MAKING GOOD

By GEORGE ELMER COBB

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Whenever Dan Beasley needed food, or a drink, or a dime to pay for a bed, he invariably made a claim to having a past where meritorious work was his portion.

"I'm no lazy 'bo, friend," he would say. "I've strung wire half over the country," and he showed a pair of nippers that belonged to the kit of a telegraph construction crew.

If encouraged, Dan would dilate on remarkable exploits in his line, well seasoned with peril and hardship. If presented with a query as to present lack of employment, he would cite old age and younger men crowding him out.

Dan was tired of cheap lodging houses at Wolverton and wanted to get to Crescent, where a real metropolis presented variety and a broader field for the exploitation of his peculiar genius. He swung onto the platform of the last car as the 8:11 pulled out of the depot. Dan was familiar with railroad ways and time schedules. He knew that the 8:11 was a through train to Crescent, with an express car attached. The chances of discovery by some lynx-eyed conductor, even huddled up in the shadow of the lower step as he was, were entirely against him, but to compensate for that the probabilities were that he would not be kicked off, nor would the train be stopped especially to put him off.

Dan fairly cleared the door of the rear car when it opened and a man came out. Dan scrunched close, but felt easier as he observed that the intruder wore no uniform. It was only a passenger come out on to the platform to get a breath of fresh air and puff at a cigarette. He noticed Dan, but made no remark. His smoke being of contemplated brief duration, the passenger had not taken the trouble to go ahead to the smoking car.

"Tickets," and the door swung open and the conductor appeared, punched the bit of pasteboard presented and then noticed Dan.

"Stowaway?" he observed smartly. "You'll have to vacate."

"Where to—Pullman or chair car?" grinned Dan, coming to his feet. "You ain't the kind to fire me into the ditch, your face shows that. Have a heart, boss. I've seen better days. See," and Dan presented the inevitable last tool of his former calling. "Lineman once, and a good one. Lift me to Crescent, won't you?"

The conductor growled some uncomplimentary remarks, evidently deciding to make the best of it, and retired, slamming the door after him. The passenger dropped his half-consumed cigarette. It fell to the platform. Greedily Dan picked it up and with a chuckle of rare content placed it between his lips, puffing luxuriantly.

"Keeps away the hunger, see?" he said, bracing comfortably on the top step now.

"You're that, eh?" questioned the passenger.

"Generally, friend," nodded Dan.

"Well, when you get to Crescent use my contribution for a genuinely square meal," and the speaker handed Dan a half dollar.

"Strike wood! I'm blind or dreaming!" cried Dan, and he joyously tapped the welcome coin against the car door. "Say, I'm in rare luck!"

The young man smiled and went into the coach. His charitable act pleased him. He was, in fact, filled with pleasant thoughts. Well might that be, for inside his breast pocket was a long fat wallet. It contained one thousand two hundred dollars, the savings of two years, which would enable him to go to Crescent, marry Mary Lane, the girl of his choice, enjoy a rational wedding trip and have enough left over to furnish a neat little flat.

So he dreamed fond visions of bliss reclining in the car seat, and Dan, outside, extracted the last atom of warmth and flavor from the diminishing cigarette stump and closely clasped the half dollar, gloating over an anticipated satisfying bill of fare in the near future.

Dan lolled over the entire platform now. There would probably be no more interruptions and no stops until Crescent was reached. He dozed, and must have been on the verge of dreams for fully two hours when there came a shock. Dan just grabbed the brake rod in time to evade a topple over.

"What is it?" he grumbled. "This isn't Crescent. I don't like that!" he added, swinging sideways, clinging with one hand and peering ahead.

A red light showed the stop signal just ahead of the engine. The headlight of the locomotive revealed more than one figure scurrying about. Dan had good eyesight. Suddenly he leaped to the ground with the startling words:

"Ginger—it's a holdup!"

Dan ran to the side of the track. He made out at least six men armed with revolvers lining or aboard of the train. Two had clambered aboard the locomotive; two had boarded the express car; two others were coming down the tracks.

"They'll take my fifty cents, maybe!" half joked Dan to himself. "And say, it isn't six miles to Crescent. They've detached the engine."

Dan glanced about to find a hiding place. None offered, for there was no brush along the sides of the track, which were sloping and confined the train in a sort of cut, open only ahead where there was a crossing. There were, however, telegraph poles.

"It will sure be more comfortable aloft!" mused Dan.

Scurrying up a pole, with or without climbers, was a familiar task for Dan. He reached the cross-bars scarcely breathless. "Regular free movie show!" he soliloquized, as some pistol shots echoed out. "Ginger, again!—why! it would make me a hero."

A suggestion had come to Dan's mind that stirred him mightily. He saw that two of the train robbers were going through the train and relieving the passengers of their money and jewelry. Ahead, two others were battling at the doors of the express car.

"It's a lonely spot and they'll have to take time to get the safe open. I'll make the try."

Dan wound one leg about the cross tie of the pole. He whipped out his nippers. He snipped the main wire in two and drew together the severed ends.

"Early education comes back to me clear as crystal—what!" he chuckled. "Now then, have they got an intelligent operator at the other end of the wire, or a bunkhead?"

What Dan had done was simple and scarcely original. He tapped out a slow but startling message, and someone at the other end of the line learned that the 8:11 was stalled at a certain point, not ten miles away, by train robbers. A posse in swift automobiles was suggested by Dan.

Then he eased back and wondered if due diligence would obstruct the robbers before they got away. Just as he calculated, the robbers had no easy task in getting into the express car and forcing its safe. Half an hour went by when, from the city, half a dozen automobiles dashed down the crossing road. The robbers were surrounded and secured after a struggle. The booty of those who had gone through the train and held up the passengers was restored to them.

One among them vociferously gloated over his restored money.

"I've got back the price of my happiness!" he cried joyously. "How did it come about?" And when Dan's share

"What Is It?" He Grumbled.

in the transaction was known, he added to that fifty-cent piece a crisp new one hundred dollar bill.

"You're a mascot!" he exuberated, showing Dan a photograph of the girl who was to be his wife. "See, she actually smiles in the picture to let you know how grateful and thankful she feels toward you!"

And the passengers chipped in and the railroad company later added its contribution, and, being a hero and a pet spoiled the tramp routine for Dan Beasley, and he made up his mind to turn respectable, and succeed.

HOW BIG WARS HAVE STARTED

Cables or Wireless Would Have Prevented Conflict Between United States and England in 1812.

Had there been an ocean telegraph in 1812 there might not have been a war with England at that time. Five days after President Madison signed the declaration of war, England recalled the orders in council which had provoked it. The purpose to recall the orders was unknown in America, while in England nothing was known of the war declaration when the orders were revoked. This war's most important battle, that of New Orleans, was fought 15 days after the treaty of peace had been signed at Ghent. It was this battle which made Jackson a popular idol and gave him the presidency.

The first step in the Crimean war was Russia's invasion of Moldavia, months before diplomatic rupture with England and France. The firing on Fort Sumter, which started the war between the states is a familiar story. The first shot of the Franco-Prussian war was by a French soldier on guard at Strasburg bridge a day or two before Napoleon III formally took the field. The attempt on Bismarck's life as he was walking down the Unter den Linden on May 7, 1866, rallied public sentiment to him and his policy, and from a dramatic standpoint may be said to have been the first shot in the Austro-Prussian war. The blowing up of the Maine was the first blow in the Spanish-American war, which ended Spanish possessions in the new World.—Leslie's Weekly.

China Rejects Confucianism.

Efforts to make Confucianism the state religion of China have again failed. Parliament recently cast a vote on the question of recognizing Confucianism as the official religion in the proposed new constitution, and the measure was lost by a vote of 264 to 255. Many politicians have refused to participate in the religious discussions in parliament, which have resulted in much bitter feeling. Three and a half million Christian Chinese have stood behind the members of parliament who opposed the adoption of Confucianism, and conducted a very effective campaign. The opposition of the Christians was that no religion should be recognized by the government, but that persons of all faiths should be permitted to practice their religion without government hindrance or support.

Bad Sign.

"What on earth made them call that special car the Comet?"

"Why not?"

"Because comets are always being telescoped."

WOMEN CAN AID U. S. IN HOMES

New York Food Expert Gives Hints on Household Food Management.

NO FEAR OF A SCARCITY

Warns Against Waste and Urges Personal Attention in Buying Supplies —Should Keep Food Vision Clear.

New York.—Joseph Hartigan, commissioner of weights and measures for New York and secretary of the food supply committee, has written for the New York Sun a call to "the household volunteers" for a great service which they may perform in war times for their country within the confines of their own homes.

Mr. Hartigan has been a close student of the food situation for several years, and what he has to say will apply to all sections of the country. He says:

"The home is as useful a place to serve Uncle Sam as is the battlefield, the farm, the bank, the factory. Efficiency in its management will bring benefits to the nation in incalculable amounts. Co-operation now with the great forces that are at work to end the war at the earliest day will hasten the return of normal conditions.

"War chastens a nation. It acts as a tonic upon the body politic. It stimulates latent energy in throwing off the nonessentials. It prepares and fortifies against the day of stern necessity. Economy of a practical sort in the household calls for as much or more bravery as enlistment for the fighting forces. Common sense returns to first principles of living, awakens the spirit of service in the home and puts every member of the family in a state of mind conducive to good results.

"At the beginning of the war situation is the time to start to mobilize the affairs of the household. Don't wait for your neighbor to start, don't expect the government to do everything for you. Its power will be exerted in your behalf in the increased transportation, distribution and fixing of food prices. Your share in food preparedness is infinitely more important in the uses to which food will be put.

Hint to Food Buyers.

"The buyers and consumers of foodstuffs can perform as patriotic a duty as the man behind the plow and the fighting man if cool heads are kept and the hand of government permitted to adjust the conditions that are before us.

"The intelligence and courage of the American household manager will promptly make response to the gradual adjustment to the new conditions. The application of the word 'preparedness' and all that it stands for to the home will find equal force as applied to the nation.

"Volunteers will be called for the army and navy. It may be necessary to invoke the effectiveness of compulsory service to increase our armed forces; men and women will serve in the many branches of activity.

"While the voluntary spirit is the American spirit, enforced personal service liability may be found more equitable. This should not extent to the home. Here the volunteer should be supreme.

"Without governmental dictation, volunteer now to introduce methods to do without certain foodstuffs at times through reducing consumption; arrange the home menu so that each home will have a meatless day, sugarless day, flourless day, potatoless day, onionless day. By such regulations experience in marketing will suggest other foods at reasonable prices to take their places which are just as nourishing and palatable.

"The household manager might well busy herself now in looking up the effectiveness and prices of so-called 'substitute foods.' It will be surprising after careful investigation to discover that these 'so-called substitutes' are nothing more than common foods that are not part of the 'food habits' of the household. A new food state of mind will be good for us all. It will revolutionize the food world for peace times.

"Positive Duties."

"1. Make an inventory of the household, for food, waste, extravagance, carelessness, get rid of the nonessentials. What is not necessary sell or give to a relief association.

"2. Investigate the kitchen, investigate yourself, investigate those who work in the kitchen, stop the leaks. It is just as scientific to use and serve foods as it is to find the range of the enemy.

"3. Go to market, to many markets, and bargain for foodstuffs in the same spirit as you set out on a shopping tour. You will be amazed at the variety of prices. You will be convinced that there is no such thing as food price uniformity.

"4. So far as possible relieve the dealers of delivering the goods. Ask him for a discount if you take care of your own deliveries. If you cannot do it yourself ask the children to help out, or the servants.

"5. Buy by weight. Disregard the measure. Insist upon correct weight. Patronize a responsible merchant. Weight is the fundamental for price as it is for nourishment.

"6. Change your food mind habit as you would change your shoes. Look around you and see the variety of food things for the table that you never saw nor heard of before.

"7. Save every ounce of food. Make it useful. Think of saving on food in connection with second uses, as you do in retrimming a hat or redesigning a gown.

Negative Duties.

"1. Don't buy in quantities. Buy as you need supplies. You help the food gambler and speculator by increasing demand and you boost prices. The law of supply and demand will take care of daily market conditions. The government, the producer and distributor will arrange for normal flow of supplies. You hurt the poor and helpless by heavy buying.

"2. Don't cultivate the acquaintance of the garbage pail. That institution has a baneful influence on American food life. It is said that the food from the American table that finds its way into the garbage pail in the hands of the thrifty French housewife would feed all of France. What should go into the garbage pail is what should not go into the stomach.

"3. Don't rush at the first sign of alarm to buy up all the stocks of the grocer, the baker, the butcher. Have some consideration for your own intelligence. This is a big country, it's not France, Germany or England. We do not have to depend upon imported foods to feed us. Before we get through our war program we will be feeding a good portion of the world besides ourselves and have enough left in our warehouses for an emergency. With increased production and well regulated consumption America is going to experience its first successful assault on the high cost of food living.

"4. Don't be influenced by rumors of 'food corners,' 'food shortages.' Our people are awaking slowly to the realities of the war conditions—under which this war is to be won by us—and authorities will take good care of the miscreant who starts any false or misleading rumor.

Keep Food Vision Clear.

"5. Don't narrow your food vision. Food stocks will be more plentiful than ever before. The farmer and cattle raiser will be doing his duty when you are sleeping. Look around you, when you see the stocks of the retailer disappearing, that is the time to worry. That time will not come.

"6. Don't limit yourself to package goods. Buy in bulk when you can. You will find it just as sanitary, a little less expensive and perhaps more satisfying.

"7. Don't be single-handed in your judgment on the selection of food prices, consult the male members of the household; they eat out a good deal more than you do, and experience what professional food buyers are doing in restaurants and hotels. It's beneficial, anyway, to acquaint the man of the family with the business end of the home.

"'Forewarned is forearmed.' After all, with intensified household management the American homemaker may turn out to be better prepared to meet any new conditions, if put into operation now, than other forces of preparedness working along other lines.

"The American household manager can so adjust the arrangements of her home that the pinch of high prices or scarcity on certain articles will not be felt. As a people we bid fair to come out of this war, no matter when it terminates, as sound and healthy, if not more so, than when we entered it. The great forces of the nation are in active operation to serve the producer, distributor and the consumer. We are in for a period of action. Our combined co-operative effort will leave us better and stronger for the part we are to have in future world progress.

"The women of America might well don khaki in the home. It is a splendid working uniform. It may help to put us all in the same color."

BUILDING UP THE ARMY

You are likely to see a little group like this standing in a barnyard or beside a fence if you happen along a country road these days somewhere in the countryside or farm-land districts.

You will probably see an officer of the army or navy interviewing farm folk of all stations, explaining how they may best serve the nation and the flag. He will probably be assisted by strapping young soldiers or brawny sailors and will be ready to give advice on conditions and prospects in the two branches of the service.

The recruiting campaign is country-wide and is being carried on so as to bring the standing of both branches to their proper footing.

FALL IN!

By AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR.

We thought that reason had mastered men,
That peace of the world was lord,
That never the roll of the drum again
Should quicken the thirsty sword—
But our bubble broke with a sudden blow,
And we heard like the trumpet's din
That leveled the walls of Jericho
The old stern cry—"Fall in!"

We were numb, amazed, we were sick and dazed
With a horror past belief,
Silent we stood while Belgium blazed
In her martyr's glory of grief.
Then it came, so near that we needs must hear,
For the cry of our murdered kin
Drove in our heart like a searching spear
The call of the hour—"Fall in!"

Not in the flush of a barren thrill
Do we come to our deed at last.
We have weighed our will, we must do our will,
For the doubting-time is past.
We have faced our souls in the sleepless night,
And what shall we fear but sin?
Not for love of the fight, but for love of the right,
In the name of our God—"Fall in!"

URGED TO TILL WASTE LAND

Secretary Lane Declares Millions of Acres Should Be Put to Growing of Crops.

Washington.—Millions of acres of unallotted public lands in the West and the idle farms of the East and South were pointed to by Secretary Lane as places where men who do not enlist for the firing line may serve their country as effectually as they could at the front.

"Our people cannot all be fighters," the secretary said. "We must have in addition to our armies of fighters, armies of producers, to sustain those who struggle and to maintain those for whom they struggle.

"Men in close touch with the food supply of this country predict that if the present decrease in production keeps up for another year, we will face a serious food famine. Two hundred and forty million acres of unallotted public land in the western states await the coming of the farmer and the herdsman. Millions of acres of fine farm lands in the Eastern states lie idle through lack of men to work them. Forty-two millions of our population stifle in crowded cities and complain of the high cost of living.

"Any citizen of the United States who has not already located a homestead, may apply for as many acres of straight farming land as he wants up to 160 acres in the restricted sections and up to 320 acres in the unrestricted sections. Straight grazing land may be had to the extent of 640 acres.

"From Alabama to Alaska land is waiting to be taken up. And with all these resources we face an actual food famine."

HELP FARMER DO HIS SHARE

Local Committees Can Do Much Toward Increasing Agricultural Production of Country.

Washington.—As only a few weeks remain in which to prepare the soil and plant crops for the coming season, the government is calling upon all the people to assist by local organization in every way possible to increase the acrenge and intensify production. The garden movement which is already well under way will undoubtedly help out the situation, but the cereal condition is very bad.

Local committees to handle the various problems connected with the campaign should be appointed to work along the following lines:

To confer with the national and state bank for the purpose of working out a plan for rediscounting farmers' loans upon growing crops in order to give the farmers capital to put in the maximum acreage.

To consider the problem of enlisting volunteers in cities and elsewhere to undertake farm work temporarily until the crop is in the ground. This plan includes the employment of men at the regular wages paid in the industries. Volunteers can do a patriotic service by registering for duty for a week or two now and a week or two at harvest.

Placing the power of the community at the service of the farmer by working every tractor day and night until the acreage is prepared for planting.

Placing the best available seeds at the disposal of the farmer.

Young Giant, Small Girl.

Muncie, Ind. — When Frederick Knoblock, a young farmer, whose home is in Paulding county Ohio, applied for a license to marry Miss Martha Hazlemeyer of Delaware county, the bridegroom admitted his weight is 275 pounds and that he is six feet seven inches tall, while the bride weighs only 90 pounds, is only about five feet in height, and is only sixteen years old. He is twenty-one.

The queen of Holland supplies from her dairy, near the palace at Het Loo, a large proportion of milk consumed by buyers in Amsterdam.

SHERIFF NAILS TWO IN CAR

Telegraphs to Next Station Ahead and "Travelers" Are Arrested When Train Arrives.

St. Louis, Mo.—Deputy Sheriff Rucker at Valley Park, St. Louis county, nailed up the door of a box car in which two men were taking a ride. He then wired to Pacific, 16 miles west, and the men were arrested when the train arrived there.

When a Missouri Pacific west-bound train reached Valley Park a brakeman told Rucker the men were in the car and refused to come out.

Rucker went to the car and found the men had closed the door. After vainly ordering them to surrender he nailed the door with heavy spikes. The men are now in the Clayton jail.

Or a Bin of Potatoes.

There is no reason why the spirit of mortal should be proud, unless he owns a coal mine.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Stealing Cat No Crime.

Pittsburgh.—It is not a crime to steal a cat in Pennsylvania, according to the decision of Judge Henry C. Quigley, of Center county. His decision was given on a motion to quash an indictment against Charles E. Ryan of Carnegie, charging him with the larceny of two valuable Persian cats from Miss Hattie Geis of Verona.

First Duty.

Find yourself before you seek success.

FOOD WASTE EACH YEAR $700,000,000

This Is Estimate Made by Uncle Sam of Loss in the Homes Alone.

MUCH OF IT IS PREVENTABLE

Vast Amount of Nourishing Material Thrown Out of American Kitchens, Say Department of Agriculture Experts.

Good food heedlessly thrown into garbage pails, food allowed to spoil in the household, food ruined by improper cooking and food destroyed by rats, mice and insects constitute the heavy items in the $700,000,000 annual waste of food in homes in this country cited by the secretary of agriculture. Seven hundred million dollars is considered to be a conservative figure. In household waste, of course, are not to be included the vast losses of food allowed under improper handling or inefficient marketing methods to spoil in transit or in the hands of producers or dealers.

Much of this $700,000,000 household waste of food, the dietary specialists of the United States department of agriculture declare, is easily preventable.

That vast amounts of nourishing material are thrown out from American kitchens and so made useless for human consumption, is well established by the returns made from garbage and fertilizer plants showing the amount of fats and nitrogenous material recovered from city garbage.

Fail to Use Left-Overs.

Much of the food is thrown out, the specialists say, because so many people do not know how to utilize left-overs or will not take the trouble to keep and prepare them. The specialists point out that left-over cereals can be reheated or combined with fruits, meats or vegetables into appetizing side dishes; that even a spoonful of cereal is worth saving as a thickener of soups, gravies and sauces. Stale bread can be utilized in a variety of ways in combination with vegetables and meats and in preparing hot breads and puddings. Skim milk, too widely looked down upon as a food although it contains practically all the nourishing elements of whole milk with the exception of the cream or fat, can be used as a beverage, in cooking cereals, or as a basis for milk soups or sauces. Even sour milk, so largely thrown away, can be used in making hot breads or in the home manufacture of cottage cheese.

Every scrap of meat or fish can be combined with cereals or other foods lacking in pronounced flavor, both to give flavor and to add nourishment to made-over dishes. Every bit of fat or suet trimmed from meat before cooking or tried out in boiling, roasting or broiling can be made useful in cooking. Many butchers, after they have weighed meat and named the price for the cut, trim off valuable suet and fat. This fat which the housewife pays for, if taken home and used, would reduce expenditures for prepared cooking fats. Water used in cooking rice and many of the vegetables contains nutrients and desirable flavoring materials valuable in soups or sauces. Too often fats and such water are poured into the sink.

Many persons regard the saving of small amounts of left-over food as unimportant. If they kept accurate account, however, for any period, the specialists say, many families would be astounded by the amount of good food they are throwing out and by the sums that they are paying to the grocer, the butcher and milkman merely to replace good food being absolutely wasted.

Waste From Careless Handling.

Important amounts of perishable foods are made dangerous or inedible in households because they are exposed unnecessarily to heat, germs, dust, dirt or to flies and other insects.

Much milk spoils quickly because it is kept uncovered in warm kitchens. Close observance of the doctrine, "Keep perishable food, especially milk, cool, clean and covered continuously" may make a striking difference in the food bills of many families.

In other cases, one or two vegetables, beets or carrots, for instance, not needed immediately, are thrown out or allowed to spoil instead of being used in soups or combination dishes. Fruits which could be stewed and kept are allowed to spoil. Vegetables and fruits in quantities often are stored in hot, damp, poorly ventilated bins and under conditions which hasten wilting, fermentation and decay. Fruits, surplus beans, tomatoes and other vegetables produced in home gardens are allowed to spoil on the vines or rot on the ground. A morning's work would can and preserve such surplusage for use when fruits and vegetables are scarce and high in price.

Much food is ruined by being stored where flies or other insects or rats and mice can get at it. Much cereal food is ruined because it is not protected against weevils or other insects.

Many housewives who complain that children and adults will not eat breakfast cereals fail to realize that the cereals they serve are undercooked, scorched or improperly seasoned, and thus made unpalatable. Most of the cheaper foods require careful seasoning and preparation to be fully appetizing. In many households, the specialists believe, proper attention to the cooking of these cheap and desirable foods will increase greatly their consumption and thus reduce considerably the use of more expensive foods eaten instead of cereals.

Improper Cooking Is Blamed.

Vegetables properly prepared tempt the appetite. When they are served in soggy form or in watery or poorly flavored dishes, much of them will be left on the table. The nutrition and flavor of meat or fish can be ened by over-cooking or cooking. If fats are allowed even a little, they develop flavors and usually cause refuse gravies and sauces them or foods fried in them; ment is also disagreeable burned vegetables.

Much useful food gets into the age pail because the housewife preparing potatoes or other and fruit, such as apples, with the skin a considerable age of edible material. Careless ing of potatoes may consign as 20 per cent of the edible including outer layers containing able mineral substances, to the age pail. Many persons are that the green and tender many vegetables which contain able mineral and other food stances, are excellent cooked green, or even as addition to

Many families take pride in ing lavish and over-bountiful Such meals lead inevitably to food on the table and to over- which often impairs health and ciency. The sane standard, enough food and no more," rightly lowed, would reduce greatly the in many homes and, at the same tend to improve the physical of all members of the household, clare the government experts.

STUDIES FURNITURE MARKET

Expert in Uncle Sam's Bureau of Commerce, Undertakes Extensive Inquiry in South America.

A thorough investigation of American markets for American furniture has been undertaken by Uncle Sam's bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of the department of commerce. Harold E. Everley of New York city, has been apointed special agent to go to South America, spend two years studying the situation at close range. Mr. Everley has had a technical training in furniture manufacturing and is familiar with the merchandising methods of the industry. For three years he was superintendent of a furniture factory in Brazil.

The newly appointed agent has been visiting representative furniture manufacturers and exporters in this country in an effort to learn as definitely as possible just what information is needed. So far as possible the particular problems of individual manufacturers and exporters will be given careful attention during the investigation. The information gathered in South America will be brought to the attention of the industry by means of printed reports and also by means of interviews when the agent returns to this country.

FINISH VALUATION IN 1

Uncle Sam's Experts Covered Many Miles of Country's Railroads in Past Year.

During the past year the valuation division of Uncle Sam's interstate commerce commission has covered in the work of valuing the property and trackage of the railroads of the country more than 50,000 miles.

There are in the United States about one and one-half miles of track of all kinds for each mile of road, so about 50,000 miles of road would call for 75,000 miles of all tracks.

It is said that if the same rate of progress should be maintained in the field for the future as during the past year, the road and track valuation should be completed by January 1, 1920. Some of the surveying parties will finish before this time and many after, but this should be the average. There will, of course, still be a certain amount of field work to be done in connection with mechanical and structural work, but this probably will not require much time or a considerable force.

Sugar Beet Seed.

Plant specialists of the United States department of agriculture say that sugar beet seed must be produced in the United States. The sugar beet industry, in which $100,000,000 is invested, was almost wholly dependent in 1914 on importations of seed. The war made it very difficult to get seed for 1916 planting and the situation is now gloomy. It is believed seed of good quality can be developed in this country.