

THE INDIVIDUAL YET NEEDED BY BUSINESS

By JOHN G. LONSDALE
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SOME seem to think that the day of the individual in business has passed. But they are wrong. While the individual may not attract such outstanding attention as he did in the days of old when institutions were conducted on a smaller scale, he nevertheless is to be found in any large corporation, dominating the situation, giving orders here, co-operating there and shouldering the responsibility of keeping a large group of lieutenants, captains and privates working in unison and moving forward under the banner of progress. And all of these are held accountable to the public because the public has entered into a partnership agreement with the corporation through purchase of stock.

Welfare of Workers

Even in the gigantic mergers that have taken place within the last two years there remains more than ever the necessity for a leader, an aggressive personality, whose duty it is to see that basic principles are not forgotten, that the rights and privileges of the individual workers and the customers they serve are as well provided for as in the smaller business units.

It is gratifying to note that our corporations are giving more and more concern to the welfare of their workers. Numerous benefit organizations have been formed, opportunities offered for advancement of education and position, hospital service established and insurance and retirement pensions provided.

This general humanitarian movement in reality is the outgrowth of analysis, which has disclosed the need of improving the well-being of our individual workers, realizing at the same time that our institutions will benefit.

PREPAREDNESS IN BUSINESS

By R. S. HECHT,

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My observations for many years, both as an employee and as an executive, have convinced me that the reason some men and women go ahead and others do not is that some keep themselves constantly prepared to accept and fulfill larger duties and responsibilities as they offer, and some do not.

Grant, as we must, that there is a certain element of luck in the conditions under which opportunity for promotion comes to different men and women, we nevertheless must also see that it is each individual's own state of preparedness which determines his ability to seize opportunity if and when it comes, and having seized it, to succeed in meeting the greater demands which it inevitably places upon him.

Real advancement never means going ahead to easier tasks, but always to harder ones. Opportunity for advancement is worthless unless in accepting it you are able to carry with you the abilities and qualifications that prepare you to meet the heavier exactions that are an inherent part of opportunity.

It is far better to go into action in the field of enlarged responsibility prepared and qualified, rather than that you and the institution you work for shall be exposed to the hazard of your having to build up to new responsibilities after having assumed them.

The new spirit of all business seeks to prepare its people in advance through education for the higher duties it holds in store for them.

Bank Bandits Active

The greatest number of bandit raids on American banking ever recorded in the figures of the protective department of the American Bankers Association were reported during the six months ending last February. Bank members of the association reported for investigation 311 forgery cases, 107 holdup robberies, 18 burglaries, 2 sneak thefts and 8 mortgage swindles while non-member banks, numbering less than half the total enrolled in the association, suffered 86 holdup robberies and 9 burglaries, non-members being burglarized or held up once for every 89 banks, as compared with once for every 164 member banks. The association detective agents caused the arrest of 143 of the 236 bank criminals apprehended during the period covered.

The association's report on these conditions urges support of the movement to provide city police departments with radio-equipped cruising automobiles which have proved particularly effective in Cleveland and Detroit in the broadcasting of alarms and the closing in on criminals immediately after or even in the midst of the perpetration of crimes. Last year the average time elapsed between the receipt of radio calls by these cars and the 1325 arrests which followed was one minute and forty-two seconds, the report says.



John G. Lonsdale

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