

GRAFT AND GRAFTER

ONE LITTLE HOMELY WORD THAT CONVEYS MUCH.

MANY HUMBUGS IN DISGUISE

Human Nature Much the Same in All Ages—People Easily Deluded Into Making Poor Investments.

Cant phrases have been invented, and words more noted for their force than elegance, have become popular as expressive of common things. In all that is slang, it is doubtful if there is any better word than "graft." Long before Chaucer indited what would now be called "pigeon English," witty Greeks and Romans indulged in their aesthetic forms of vulgar expression, and there can be little doubt that good old Socrates impressed Plato and some of his other pupils with pungent idioms, and in turn was called by Aristophanes an impious old grafter.

It is quite evident that "graft" has a place among euphonious words, and conveys an idea plainly and tersely. The famous Barnum, who said something about the people anxious to be humbugged had a pretty good idea of human nature, and made the most out of his knowledge. The business man of to-day does not ignore the gullibility of the masses, and yearly millions of dollars are spent in printers' ink to convey to the people various kinds of information that will stimulate the letting go of dollars for the benefit of the grafter.

Pick up a copy of any current Sunday newspaper, farm journal, religious publication, magazine or other periodical and look over its pages! Graft is evident in each and every one. It is covered under the guise of artistic advertising. Thousands of cure-alls, wonderful discoveries, great bargains from bankrupt sales, exceptional chances for investment and Lord knows what-not, beams from the pages to catch the eyes of the person who has not received sufficient lessons in the "school of graft." The people like to be fooled. There seems to be more or less avarice in the makeup of most men, and women, too. The getting of something of value for little or nothing is a common offer to gather in the dollars for the benefit of the grafter.

For a few years a young man with ambition and a liking for work struggled along in the mercantile line in a large central western city. He decided to enlarge. He needed money. A splendid scheme presented itself. Why not get dollars needed to carry on a big business from the people? They needed a chance for investment. He was just the fellow to help 'em out. He organized a big cooperative concern. He advertised broadcast. Told of the wonderful possibilities of his business, and lo! the dollars rolled his way by the hundreds of thousands. Soon the government ended his game. He was charged with using the mails to defraud. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were lost by those who invested in his "cooperative society." Many similar schemes are up for consideration day after day. The people never tire of them. Just like buying a lottery ticket. There is a chance to win, and as long as the proposition looks good, the grafter flourishes.

The wise man, be he farmer or doctor, stockman or storekeeper, will avoid jumping at such chances for investment. Look out for the cooperative organizer. Beware of the grafters who want to interest you in their business affairs, and at the same time hold the combination to the safe.

D. M. CARR.

AGAINST PREMIUM GRAFT.

Laws Passed by Some States Prohibiting Prizes in Packages of Foodstuffs.

Some classes of people when they wish to purchase goods, look more after so-called bargains than quality, and quite often the bargains prove expensive. It seems that the getting of something for nothing is attractive to the average person. Of late years there has grown up a practice among manufacturers of staple articles, particularly in the food line, of giving a prize with each package of their goods. It is apparent that there is an inclination towards gambling in the make-up of most people, and this spirit is appealed to largely by the giver of prizes. The purchaser seems to overlook the fact that he receives nothing other than he pays for. Whatever article is given as a premium represents so much money value and certainly the manufacturer does not lose by the operation. The value of what is given must be made up by either the retailer or the consumer, and it is generally the consumer who pays the cost.

Retail grocers, as well as the people in general, have cause to be thankful to the lawmakers of some states for making it illegal to place premiums in packages of foodstuffs. Such a law is now in force in the state of Nebraska. Premium and prize giving has been a cause of trouble and disturbance, and has resulted in the making of inferior goods, palming off their poor productions, relying more upon the prize given to secure trade than the merit of goods. The wise housewife in whatever state she may live will be careful to discriminate between quality, and quality backed up by prizes. It is well when you buy articles in the food line to avoid buying anything which has a prize attachment. You are compelled to not alone pay for the goods that you require, but the prize as well.

WEALTH CONCENTRATION EVIL.

Operation of Injurious Trusts Can Be Curtailed by Efforts of the Masses.

An evil that at present is receiving more than ordinary attention in the press is the concentration of vast amounts of money in the hands of corporations. The accumulation of wealth by individuals when controlled by natural law, will inevitably become divided. The millionaire who has a family, at his death will apportion to each member a share of his wealth. Even though these divisions may be increased by work and by speculation and investment by the children, they in return will divide the accumulations among their offspring and eventually, it matters not how great the fortunes of any one of the family may become, it is only a matter of time until there is a scattering of the money, and a great portion of it will pass from the members of the family. On the other hand, corporation methods mean the building of a system that prevents the operation of the natural law. In other words corporations are machines that work continuously, and when one part is broken it is replaced by a new one. Thus the accumulation goes on. The death of Rockefeller will not result in a discontinuance of the Standard Oil company; the death of the present stockholders of any of the large trust companies, banks or insurance companies will make little difference in their existence. All will go ahead.

The safeguards of corporations in many cases are excellent. But the inclination to control trade by the crushing out of smaller concerns and the destruction of legitimate competition and the controlling of prices, seems against public policy. All classes are compelled to pay prices dictated by these trusts for the goods produced. Each year finds new combinations to control trade. It is the centralization of capital that makes such operations possible. The person who assists in concentrating money in large financial centers does his part toward helping along such combines. It is only by individual action on the part of every small producer and laborer in the country that conditions can be changed. Stand by every home industry and do your part toward keeping money in circulation at home, and thus bring about conditions that will make the operations of trusts and combinations impossible.

SCIENCE OF TOWN KILLING.

Unwise Booming and Maintaining Exorbitant Prices an Effective Way.

There is a county seat town in one of the central western states that has a population of about 3,000. It is surrounded by one of the richest farming countries. For years this town has been at a standstill. If anything it is retrograding, and even farm values near it are lowering, while poorer land some 20 miles away is advancing.

Why should such a condition exist? The answer is plain. A dozen years ago there was a boom. With the boom real estate went to the top notch. Keeping pace with the boom the prices of products in that town went up. There was a collapse in real estate values, but the merchants remained, and kept up the high-price habit. That is they wanted more than an equitable share of profit. Another town was started 20 miles away. Some of the farmers went there. It was found that the merchants were selling goods at a lower price. The stock-buyer and the grainbuyer paid a few cents a hundred more for their purchases. The habit of trading at the new town grew. The business men of the old town couldn't learn a lesson. Before they knew it their customers were leaving them. So it has been since then. The merchants have been plodding along. The money that should be retained in the town went elsewhere. Much of it went to build up the competing town.

Mistakes like this one are made frequently. Towns become dead places instead of live ones. In fact, some towns are so dead that the farmers who withdrew their trade from them are suffering in decreased farm values. They take no interest in these places, other than to visit them now and then. Unhealthy booms, unhealthy prices made by the merchants, and which are foolishly maintained, are quite certain to kill a town even though it may be a county seat and have some advantages nearby towns may not have.

Support Home Newspapers.

The country newspaper is a power in the land. Its place can never be filled by the big daily papers or the bulky magazines or agricultural journals. It fills a field entirely its own. It is the barometer of the place in which it is published. Its news pages represent the life of the people, and its advertising pages should reflect the business activity of the town. It is the duty of every good citizen to give his support to the local press. Particularly the business men should patronize it with a view of bettering his trade. It is not money wasted to use advertising space in it. One good merchant in the town who understands how to advertise rightly, can bring trade to the town that will help every other business man in it. But all should do their part, and the storekeeper who does not give his home paper the support it merits is not the wisest kind of a business man.

Make Good Packing Paper.

Old newspapers make excellent packing paper, in which to put things in storage, as printing ink is disliked by insects.

FOURTH EFFORT WAS SUCCESSFUL

BUFFALO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IS PREY FOR FIREBUGS.

EIGHT FIREMEN WERE HURT.

Cupola of the Structure Fell Through the Roof and Top Floor—Many Important Documents and Records Were Destroyed.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Police headquarters was ruined Friday by a fire discovered in the lavatory and which spread rapidly through the top floors. All of the 30 prisoners were removed in safety. This is the fourth time the building has been on fire within a few months.

Police records, the rogues' gallery and many important documents, including the original copy of Leon Czolgosz's confession of the assassination of President McKinley were destroyed. The fire was of incendiary origin. Two companies of firemen were caught in the collapse of the roof and cupola and eight men were seriously injured. None will die.

At 2:30 p. m. Police Commissioner Zeller picked up a blazing newspaper in a hallway. Half an hour later a police messenger found a blazing window brush in the store room. He had just reached the commissioners' room with the smouldering brush when there was a cry of fire from the street and flames were found shooting over the main entrance and from the windows of the fourth floor.

The prisoners were handcuffed together and marched to the jail. The firemen soon had the flames under control and were working on the third floor when the cupola toppled over and crashed through the roof and top floor. The firemen caught in the crash were released after 20 minutes of hard work. The building was practically destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

A GREAT LABOR WAR BREWING.

English Railway Employees Vote in Favor of a General Strike.

London, England.—Notwithstanding the powerful influences that have been at work for some time past in the hope of averting trouble in the British railroad world, there seems to be but little probability of preventing a strike which will have the most serious consequences to the traveling public and the men and companies involved, as well as to commercial interests generally.

The action taken Friday by the executive committee of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in passing a resolution to call a general strike leaves little or no hope for a favorable outcome. This society always has been looked upon as one of the most conservative of the labor unions and its leader, Richard Bell, M. P., has been noted for his efforts to prevent strikes and for his utterances in favor of the rights of capital, as well as the rights of the workingman. Consequently the resolution is not taken lightly, and in view of these declarations and the determined stand taken by the society since the grievances of the men were first voiced, it does not seem likely that the men will withdraw from their present position.

While there is a long list of alleged grievances, the principal one has turned on recognition of the union and this the railroad companies, whose spokesman is Lord Claude Hamilton, are determined not to concede. The general strike, however, under the rules of the society and the requirements of the law, cannot take place for some weeks.

The railroads charge that the present agitation is due to the growth of socialism.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Volume of New Business in Iron and Steel is Restricted by Monetary Stringency.

New York City.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: Contraction has followed the financial crisis of last week, but only to the extent compelled by inability to raise money. There is no evidence that confidence has been permanently impaired; on the contrary, gratification is felt that the nation was so strongly fortified by a decade of unexampled prosperity that the severe strain made no deeper impression. Many contemplated developments have been postponed, and merchants find rates for commercial paper almost prohibitive, yet retail trade is stimulated by more seasonable temperature. Collections improve with the movement of the crops to market.

Conditions in the iron and steel industry are not materially altered except that new business is smaller. Mills continue well occupied on old contracts as a rule and as there have been no cancellations it is probable that no extensive reduction in activity will take place this year. A fair tonnage of rails is wanted for home roads and export and shipyards are using plates freely, yet the volume of new business is restricted by financial stringency. Coke output is at the maximum and large contracts are reported for future delivery.

Pay of 3,000 Men Is Reduced.

Watertown, N. Y.—The New York Air Brake Co. issued notice Friday that, commencing November 1 and until further notice, the salaries of all employees from superintendent down will be reduced 10 per cent. The company employs 3,000 men.

1,000 Railroad Shopmen Discharged.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Roswell P. Miller, chairman of the board of directors of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, issued an order Friday discharging 1,000 employees of the locomotive and car building departments in the shops here.

WELL KNOWN ACTOR MISSING

HE DISAPPEARS AFTER BEING INDICTED FOR FELONIES.

His Friends Claim that He Has Been Hounded by Blackmailers and May Have Been Kidnaped.

New York City.—The disappearance of Raymond Hitchcock, following his indictment by the grand jury, which had heard the stories of three little girls, was the absorbing topic Thursday on Broadway, where those who had known the star intimately during his ten years on the stage advanced half a dozen theories in explanation of his default.

The actor's closest friends, who have energetically defended his name since he became involved in trouble, are divided in opinion. Many insisted that, driven desperate by serious accusations, he had committed suicide. Others were satisfied that he had been spirited away and possibly murdered by men who had practiced blackmail on the comedian and who feared exposure if the case against their victim came to trial.

This theory was voiced by Herman Fromme, the missing man's attorney, and by Mrs. Hitchcock, who though near collapse through worry, has continued to play at the theatre where both were engaged, until Wednesday, when Hitchcock failed to appear at the matinee.

Mr. Fromme said: "Hitchcock did not go away of his own accord. He has been either kidnaped or murdered by the hand of blackmailers by whom he has been annoyed, threatened and hounded for two years.

Hitchcock's troubles have assumed several phases. He first caused the arrest of a boy who, he alleged, had attempted to blackmail him. Disclosures in the case led to Hitchcock's arrest and he was arraigned Monday. The case went over until Thursday and he was released on \$3,000 bail. Meantime the grand jury returned six indictments against the actor, some of them charging criminal assault and abduction. When the original case was called yesterday and the defendant failed to appear his counsel asked that the bond be continued for one week. The district attorney's assistant made no objection and the magistrate set the hearing for next Wednesday.

SOLDIERS KILLED REDSKINS.

Unruly Navajos Made Trouble in Southern Utah.

Washington, D. C.—In a battle between United States troops and Indians in southern Utah several days ago three Indians were killed and another wounded. The news was conveyed to the Indian bureau Thursday in a telegram from Superintendent Shelton, of the San Juan agency.

The army command consisted of four officers, 74 men and three Indian scouts. The telegram to the Indian bureau, which was dated at Ship Rock, N. M., follows:

"The troops have returned from southern Utah. They arrested Bylille and nine other Indians. Three others were killed and one, wounded while shooting at the Indian police and soldiers. The Indians are quiet and I don't anticipate further trouble."

The Indians taken into custody are part of a band of Navajos that have been making trouble on the Navajo reservation. For some time a number of Indians under the leadership of Bylille have been creating disturbance.

Superintendent Shelton says that Bylille lives on the south side of the San Juan river in Utah, about 40 miles north of the San Juan agency, and the Indian has for some time past been making general opposition to the adoption of the white man's methods, going so far as to threaten to kill the agent and some of his assistants. When some of the friendly Indians visited Bylille he refused to talk with them, but challenged them to a fight. The friendly Indians, who compose the vast majority of the Navajos, regard him as a wizard and one of them who died a few months ago attributed his illness to the witchcraft of the disaffected leader.

RAILROAD TIED UP BY A STRIKE.

Freight Traffic on the Huntingdon & Broad Top Road Is at a Standstill.

Huntingdon, Pa.—No relief has yet been afforded in the tie-up of the freight transportation on the Huntingdon & Broad Top road. The brotherhood trainmen, including engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen, who went on strike nearly a week ago for an increase in wages equal to those paid by the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., say they are determined to hold out until their demands are acceded to. Daily meetings are held both here and at Saxton, the location of the company's big shops. All the bituminous coal mines in the Broad Top region are idle.

Support is being given by the coal miners to the railroad strikers, the former declaring that they will not load a pound of coal unless the cars are handled by organized labor. A number of non-union trainmen arrived here Wednesday night from Philadelphia and are working freight trains occasionally between Saxton and the Huntingdon & Broad Top road only.

The brotherhood men assert that they have the means to forestall the railroad company from getting out through freight until their demands are granted. The force of the state constabulary is being augmented, although no violence has yet occurred.

Surgery May Brighten Dull Minds.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Surgery may be resorted to to brighten the minds of backward pupils in the Pittsburg public schools. It is planned to have physicians perform operations on pupils who are behind in their lessons and whose deficiency is found to be caused by physical ailments.

City Goes on the Water Wagon.

Knoxville, Tenn.—More than 100 saloons in Knoxville closed last night as a result of the application of the law by which cities of Tennessee can reincorporate without having the saloon.

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\$28 Bedroom Suits, solid oak at..... \$21
\$25 Bed room Suits, solid oak at..... \$20

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UNDER TAKING.