

IF THEY WOULD READ

Often one hears an uneducated man bewail his lot, complaining that he never had a chance to acquire an education. Usually such a man is one who actually labors not more than eight hours a day. He overlooks the fact that he could easily devote three or four hours daily to profitable reading and study, whereby he might overcome the handicap of which he complains.

Too many get the idea that unless they acquire an education in early life they must remain in ignorance. No greater mistake can be made. It is not when one begins to learn, but when one stops, that counts.

The trouble with the man or woman who goes through life in ignorance is usually nothing but sheer laziness. Think of Lincoln, getting an education at night from borrowed books, studied by the light from a fireplace. Or of Andrew Johnson, who only learned to write after he was married, and received an elementary education through his wife's instruction. Yet both rose to the office of President of the United States.

How great the opportunities of even the humblest today, in comparison with those of Lincoln and Johnson! Books, magazines and newspapers are within the reach of all. Machinery has given everyone greater leisure for self-improvement, if such is really desired.

No one need remain ignorant unless he deliberately chooses to remain so.

PROPHETIC BUNK

About the first of every year quite a number of prophets, soothsayers, seers, or whatever they call themselves, get several columns of their predictions into print. Some folks apparently take this foolishness seriously, as superstition still has a strong hold upon a large percentage of people.

It is an annual custom of the Pathfinder to check up on the previous year's predictions, which inevitably results in making the alleged prophets ridiculous. Recently that weekly reviewed the 1926 prophecies of Belle Bart, Madam Marcia, Professor Raymond, Genevieve Kemble, Arthur Brooks and others, not one of whose specific predictions came true.

We also have the crack-brained religious fanatics who pretend to read the future and see the end of the world foretold in Revelations. Many dates for that important event have been set, but the old world persists in spinning on its way, unperturbed.

The strange thing is that many persons, otherwise apparently of sound mind, worry over these gloomy prophecies which are never fulfilled.

NEW GERMAN FERTILIZER

Further details concerning the new German fertilizer, called "nitrophoska," are given in an official statement issued by the Department of Commerce on January 3, and based on a report from the American trade commissioner in Berlin.

It is stated that the new product carries a high percentage of plant food and that it will materially reduce the cost of fertilizer to the farmers of that country. Manufacturing of nitrophoska on a commercial scale was begun in November and production already amounts to 10,000 tons a month.

In the manufacture of the new product, atmospheric nitrogen is fixed by a modified Haber process, involving important new features which are said to present many advantages over all former methods. Regarding the possible marketing of nitrophoska in America, the government statement says:

"If it could be introduced in the United States on a large scale it would enter into direct competition with many of the finished products of the fertilizer industry."

Through the development of the Haber-Bosch process of ammonia synthesis, Germany is saved the expenditure of one billion marks annually for Chilean nitrates, and is now delivering nitrogen in large quantities to France to be credited on reparation payments.

OUR QUEER LANGUAGE

In a plea for greater consistency, a spelling reformer has called attention to a few of the many vagaries displayed in English spelling and pronunciation.

The sound of long "a," for example, is represented in many different ways, as in lady, ai in rain, eig in reign, ay in pay, ei in veil, ey in they, eye in obeyed, ea in great, oa in gaol, au in gauge, ag in champagne, aigh in straight, and ai in wait.

Other sounds are represented by an almost equal variety of spellings. Words pronounced alike have different meanings, such as right-rite-write-wright, to-two-too, oh-owe, and many others. Words both spelled and pronounced alike may mean entirely different things, such as row, bow, lead, saw, and so on.

These peculiarities have to do merely with orthography. When the other innumerable inconsistencies of the language are considered the wonder is that anyone ever learns to speak and write English correctly.

As a matter of fact, hardly anyone ever does.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING

For the young man who expects to enter upon a purely business career, that is, a career which involves manufacturing, buying, selling, and the handling of men, the value of college or university training, particularly along classical lines, has been seriously questioned.

While its value to those who intend to seek fame and fortune in the professions and the creative arts can not be discounted, the case is different with respect to commercial life, in the opinion of many outstanding industrial leaders.

This view was recently expressed by W. R. Morris, head of England's greatest automobile concern, who declared:

"There are exceptions, perhaps, but I have never found a university trained man of any use in my organization. A university education will make a scholar, but it will not give those qualities necessary for business and industry if those qualities are not originally there. If they are there, it is quite likely to obliterate them."

Many will disagree with Mr. Morris, but his pronouncement is thought-provoking, to say the least.

TRUTH SAID IN JEST

After seven years of labor with one object in view, Michael Faraday in 1831 succeeded in producing an electric current by induction. One day in his laboratory he explained the experiment to a friend, a matter-of-fact English peer, who said:

"Very interesting, but what is the use of it?" To which Faraday somewhat sarcastically replied:

"Perhaps some day you can tax it."

When it is considered that the great electrical industry of the present is based primarily upon Faraday's epochal discovery, the truth of his jesting remark may be understood.

In the United States today the electrical industry is the third largest taxpayer of corporation taxes. Within a few years it will doubtless stand at the head of the list.

It's getting so one can't save the country without being investigated.

The gasoline tax hits the motorist, who in turn hits the pedestrian.

Some Congressmen are strong for economy in everything except words.

Filipinos are superstitious, firmly believing there is virtue in knocking Wood.

It appears that the prosecution had the goods on Aimee, but couldn't prove it.

Two Texas cornet players were sent to jail, probably as the result of a toot.

Some bank attaches are rather high hat, but others are not too proud to clean out the place.

"Pope Raps Femine Styles"—Headline. And milady wraps her skirt a little tighter.

History repeats itself. People sometimes poisoned their guests during the Middle Ages.

"Well, I'm at the end of my rope," said the man throwing away the stub of a cheap cigar.

Some day the White House spokesman may insist that the Recording Angel misquoted him.

Those who growl about taxes should find comfort in thinking of the fellow who has to pay alimony.

Americanism: Fighting England for liberty and then creating a lot of legislators to take it away from us.

A new machine for artificially drying hay costs \$22,000. Until the price comes down we shall make ours while the sun shines.

Prof. Huntington of Yale declares that the weather costs the world half a billion dollars a year. But think of the raw material for conversation we get out of it.

Dr. Katz of Amsterdam is trying to solve the problem of why rubber stretches. When he gets that worked out, he might tackle the question of why cotton undies shrink.

According to Arthur Brisbane, the average intelligence of free citizens of Athens 3,000 years ago was higher than that of the British House of Commons today. But, Arthur, think of the United States Congress.

SIDELIGHTS

From Lexington, Ky., comes the report of a horrendous tragedy, vouched for by a reliable authority. Near the mouth of an oil well an open vessel contained nitroglycerine, of which a dog was seen to drink copiously. Workmen fled to cover as the loaded dog chased a rabbit, leaped down a bank and exploded.

That the battle over evolution is to go on with renewed vigor is indicated by the decision of the American Association of Professors, meeting in Philadelphia as a part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Steps were taken to form a national organization to oppose anti-evolution legislation "in order to preserve American educators."

Abd-el-Krim, the doughty Riff chieftan who surrendered a few months ago, has been banished to the French island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. His exile is rendered more pleasant, or painful, as the case may be, by the presence of his six wives, who were allowed to accompany him.

Following an annual custom, the Boston Traveller omitted all crime and disaster news from its front page on December 24, supposedly in keeping with the joys of the Christmas season. But this well-meaning gesture failed to halt crime and disaster to any appreciable extent, as deaths from poisoned liquor in New York City alone during Christmas week totalled 34.

There appears to be no end to the activities in which folks aspire to championships nowadays. Reuben Bland, 72-year-old farmer of Martin county, North Carolina, visited President Coolidge and claimed to be the "champion father of the United States." He has 34 children.

Private Victor Des Maris, recently enlisted in the regular army at Providence, R. I., is said to be the only man in America who can tear three full decks of playing cards in two with his hands. Poker players have often wished that they could do something like that after failing to fill a four-card straight open at both ends.

Oriental devotion and patriotism are hard for the Occidental mind to understand. We fail to get the viewpoint, for example, of Major Baron Ikeda of the Japanese Army, who shot himself standing in front of the dead emperor's portrait, after writing a note saying he wanted to follow his ruler's departed spirit.

WHAT'S NEW?

By means of a new listening machine approaching airplanes may be detected a distance of 12 miles away.

A new cast iron has been produced having double the tensile strength of ordinary gray iron.

An improved vacuum cleaner for camera plates removes dust and other loose particles effectively.

From England comes reports of a vaccine for the prevention and cure of dandruff.

Special steel armor plate for bank vaults, when attacked by an oxy-acetylene torch throws a shower of hot sparks sufficient to drive a burglar away.

Charges of powder equal to those used in 8-inch shells are now used to catapult seaplanes from the deck of a battleship.

Experiments are being made in the use of poison gases for killing mosquitoes.

Vale Brevities

Mrs. Crail Home—Mrs. E. M. Crail, county school superintendent, returned home Saturday from a conference of school superintendents held in Salem. Charles returned with her from Portland where he spent the week.

Enjoys Fine Trip—Hugh Biggs, son of Judge Dalton Biggs of Malheur county, recently attended a student's conference at Ann Arbor, Michigan, representing the student body of the University of Oregon, of which he is president.

Arrives In Sweden—Mrs. Gus Anderson, formerly Veva Stacey, has arrived in Sweden, according to a letter received by her parents here. She says there is real winter there. The people dress like Eskimos even in their homes. Mrs. Anderson is enjoying herself immensely although she has a very hard time expressing herself to folks-in-law who scarcely speak a word of English.

In Boise—Mr. and Mrs. John Norwood, accompanied by Mrs. I. F. S. Diven drove to Boise Tuesday on a business and pleasure trip. They returned home Wednesday.

With Boise Orchestra—LaVerne Zutz has a job in Boise that suits him to perfection. He is leading trombonist with Kelley's Club orchestra, having begun his new work Monday night.

Week End Visit—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. McLing enjoyed one of their frequent visits with relatives in Nampa Saturday and Sunday. W. S. Brown accompanied them to Nyssa, where he spent the week end talking Vale and Owyhee project with his brother and old friends in the Gate City. Nyssa is even talking paving these days.

Lambs are arriving singly and by twos at the Norvall ranch, the doctor reports his percent as 140 and says he hasn't lost one yet.

Max Johnson and George Stacey, who are working on the Owyhee irrigation project in the vicinity of Nyssa, spent a pleasant Sunday, visit with home folk.

R. F. Davis, D. McCloud, C. M. Beaumont and W. L. Schafer were court visitors from Nyssa the early part of the week.

BOOSTERS

What Are Boosters?

BOOSTERS are the Public Spirited men who are always ready to stand back of the town in which they live, whether he is a merchant, resident or a farmer who calls that town home. A booster is a man who wants to see his home town go ahead and is putting his shoulder to the wheel in an effort to make it go ahead.

Boosters Are Those Who Advertise

The newspaper in your community is the biggest booster of them all. When some public enterprise is set afloat, the chances are ten to one that the local paper was the biggest factor in the lot in bringing about its accomplishment, so why not patronize the merchants that are boosting your town and thereby become a booster yourself?

Check over the paper this week and see just who the boosters in Nyssa are—and they want your trade too because they are asking you for it—THE'RE BOOSTERS.

Trade With Merchants Who Want Your Trade

The Gate City Journal

NYSSA, OREGON