

## AMERICAN METHODS

### INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS ON OUR BUSINESS ABILITY.

**The British Consul at Chicago Gives a Few Reasons to His Government for the Rapid Advance of the United States in the World of Trade—Reward of Merit Chief Cause of Success.**

Washington, May 15.—Some plain suggestions regarding American business methods are given by the British consul at Chicago, Mr. Wyndham, in a report to the British foreign office, a copy of which has just reached the treasury bureau of statistics.

The commercial success in the United States, and especially of the city at which he is located, is described by Consul Wyndham as being due in part "to the education which teaches the boys independence and knowledge of their future responsibilities, and does not set the professions above business as a means of gaining a living.

"Athletics of all kinds are much encouraged in schools and universities, but very few men continue to take part in them after completing their education. Americans are as fond of outdoor life, shooting and fishing, as are the men of any European country, but they gratify their taste as a relaxation only, and never allow it to interfere with their business.

"Another cause of success is the keeping of the money, which has been made in the business, in it as long as possible, and great thought is devoted to arrangements whereby, after the death of the builder of the business, it shall not fall into the hands of his heirs unless they are practically fitted to take care of it.

"Another, and probably the chief cause, is the reward of merit. The percentage of men fitted for the highest posts in business is very small compared with the total numbers employed, and the heads of the big businesses, bank corporations and wholesale firms, are always looking out for men, not only among those already in their employ, but also outside, capable of filling some post under them. To these men, when found, large salaries are given, which are drawn by them as long as they show that they are capable of earning them. Men employed in business houses of all descriptions are encouraged to discover new methods of carrying on the business which may in any way lessen the cost of production or carrying on business, and specialization is carried on to an extreme point."

## YUKON WINTER ENDS.

**Ice Goes Out of the River and Freight Will Soon Be on the Move.**

Vancouver, B. C., May 15.—The ice in the Yukon has broken, and winter is over. The breakup was unusually quiet this year. It occurred during a blinding snow storm, with the thermometer at 40 above. The water rose six feet, but little damage resulted. A flood is expected unless the jam breaks soon.

The river is now clear from Lower Le Barge to Big Salmon. As usual in other years when the ice comes down the river, steamers loaded with freight which has been accumulating at White Horse are following the ice down, and the first is expected to reach Dawson this week. This will be the first arrival at the wharves since last fall, and it will get a big reception. There are jams on the river which will cause brief delays. A big one blocks navigation at Five Fingers, and smaller ones are located below Selkirk, near Stewart, and at Ogilvie.

It was expected that the break this year would be earlier than last, but there is little difference in the time the ice has broken. Last year it was on May 14 that the break was recorded, and in 1900 on May 8. In 1889 it was May 17, and in 1898 May 8. In other ways, the season is very backward. The weather is cold, and very little sluicing can be done before noon on any of the days so far this spring. The water is too cold to allow the work to be proceeded with. There is frost every night, and it is late in the morning before the warm effect of the day is experienced.

### Entire Section Tied Up.

Oregon City, Or., May 15.—The whole of a section has been tied up by order of the commissioner of the general land office, owing to a question being raised as to the character of the land, which is situated on Ogle Mountain, on the headwaters of the Molalla river. The section was selected by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in lieu of tracts relinquished in the Pacific forest reserve. A company was formed, and undertook some development work on the land, which resulted in the finding of mineral deposits.

### Race War in Indian Territory.

Muskogee, I. T., May 15.—A race war is on at Braggs, 20 miles east of here. Five negroes and one white man have been shot, and one stabbed. Seventy-five negroes attempted to wipe out the settlement of 15 families of white people near Braggs, which is one of the worst districts in the Indian Territory. The whites have applied to the United States marshal for protection, and have been instructed to arm and protect themselves.

## ON ST. VINCENT.

**Two Thousand Dead as the Result of Volcanic Disturbances.**

Fort de France, Island of Martinique, May 15.—The United States government tug Potomac, which came to Martinique from San Juan, P. R., cruised the coast of this island Tuesday. She encountered an inky black column of smoke, which made it necessary for her to go five miles out of her course.

The Potomac brought a ton of supplies to Martinique, consisting in part of codfish and flour. A famine here is imminent. The northern section of the island is depopulated. Business here is suspended.

The Potomac will leave here for the island of St. Vincent, where conditions are reported to be worse. La Soufriere, on St. Vincent, was in full eruption May 10. A stream of stone and mud half a mile wide was then issuing from the volcano. Stones two inches in diameter fell 12 miles away. At Kingstown, the capital of the island, the ashes were two inches deep. Seven hundred dead were reported Sunday, May 11. It is estimated that the total number of deaths in St. Vincent will reach 2,000. Most of the seven estates on the island have been burned to ashes, and it is authentically reported that two earthquakes occurred there. It is believed that the submarine cables in St. Vincent have been broken by the disturbances. The present volcanic eruption on St. Vincent is the first since 1812. Governor Hunt, of Porto Rico, has asked Louis Ayme, United States consul at Gaudeloupe, who is now here, what assistance he could render. Governor Hunt's offer has been communicated to the government, which will accept it.

The looting of the ruins at St. Pierre has begun already. While coming to Fort de France the Potomac picked up a boat containing five colored men and one white man, whose pockets were filled with coin and jewelry, the latter evidently stripped from the fingers of the dead. Lieutenant B. B. McCormick, commander of the Potomac, arrested these men and turned them over to the commander of the French cruiser Suchet for punishment.

## APPEALS TO THE PEOPLE.

**President Asks Relief for the Stricken People of the West Indies.**

Washington, May 15.—The following was issued from the White House during the afternoon:

"The president has appointed a committee to receive funds for the relief of the sufferers from the recent disaster in Martinique and St. Vincent. The gentlemen appointed from each city will be asked to collect and receive the funds from their localities and neighborhoods as expeditiously as possible and forward them to Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss, treasurer of the New York committee, which committee will act as a central distributing point for the country. The president directs all the postmasters throughout the country and requests the presidents of all the national banks to act as agents for the collection of contributions and to forward the same at once to Mr. Bliss at New York. The postmasters are also directed to report to the postmaster general within 10 days any funds collected on this account. The president appeals to the public to contribute generously for the relief of those upon whom this appalling calamity has fallen, and asks that the contributions be sent in as speedily as possible."

The National Red Cross Society has also issued an appeal for aid for the same cause.

### The Number Increased.

Pittsburg, May 15.—A careful and systematic search for the dead and injured in the Sheridan horror reveals a list of 23 dead and 202 injured. A complete list of the injured may never be known, as many were able to get away without making known their identity. A conservative estimate by those familiar with the situation places the number more or less seriously hurt at not less than 300.

### Former Senator in Mining Deal.

Pierre, S. D., May 15.—Ex-Senator John M. Thurston, of Nebraska, and ex-Senator W. J. McConnell, of Idaho, have joined in a mining venture and will operate in New Mexico. They have incorporated the San Ygnacio de Bora Mining Company, Ltd., with a capital of \$1,000,000.

### Profits of Steel Trust.

New York, May 15.—Checks aggregating \$10,000,000 were sent out by J. Pierpont Morgan Co., in payment of the second distribution of profits resulting from the formation of the United States Steel Corporation. The amount of cash advanced by the syndicate was \$25,000,000, which was required during the early stages of the corporation's negotiations, and returned after the first six or seven months.

### Violated Rules of War.

New York, May 15.—Great carnage was wrought at Carupano, the Venezuelan seaport town which was attacked, says the Port of Spain, Trinidad, correspondent of the Herald, by land and sea, May 6, by government troops and gunboats, without 24 hours' notice having been given, so that non-combatants could leave the town. Foreigners are without assistance from their governments. Many women and children were killed.

## NAPHTHA EXPLOSION

### SCORE OF LIVES LOST IN PITTSBURG DISASTER.

**Two Hundred Spectators were Injured and the Physicians Say that a Majority of Them will Die—Were Watching a Burning Train When Two Tank Cars Exploded, Drenching Them with Burning Oil.**

Pittsburg, May 14.—The Sheridan yard of the Pan Handle Railroad was the scene this evening of the most disastrous explosion and fire known in this section in many years. A score of lives were lost and about 200 persons were so badly burned that, according to the judgment of the physicians in attendance, 75 per cent of them will die from the effects of their injuries.

The accident happened in the railroad yards at Sheridan, where the Pan Handle Railroad makes a turn near Cork Run. Banked in by two high hills, hundreds of people were caught. In the shifting necessary to make up a train, five tank cars, two of them filled with refined petroleum and two with naphtha, were switched with too much force, and one of the cars was broken. Instantly the inflammable bi-product poured out in a stream. The trainmen, seeing that one of the cars was damaged, started to pull them out of the way. As the damaged car passed a switch light the dripping naphtha caught on the light flame and almost instantly an explosion followed.

The explosion sent showers of burning naphtha over the freight station near at hand, and also enveloped a number of carloads of coke and lumber that were close by, and in a moment all were blazing. Fifteen minutes after the first explosion the two cars of refined petroleum that had been damaged by the bursting of the tank of naphtha and were leaking blew up with a terrific report.

The yards at Sheridan lie in a narrow valley. On the south side of the yard is a rounded hill, bare of trees. On the other side of the yard a hill fully 200 feet high rises sheer above the roundhouse. In less than 15 minutes both these hills were black with men, women and children, who were eagerly watching the flames in the cut below.

Burning oil had found its way into the sewer, and as soon as it reached the open air at the mouth of the third explosion followed. The escaping naphtha had blown to atoms the Sumpter hotel and the Collis house, on River road, and badly wrecked a frame building near by, in which were congregated 200 or more men from Pittsburg and vicinity, betting on the races and ball games. Few of the occupants of this building escaped injury, many being badly hurt.

The third explosion served as a warning to but few of the spectators at Sheridan. Without a moment's warning there was an awful roar, loud enough to be heard in the heart of Pittsburg, five miles away, and a sheet of flames shot up from the wreckage and enveloped both hillsides, even to their tops.

There was a moment's lull, as though every living thing in the vicinity had been annihilated, and then came the cries, the screaming for help, and the blanks in the crowd told of the explosion's dread result. Both of the two remaining tank cars had blown up. A torrent of flames belched forth on each side of the track, sweeping back the terrified spectators like a charge of artillery, and sending a shower of flame over their heads.

### For the Dawson Trade.

Vancouver, B. C., May 14.—A special from Dawson says: J. H. Rogers, Dawson manager of the White Pass Yukon Railway, makes the statement that his company would enter into competition with the Northern Commercial Company and the North American Trading Company, in retaliation for the statement that the Northern Commercial Company would take in a stock of goods for the Dawson trade. The Dawson retail merchants had been afraid they would be forced out of business by competition of the big commercial companies bringing in large stocks of merchandise.

### Rate War on Alaskan Traffic.

Seattle, May 14.—An Alaska transportation cut-rate war, which probably will be bitterly fought, with disastrous results to the lines engaging in it, and a corresponding benefit to be traveling public, has been inaugurated. Before the day closed, tickets to Lynn canal points were selling at \$7.50 and \$5, first and second class, respectively. The prevailing tariff has been \$30 and \$20. The entry of the Pacific Clipper Lines steamer Santa Ana on the Lynn canal run precipitated the fight.

### Following English Precedent.

New York, May 14.—The Spanish government is following English precedent in entertaining a large body of European princes and foreign representatives who will witness the king's civil inauguration, says a Madrid dispatch to the Tribune. The princes are either guests of the crown in palaces, or houses with a complete retinue of servants are placed at their disposal. Special Ambassador Curry, of the United States, is provided with a house

## PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

**London Times Reviews Their Course in South Africa.**

London, May 14.—The Times relates the course of the peace negotiations as follows:

"On the receipt of the Dutch correspondence intimating that 'Great Britain was ready to listen to proposals from the Boers in the field, Acting President of the Transvaal Schalk Burger came to the British lines and asked permission to consult with Mr. Steyn, ex-president of the Orange Free State. This led to the Boer delegates going to Pretoria. Their first proposal to Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner, the British high commissioners in South Africa, was that the republics should merely concede all the demands made by Great Britain regarding the franchise, etc., before the war. The British government, in reply, referred them to the Middleburg conference, as the maximum of possible concessions and refused permission to the Boers to consult their friends in Europe. Eventually, while refusing an armistice, Lord Kitchener undertook not to molest the burghers while they were actually holding meetings with the commandos to authorize the leaders to negotiate on the basis of the surrender of independence, but they were told it was useless to return to Pretoria without being armed with full powers to negotiate. Schalkburger assented to this, but Mr. Steyn's acquiescence seemed doubtful.

"Mail advices received from Pretoria," continues the Times, "declare that Lord Kitchener and Milner promised generous compensation for burned farms, promised no difficulty with regard to the question of amnesty for rebels, which did not present insuperable obstacles."

## WASHINGTON LANDS.

**Their Disposition Will Be Determined by a Forestry Reserve Official.**

Washington, May 14.—Representative Cushman recently called on the commissioner of the general land office to ascertain whether or not certain lands in Skagit and Snohomish counties are to be eliminated from the Washington forest reserve and opened to settlement. Reports to this effect recently reached Washington from the state, and have led to considerable speculation. Mr. Cushman learned that on April 18 Commissioner Herrmann directed D. B. Sheller, superintendent of forest reserve in Washington, to make an examination of township 32 north, ranges 8, 9 and 10 east; township 31 north, ranges 10 and 11 east, and township 30 north, range 11 east, with reference to whether it is better suited for forestry purposes or agricultural purposes. No report has yet been received.

When Superintendent Sheller shall have been heard from, the general land office will convey his recommendation to the secretary of the interior, upon the matter will be finally acted upon. It is probable that no final action can be had until late in the fall. In case all or a part of the land is found to be agricultural, that much will undoubtedly be restored to settlement; otherwise its present status will not be altered.

## FOR RELIEF.

**Congress Votes \$200,000 for the Sufferers of Martinique.**

Washington, May 14.—The volcano calamity in the West Indies came up before the house during the afternoon, the District of Columbia measure being laid aside to permit the relief bill to be considered.

In view of the president's message urging an appropriation of \$500,000, the house committee on appropriations unanimously reported a substitute to the senate relief bill making it \$200,000, and placing its disposition under the president of the United States.

Heminway, of Indiana, the acting chairman of the appropriation committee, secured unanimous consent for immediate consideration. The amount, he said, had been limited to \$200,000 because the committee was informed that large contributions were being made by private parties.

The bill was finally passed and went through the senate without division.

### Wilhelmina Steadily Improving.

The Hague, May 14.—The bulletins issued at Castle Loo concerning the condition of Queen Wilhelmina have been reduced to one a day, and it is expected that they will soon cease altogether. The marked improvement in her majesty's condition continues, and the constant attendance of her physicians is no longer necessary.

### Lord Pauncefote Quite Ill.

Washington, May 14.—Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador, continues quite ill here, and his condition is giving the family some concern. He suffers from asthma and stomach and other troubles, and owing to his advanced age, his system fails to respond as readily to the treatment as was hoped would be the case.

### Airship Exploded.

Paris, May 14.—The airship belonging to Senor Auguste Serevs, the Brazilian aeronaut, made an ascension during the morning. The airship exploded and killed Serevs and another aeronaut. Senor Serevs arrived in Paris with a flying machine last November. He then announced his intention to sail across and around Paris. His last balloon is described as carrying a car shaped like a long parallelogram, drawn up directly beneath the balloon.



## Growing Egg Plants.

In sections where one is reasonably close to the large city markets there is money made in growing egg plants when one is willing to give them the rich soil and careful culture they require. Of course, this plant cannot be raised in the far North, except by starting the seeds early in the greenhouse or hot-bed and practically growing them in a cold frame, so that they may be protected during the cool part of the summer, for the plants are quite tender. One of the best of the few varieties is the New York Improved, shown in the illustration. It is larger than the old Early Long Purple, hence more de-



sirable in many cases for market, although the last-named sort would be best for sections where the growing season is short. The hot-bed foundation should be rich in fertilizing material. When the plants show two true leaves—not seed leaves—they may be transplanted.

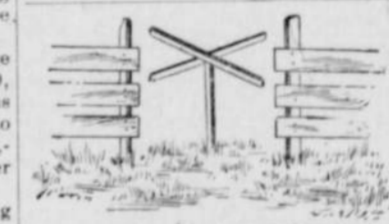
**The Incubator.**  
There is still much prejudice against the use of incubators, but, as a rule, it exists only with those who have had no experience only with the machines first manufactured, and which, of course, were faulty. When it is considered that it would require the services of seven hens to hatch 100 chicks, or rather to cover 100 eggs, it is plain to see that the food for these seven hens would cost more than the oil to run the incubator, while the time required for caring for the hens is much greater than caring for the incubator.

For the beginner the smaller incubators are to be preferred, and they should be handled strictly according to the instructions that come with the machines until the operator learns from experience what changes to make.

If one intends to go into the poultry business to make it pay, an incubator and brooder are absolutely essential. As suggested, buy a machine of small capacity, not to exceed 100-egg capacity, but see that it is of a reliable make. This machine will answer all purposes the first year, and the next season one will be sufficiently experienced to operate on a larger scale.

## Barney Turnstile.

If the stock kept in the barnyard is not of small stature, like pigs and sheep, the turnstile shown in the illustration is one of the best arrangements to place at the entrance. Horses and cows will not be able to get through the passage thus provided, and it enables the persons who have to care for the stock to enter the barnyard without having to set down anything they may be carrying to open a gate. The



turnstile is easily constructed, the main essential being to have the post strong and set firmly into the ground. In the plan shown in the cut the cross pieces are set on an iron pin, so that they revolve readily. The turnstile would be stronger if arranged so that a circular hole was cut out of the cross pieces to fit over the end of the post, which could be trimmed down to three inches in diameter, an iron pin being run through the top after the cross pieces were placed in position so there would be no danger of them working off the post.

## The Farmer's Wife.

The work of the farmer has been greatly changed during the past twenty years by improved machinery. By means of these improvements the farmer can conduct his operations with far less expenditure of labor, but how is it with the farmer's wife? Has she been assisted in like manner or has her work been lightened by improved machinery or inventions? I know something about the work of a farmer's wife, having been born and brought up on a farm. My opinion has always been that if there was one person upon the farm more seriously overworked than another it was the farmer's wife. While the farmer's work closes at a reasonable hour in the afternoon, the farmer's wife is kept busy until 8, 9 or 10 o'clock daily, and often she is the first one up in the morning. What are the inventions I will ask that have been made to help the farmer's wife in the kitchen work, or in her house work of all kinds? I cannot think of any improvement. She

makes her bread, pies, cookies and often her soft soap in the old-fashioned, laborious way. The potatoes are mashed or baked, the meat fried, broiled, baked or boiled just as they were one hundred years ago. The work of the wash-day is pretty much as it used to be on the farm. In cities there is a fountain of water flowing in every room in the house, and stationary stone wash tubs with a faucet in each for hot and cold water, with pipes for drawing off water at the base of each stationary tub, which greatly lessens the work on wash day; but such devices are not known in the country, or are hardly possible there. The farmer's kitchen and pantry should have every possible convenience for the housewife, so that she may take as few steps as possible. Wood or coal should be placed convenient to her hand. No woman should be compelled to go down cellar and carry up heavy hods of coal, or armful of wood, and yet I know many women who not only have to do this but who cut their own wood as well. No woman should be obliged to lift pails of water or hollers or tubs of water on wash day. The man who allows his wife to do such lifting is helping to shorten her life and helping to dig her grave.—Hester's Fruit Grower.

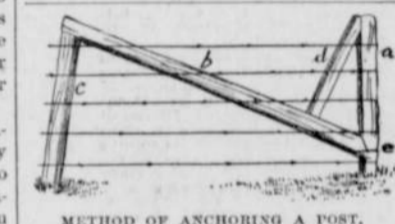
## Intensive Farming.

Even in the cheap West, where land is comparatively free in the beginning of settlements, the time comes when to make farming profitable it must be carried on with the regard to economy of both labor and money. As the first fertility of the soil is removed and farmers find it necessary to make heavy and more heavy applications of fertilizers, then it is realized, if never before, that farming must be conducted on the principle of getting as many crops and as heavy as possible from the smallest possible area. This feeling is becoming stronger daily, and the farmer who concentrates his labor and fertilizer on twenty-five acres is making more money than the man who, with the same labor and fertilizer, spread it over fifty acres.

This is good logic and the sooner those who complain they are not making a living at farming work on the lines indicated the sooner will the profit come.

## Anchoring a Corner Post.

A correspondent of Iowa Homestead writes: "I have observed many methods of anchoring a corner post for a wire fence, but have not seen a device



## Method of Anchoring a Post.

like the one I have in use. The plan shown in the sketch is the best I have seen. The brace should be a piece of 4x4 about twelve feet long, brace "d" taking place about three feet from the lower end, which is let into the post a little. Brace "d" rests on the top of post "c" at its upper end, which should lean at an angle of about fifty degrees. Brace "d" is placed square upon brace "b" and the top of "d" is spiked to the post. The strain of the wires pulling on post "a" will have a tendency to pull the post over and upward, which will cause the short brace to pull downward on the long brace which will hold the corner post in the ground."

## The Onion and Its Culture.

Onions, it is hardly necessary to state, may be grown from seeds or sets. If seeds are used, they may be sown in the open ground where the bulbs are to mature, or they may be sown in greenhouses or hotbeds and the young plants transplanted to the rows in the open ground. In sowing

out of doors seeds should be put in as early as possible in shallow drills three to three and a half feet apart and covered with a half inch of the moist earth. They need to be very carefully weeded at first. Cheaper, better and earlier onions can be grown by transplanting the plants from greenhouses or hotbeds, where the seeds are sown very early. When the plantlets are as large as a lead pencil, they are set four inches apart in rows three feet asunder, and cultivation is immediately begun with the wheel hoe. In growing from sets the planting is made in much the same way. Multiplier or potato onions are similarly managed. Prize Taker is a popular variety of onion.

## Judging Butter.

There are very few butter makers who do not know the difference between good and poor butter, and the apparent difference between their judgment and that of the butter judge is often due to the difference in the time of scoring. If he has kept samples of each day's make and is careful at the weigh can, he will gradually improve his butter for the trade. He would remember the flavors in each day's milk and notice how they affect the keeping quality of his butter, thus following from cause to effect.

## Planting the Peach Orchard.

A common practice among Maryland peach growers and one to be recommended is to plant the orchard on land that was in some cultivated crop the previous season. The gist of the whole matter is this: The soil cannot be too well prepared before planting the trees. It is difficult to correct faulty preparation after the trees have been set.

