because of improper washing it is often not safe to eat raw vegetables, salads or fruits.

Never Again.

"Does your wife ever make you exchange goods she buys and doesn't like?"

"She tried that once, and only once. I exchanged a silk dress for a meerschaum pipe."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Seared Him Into It.

Young Widow—Did you have any trouble getting Jack to propose? Girl Friend—No, dear; I told him you were after him.—Boston Transcript.

A Long Siege.

After a siege of twenty-four years Turkey took Candia from Venice in 1669.

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