

CROOKED BROKERS REAP OIL PROFITS

Fraudulent Promoters Offer 33 1-3 Per Cent Commission as a Lure.

INNOCENT ARE THE SUFFERERS

Regular Saturnalia of Swindling is Now in Progress—Publicity is Urged as Best Remedy for Evil.

New York.—The inner philosophy of the buccaneer oil promotion company in the business of selling stocks in the name of oil is neatly exposed in a "confidential" letter received the other day by a reputable New York Stock Exchange firm, says the New York Sun. The writer, an officer of a "here today and gone tomorrow" Western tank corporation, was trying to get a New York broker to put out its securities, and obviously thought he was addressing a firm of traders as shady as himself.

"You know," he wrote, "the heavy cost is in finding new clients. Your profit is made in selling them repeatedly the same stock as the dividend and price advance."

He then offered to pay a commission of 33 1-3 per cent, under which agreement \$1 of every \$3 paid by the investor would stay in the hands of the stock peddler. The generous "oil" man continued:

"The price of the stock is \$2 a share. It will be advanced to \$2.25 within the next 30 days, after which it will be gradually raised to \$3. These additional raises are the best methods known to sell stock to clients."

Shares are valueless. The stock had no value; there was nothing behind it. The price was an arbitrary figure fixed by the company. The proposed raises would have been arbitrary. If a buyer had tried to sell the stock back at any price, the company would not have bought the stuff back at any price. The company was merely intent on getting a broker to go shares with it in kidding the public into snatching at the securities by "the best methods known to sell stock to clients."

Reputable brokers do not even answer such letters. Nor will they allow their customers to buy stocks which have the faintest odor of trickery if they can prevent it. The other day a man who lives in a suburb of New York got a hot tip on a new oil stock recently introduced on the curb but not listed. He hustled into town and asked a broker whom he knew to buy 500 shares.

"Can't do it," said the broker. "I thought you could buy anything," said the commuter.

"Certainly I can buy anything, but I shall have to decline to take your order for this stock. I don't know anything positive about the company, but it looks bad to me because I do know something of the people who are putting it out."

The customer departed in something of a huff, for he had "splendid information" about the stock. He found another broker and purchased the 500 shares. That afternoon it "went up" nearly a point, which is a lot for a low-priced curb security, and the suburbanite tried to take his quick profit. His new broker, however, was unable to get a bid at the new price. In fact he couldn't get any bid at all, although the curb continued to quote the high figure.

The buyer of the 500 shares still had them recently and judging by the experiences of others with all companies of the same stripe they eventually will pass to his heirs as an interesting souvenir, unless the waste paper man gets them first.

Situation is Dreadful. The Sun asked a man of prominence in the New York Stock Exchange how it felt as an organization about the swindlers' saturnalia now in progress and what it could do to protect the public.

"Of course," he answered, "we are more than horrified. All the time the most pitiful cases are being reported to us—governesses, all sorts of poor persons, losing all their savings in oil investments. The situation is perfectly dreadful. Outside of the suffering it causes individuals, what a reputation it is getting for the city of New York. People all around the country are being led to believe we are a nest of swindlers. The government has done something, but why it doesn't do more I don't understand."

"A few years ago the New York Stock Exchange put the bucketshops out of business by taking our ticker quotations away from them, an act which the courts sustained."

"The New York Stock Exchange is doing all it can, and in co-operation with representatives of the district attorney has got action in several cases, but we have no control except over our own members. The most effective remedy for these abuses is publicity."

Woman Has Old Lincoln Ballot. Los Angeles, Cal.—Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis of No. 205 West Main street, Ontario, exhibited to friends recently an interesting souvenir which she found in a trunk in the attic of her home. It was a Republican ballot for the presidential campaign in which Abraham Lincoln was elected and his name appeared at the top. Mrs. Lewis' father, J. W. Hiatt, was a candidate for township trustee on the same ticket.

LIKE REAL SOLDIERS

Boys to Get Military Training in Summer Camp.

War Department Co-Operates with Chicago Board of Education in Establishing Camp Roosevelt.

Muskegon, Mich.—Fifteen thousand boys and men from all parts of the country will undergo a period of intensive military physical training here this summer. The encampment will be known as Camp Roosevelt.

Camp Roosevelt is being established by the Chicago board of education, with the sanction and cooperation of the war department at a summer training camp for the cadets in the high school R. O. T. C. of that city, but in order to make the camp really representative of the whole country it has been decided to accept recruits from any part of the United States. The age limits will be from twelve to forty-five.

The training will be under the direction of Capt. F. L. Bends of the United States Army who will have the assistance of 50 commissioned and non-commissioned officers, 20 physical directors and supervisors. The training will include drills, maneuvers, hikes, bayonet practice, marksmanship, ground aviation, artillery and machine gunnery practice, radio instruction and similar military instruction. The physical training program will include baseball, tennis, golf, swimming, rowing and similar summer diversions.

Recruits will enroll for periods of two, four, six or eight weeks, the first recruits to enter July 7 and the camp to continue until August 31.

The training establishment is being financed by the Chicago board of education, with the assistance of a group of patriotic Chicago citizens, who have also been successful in securing the co-operation of the war department. Cadets will be required to pay only the nominal sum of \$1 per day for all expenses, including tent, sleeping accommodations, board, instruction and equipment. An enrollment fee of \$1 is the only additional charge.

Executive headquarters have been established by Captain Bends at 21 North LaSalle street and enrollments are already being received from all parts of the country.

Girls in Tight Skirts Protest Safety Mirrors

Los Angeles, Cal.—The little safety mirrors on cars of the Los Angeles Railway company have been attacked by the fair sex of the city and already a number of protests against the mirrors have been lodged with officials of the company.

Fashion, which has decreed the tight skirt, is the real cause of the complaint, and the women declare they are embarrassed by the stare of the motorists as they climb aboard the cars.

On the other hand, officials of the railway company have filed a counter-complaint, charging that the tight skirts cause undue delay of the cars. In addition they say the motorists merely do their duty in watching the mirrors to make certain passengers are on the cars before starting.

ARMY AIDS SOLDIERS TO JOBS

Gets Cards From Men on Transports Showing Qualifications of Each.

Washington.—As a more certain method of assisting returning soldiers to obtain employment if they have not the immediate prospect of it, General March, chief of staff, has ordered that personnel officers shall require from all soldiers returning on transports, cards showing the industrial experience and qualifications of the individual to be turned over upon the arrival of the transport to the federal employment service.

Announcement of the plan was made by Col. Arthur Woods, assistant to the secretary of war, on employment of discharged soldiers, who said it would give the returning soldier an opportunity "to give careful thought to his future and the importance of his again hooking himself up to the nation's industrial life."

JAIL RATHER THAN PLEDGE

Prisoner Then Changed His Mind and Signed to Keep Off the Boozes.

San Francisco.—Rather than take the pledge to refrain from drinking intoxicating liquors, William May, seafaring man, chose a six months' sentence in the county jail, and then changed his mind.

"I'll take a chance on getting a nip out there occasionally," he told Police Judge Morris Oppenheim. "You see, the country's going dry July 1, and if I take the pledge I won't get a drink between now and then."

"Say, mate," said a fellow prisoner in the dock. "You got the dope wrong. The county jail's drier than the Sahara desert under a July sun."

May called out to the judge that he had changed his mind. A few minutes later he signed the pledge.

MRS. E. M. HOUSE



A very late photograph of Mrs. House, wife of Colonel House, one of the American delegates to the peace conference.

WEIGH MANY BABIES

Tests Held in 16,811 Communities During Campaign.

Illinois Leads in Towns Participating and Wisconsin Leads in Babies Weighed.

Washington.—Weighing and measuring tests of children were held in 16,811 communities during the children's year campaign instituted by the children's bureau to reduce the infant mortality rate. To this total should be added many records coming from rural sections not listed as post offices. One-third of the total communities having post offices in the United States held tests.

Illinois had the greatest number of cities and towns participating in the campaign—1,261. Wisconsin led in the actual number of babies weighed and measured, as already announced, but the records came from 1,067 towns, ranking third in that respect. Iowa was second in the number of communities participating, having 1,212, and Ohio was fourth, with 944. Indiana came fifth, with 780. From far off Hawaii three cities—Honolulu, Kakaia and Tora—sent records.

Table listing states and number of towns participating in the baby weighing campaign.

The weighing and measuring campaign is being followed up by the work of local committees seeking to make permanent the improvements shown by the tests to be necessary. Many committees are employing public health nurses and providing centers where the poor can obtain free medical advice.

"PRINCE BY GOD'S GRACE"

Eitel Friedrich of Germany So Signs Himself in Accepting Famous Order.

Berlin.—He who believes that the former German royalty has disabused itself of the idea that it ruled, "by God's grace" is mistaken, says Vorwärts, quoting the announcement of the famous Johanniter order, just engraved in a Berlin shop, which begins: "We, Wilhelm Eitel Friedrich Christian Karl, by God's grace prince of Prussia, herewith proclaim that we, after investigation and on its invitation, have accepted the position of honorable knight of the order, wherefore we, as master of Brandenburg, have attached our highest individual signature."

"Inevitably," says Vorwärts, "one thinks while viewing this comedy of the valued Lieut. Eckdahl's Inesse's wild duck, whose greatest bliss is to put on in a closed room the uniform he dare not wear in public. In the circle of the Johanniter order Eitel Friedrich still feels himself by God's grace."

Jumped in Sleep. Long Beach, Cal.—Lieutenant Colonel Emmons, aviator, dreamed he was killed in an air battle and tried to jump. He leaped from his bed and broke a leg.

Scrap Book

GERMAN 'SUBS' NOT WONDERS

Mistaken Idea That Huns Were in Any Way in Advance of the Other Nations.

There seems to be a general impression abroad in the world that Germany had almost a monopoly on submarine devising, and that the rest of the world stood by in amazement of helplessly following in the master's footsteps. This, of course, is "all rot," as my British submarine officer will tell you.

He will go further and tell you that British submarines are much better than German ones, and then prove it! And he makes no bones at all of saying that the 100 or so sub-surface boats which "Germany" has surrendered contain no "secrets" not known to British officers, and one of them at least volunteered the information that the plans for many a German submarine had been seen and examined before ever there was one captured of the same type—which would seem to indicate, if true, that Germany had no monopoly of secret service efficiency.

England started with some 50 submarines, built about 130 during the war, and just about 500 probably later, by means before the anti-mine device, whatever it is, came into being. During this building campaign she learned how to build submarines as she never had known before. Of course she captured some German submarines and doubtless took some ideas from her enemy, but she developed some ideas of her own which Germany never dreamed of. The M1, for instance, which is a 1,700-ton submarine carrying a 12-inch gun. No, I am not romancing, the M1 exists. She was built for the Dardanelles operations, and while she was completed too late for that purpose, she was a technical success. She fires, of course, only fore and aft, the gun having a traverse of perhaps six degrees and only a moderate elevation. Nor does she use a full charge, but sends her 620-pound shell a maximum of 15,000 yards. The M1 carries a couple of tubes and an anti-aircraft gun. I wish I could send some particulars and additional pictures, but I haven't the necessary jummy to open the admiralty safe!—C. H. Claudy in Scientific American.

Famous French Strategist

General Mangin, who it is reported, will be recalled from his command at Mayence to take an important command in eastern Europe, undoubtedly the Balkans, with a view to possible operations on the Hungarian frontier and southwestern Russia, is one of the best offensive leaders produced in the French army during the war. It was the troops of Mangin's Third army who stopped the enemy on the Soissons sector in the critical days after the beginning of the German offensive, July 15, and it was the French, American and British troops under his command who began the allied counter offensive which ended in the armistice November 11. Before the war, General Mangin gained fame by his relief of the city of Moresno and the liberation of Frenchmen held prisoners there. He was the organizer of the French victory in the Verdun region in October, 1916. Since the armistice General Mangin has been at the head of the French army in Lorraine with headquarters at Mayence.

Button Shortage

"Button, button, who's got the button?" That innocent game of bygone days promises to come back in vogue again and cover more territory than the parlor. It will be a nation-wide hunt, for we are warned of a button shortage, with the well-known "on account of the war" accent. A button shortage is not to be taken with a giggle, customers. Buttons play an important part in one's existence. Buttonless shirts and other buttonless male wearing apparel cause half the marriage proposals of the young voters. And then again, a neglect of button repairing after marriage helps pave the way for divorces. Without buttons we'd feel like a canary going through the molting season against its wish. If it comes to pass we'll have to resort to hobo fastening devices, such as clothespins, safety pins, nails, wire and matches. Get all the spare buttons and they'll hold you together later on.—Gene Ahern.

Solitary Mariner Lost

"What has become of the sloop Spray, that made the voyage around the world with one man as captain and crew?" a reader inquires. "I have been reading 'Sailing Alone Around the World,' and am interested in the fate of the stout little craft."

The Spray probably lies at the bottom of one of the seven seas, with her captain and crew. A letter from the publishers of the book says, "Captain Stocum disappeared some years ago. He went away on a new trip in his sloop, the Spray, and was never heard from again. The inference is that he and his sloop were lost somewhere in the ocean."

Lavishness

"George Washington was the father of his country," says a reader. "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "and I suspect that if he could hear the off-hand way in which we mention a billion dollars he'd suspect that he had raised a large family of prodigal sons."

Logical

"Charley, dear," said Mrs. Torkins, "your sister asked me if you still follow the horses. And I told her you do."

"Why should you say a thing like that about me?"

"Why, Charley, dear, you must be following them. You told me yourself you are never ahead of them."

THE HUN.

"We have but scotched the snake, not killed it." Bailed in his plan, his dripping hands upthrown, Sullen of men and unrepentant still, Nor took, nor word, nor action to atone His sinful past—his diabolical will Still master of his soul—defiant, bold, Contemptuous, with impudence intoned, He stands before the bar—the Hun of old, Hate in his eyes—his spirit unsubdued Behind him surge the dead who shall not sleep Till vengeance fall in full upon his head, Till that in penitential tears he reap Full harvest of the blood he ruthless shed. O ye who held his fate within your hands, See that he kneels ere ye release his 'bands' —Francis T. Leahy.

HAD NO USE FOR THE RICH

According to Henry Watterson, Andrew Johnson Was Uncompromisingly a "Man of the People."

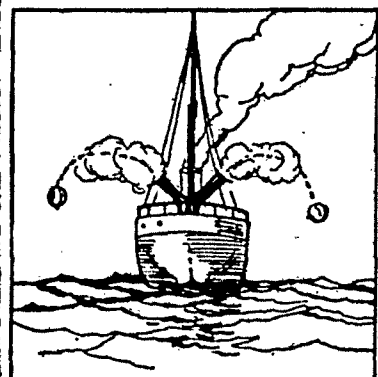
Rags in distress easily stirred the sympathies of former President Andrew Johnson, who was uncompromising in his detestation of the rich and hated a "loaf" shirt. Henry Watterson writes in the Saturday Evening Post. Although Johnson dressed carefully himself he would have nothing to do with "people who wore broadcloth." When as governor of Tennessee he went to Nashville he refused many invitations that he might take his first New Year's dinner with a party of toughs at the house of a river restaurant. "There was nothing of the tough about him," Colonel Watterson writes. "His language was careful and exact and I never heard him utter an oath or tell a risqué story."

Johnson's wife, whom he married before he was 21, taught him to read and write, yet at 23 he was in the Tennessee general assembly and at 34 was in congress. He was nominated for vice president on the ticket with Lincoln in 1864, and was elected. When Lincoln was assassinated he succeeded to the presidency. After finishing his term as president he returned to the senate where, in his first speech, he attacked Grant, whom he hated. It was his last public utterance. He died a few weeks later at his home in East Tennessee.

FIRES TWO SHOTS AT ONCE

Improvement on Death-Bomb Service Which Proved the Undoing of the Submarine.

Depth bombs are fired in pairs from the Y-gun. In the beginning of their usefulness they were simply dropped overboard from the stern of a destroyer or submarine chaser, which immediately proceeded to go away from



there at full speed. By means of the Y-gun, two depth charges at once are tossed overboard from the vessel to minimize the danger. It is merely a gun with two barrels set at an angle of 90 degrees to each other.—New York World.

Of Interest to Americans

In the great collection of prints showing the sports, pastimes and adventurous enterprises of mankind during four centuries, which W. A. Ballie-Grohman, the English collector, has offered for purchase by the United States, one print in particular is of interest to Americans, says the Christian Science Monitor. It depicts Amerigo Vespucci just landed on the continent that was afterward named for him, and pleasantly welcomed by a native person, presumably an "American queen," comfortably swinging in an unmistakable hammock. Some historians question whether Vespucci ever got to America in person, and the old sixteenth-century print does not necessarily prove it, for Vespucci was long popularly believed to have made the trip. It does, however, show a familiarity with the plants and animals that Giovanni della Strada lavishly added to his picture, which leads to the belief that he worked from sketches made by somebody else who had really seen them.

Why She Waited

One of the funniest cases came before Judge White not so very long ago. A negro had been arrested for beating his wife and in the course of the wife's testimony she admitted that he had beaten her many times before. "But why didn't you have him arrested yourself; why did you wait until neighbors got an officer to come to your rescue," asked the judge. "Well, yoah honor," said the woman, "I done think of it several times, but I ain't neber had enuff money all together at one time to pay his fine."—Los Angeles Times.

Logical

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"Why should you say a thing like that about me?"

"Why, Charley, dear, you must be following them. You told me yourself you are never ahead of them."

GREAT POET LITTLE KNOWN

Recent Events Have Revealed Christian Donelaitis, Lithuanian, as Entitled to High Renown.

Russia's downfall has uncovered another great poet, a poet of Shakespearean caliber. Christian Donelaitis, the great Lithuanian singer of the eighteenth century, known only to the German poets, Goethe, Heine and Herder, who translated him into German, has been suddenly revealed as a figure to be added to the five great poets of the world. Lithuania's plea for independence has focused attention on this poet, whose work is inspirational in quality.

Donelaitis was not a popular poet. He was a radical. His fame grew after his death. Most important of all his works is the hexameter poem, "The Four Seasons," which, like all other Lithuanian poems, is symbolic. In Lithuania, even the ordinary speech of the peasant is charged with symbolism and hyperbolic turns. A Lithuanian speaks about trees, lakes, forests, flowers, the sky, the sun, the moon and the planets, but what he really wants to speak about, his joys and sorrows, his love and his hatreds, is only delicately hinted at.



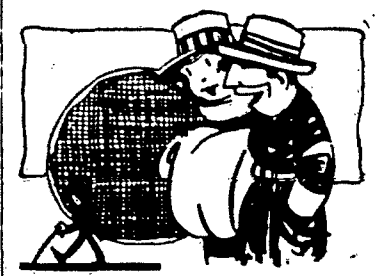
FEMININE AMMUNITION

He (in khaki)—I love the smell of powder. She—Do you really? And don't you think the violet is the best.

PRECEDENT FOR SHORT WORD

Nothing Shocking in Proposal to Substitute "Ad" for the Longer "Advertisement."

One of the simplifications proposed by the latest list of simplified spellings is the elimination from usage of the big word "advertisement" and the substitution therefor of the little word "ad," and in this case one may believe that the change will not be difficult to bring about. It falls pat with the common tendency for some time past to speak of an "ad" instead of an "advertisement." One can make the change, for example, in Addison's remark about "ads" in the Tatler, and not be particularly shocked to read that "the great art in writing ads is the finding out a proper method to catch the reader's eye," which goes to show incidentally that even in the days of Queen Anne the basic factor of this art was perfectly well established. As Addison remarked also, "a man that is by no means big enough for the gazette, may easily creep into the ads," although nowadays one would hardly say that creeping described the invariable manner of entrance.



HOT WATER

"Mr. Brown is always getting into hot water." "Yes, he is so cold-blooded I suppose it is a kind of relief."

STUBBORN CONTENDER

"Can Crableigh see two sides of a question?" "Yes."

"Then why do you call him pig-headed?" "Because he only looks at the other fellow's side of a question to view it with contempt."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

KITCHEN AUTOCRAT

"I don't know where my next meal is coming from," remarked the woe-begone-looking citizen. "Will a little loan—"

"No. Our new cook refuses to be bribed."

MUCH EASIER

"Everybody grates on me." "I'll tell you one thing, old man." "Well?" "You'll find it a heap easier to change your own disposition than to alter humanity."