

Standard Oil's Business Machine.
It is well not to let our surprise and indignation over the illegitimate operations of Standard Oil blind our eyes to the marvelous business methods of the company. It has not only driven out competition here, but has successfully competed with the long established and perfected systems of the old world. Mere greed and bludgeoning could not have given Standard Oil the complete ascendancy it enjoys today.

Mr. Rockefeller's story of how the legitimate advantages of the company were wrought out is a feature of the history which many American business men may learn from. It is a record of keen business intellect working patiently and persistently. More expense and labor were put into legitimate work than into illegitimate, and competitors were outgenerated rather by doing better work than by trickery. Stripped of its high finance superstructure, there remains a model business machine in Standard Oil.

In saying that he hasn't written a single name on the cabinet slate as yet and that not one of the cabinet positions has been offered to any one Mr. Taft invites a campaign of buttonholing that must be far from agreeable to a president elect. The assurance is certain to redouble the activities of the friends of candidates. He would better let the guessers go ahead making slates, the more the merrier, and keep the candidates busy also guessing on the real thing.

Tom Johnson says he still has a thousand fights in him. If he makes that prophecy good now that he is poor, he will doubtless enjoy the battle better than when he had a bank roll to fall back upon. It is almost a truism in this country that "you can do anything with money." But it takes sand to "do anything" without money.

The "best seller" in fiction is beaten to a frazzle and likewise to a pulp as a money maker by the white paper industry, according to the revelation of paper trust profits brought out at the tariff hearing.

There is time even in a short session of congress to pass a law prohibiting the announcement of an international marriage unless the whole crowd makes affidavit that it's a go.

Some one should remind Admiral Evans that it is a bit reactionary just at this time for an old sea dog to abandon waterways for railroading.

The Noise Ament the Tariff.
President Elect Taft urges the consumers to make themselves heard on tariff revision. Hosts of them supposed that they were doing that by delivering their minds as to the Chicago platform and candidate in November. They made less noise in that way than they would be likely to should all get together before the ways and means committee. A member of the committee has said that he expects "somebody to make the fur fly" when the revision fight is on. There are consumers who would like to let fly chain shot, solid shot, lyddite shells, or whatever is best at smashing armored things, before the new schedule is fixed up for good.

And there's the rub—agreeing upon a tariff schedule that will drown the several volumes of different kinds of noise. General Hancock was laughed at for saying in the campaign of 1880, "The tariff is a local issue." He had been swinging around the circle as a soldier candidate on a revision platform. Every fresh swing brought him face to face with a new brand of noise, one community shouting to have this on the free list and that taxed to the limit, while a neighboring section shouted for exactly the reverse. If the body of consumers today could drop in at a tariff committee hearing for just one session they would feel like asking Mr. Taft to put the tariff up to real experts, if he knows any then going home to resume consuming.

The two or three eligibles left in the whole country who are not mentioned as possibilities for Taft's cabinet may be boys he tried to lick at school and couldn't.

Some folks think Roosevelt could have had a lot of fun breaking the "solid south." But the south has not been heard from in that connection since along about 1861-5.

A prominent Georgian asks that the letter and spirit of the constitution be applied to the electoral college also. Next!

W. Grant Stevenson, the Edinburgh sculptor, has completed a statue in bronze of Robert Burns, which will be shipped to Milwaukee for erection in one of the public parks. The statue, which is twelve feet in height, represents the poet standing with a notebook in one hand and a quill pen in the other. The granite bears an original design, ornamented with bronze panels of "The Cotter's Saturday Night" and "Burns at the Plow."

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Wheat matures in Canada in from 90 to 100 days.
The first balloon was made by a French priest in 1620.
A 7,000 foot pier is under construction at Minister-on-the-Sea, England.

There are about a quarter of a million more men than women in Australia.

In some provinces of British India rubber is displacing tea as the principal product.

There are neither bachelors nor old maids in China, where celibacy is deemed unnatural and vicious.

Saxony has probably more factories in proportion to its area than any other country. The present number is 24,707.

There are twenty monasteries on Athos, the holy mountain, the largest being a Russian one with 2,000 monks in it.

Mexico is destined to become a prominent factor as a producer of refined petroleum. New wells are being constantly discovered.

London did not have an adequate water supply till 1903. Two-thirds of it comes from the Thames, the rest from artesian wells.

It is reported that a student of the Electro-Technical Institute of St. Petersburg named Freudenberg has invented an apparatus for exploding mines by wireless telegraphy.

During a storm at Stoke-on-Trent, England, a young woman had a narrow escape. Her spectacles were struck by lightning. The frames were split and the lenses broken. The wearer escaped injury.

The Chinese method of relieving one pain with another is going out of vogue, and there is a large sale of patent medicines. Sedatives are judged and valued by what they do in the shortest possible time.

Coal ashes are being washed into spaces in Pennsylvania mines from which the coal has been removed. As the water recedes they form a solid mass strong enough to hold up the earth and prevent cave-ins.

Incredible as it seems, Cleveland, one of the great cities of the country, was not incorporated as a village until 1811 and had then a population of not more than 300 people, though its location made it prominent in a small way.

First place among the universities of the world in matter of mere numbers, up to last year held by that of Berlin, has now been won by the University of Paris, which had a student body of 16,600 in last summer's semester.

Sorcery now and then figures in twentieth century life. The Paris civil court has just dismissed a suit brought against Professor Raymond and Dr. Menard, two well known physicians,

by a coachman, who charged them with sorcery.

The photograph is suggested by a French photographer as a means of timing when a clock cannot be watched. He has fitted his machine with a cylinder counting from 1 to 240, with intervals of one second between the numbers.

Largest of all guns carried by British warships is the twelve inch, but since the Brazilian ships now building in England are to be fitted with 13.5 inch guns it has been decided to conduct experiments with the large weapon for the British navy.

At a meeting of the London Zoological society the secretary pointed out that the young giraffes have relatively much shorter necks than their parents the neck in the former being not longer than the fore legs, which it largely exceeds in length in the latter.

The Interurban railway of Winona, Ind., is the only electric line in the country which is not in operation on Sunday. The officials, moreover, with the exception of two, serve without pay, and the profits of the road are entirely devoted to the support of a technical school at Indianapolis.

There is at Lincoln Center, Me., a shoe factory unique in that one man erected the building, developed the water power, constructed the water wheel and gearing and invented and built the machinery. This same man now serves as owner, agent, salesman, bookkeeper, foreman and "help."

Switzerland is suffering from a plague of leeches, which are killing the fish in the lakes and rivers by thousands. In the upper course of the Rhine, in the Aar, the lakes of Neufchatel and Constance, where the plague is most acute, thousands of dead fish are seen floating on the water.

A few years ago it was considered an extraordinary and wonderful feat for a ship to cross the Atlantic inside a week. Now it is done in a trifle over four days. When Chicago erected the Masonic temple, containing twenty-two stories, we thought the limit had been reached. In New York now there are structures twice that height.

Since the law was passed recently giving a halfpenny a head for dead rats the schoolboys of Copenhagen devote their playtime to hunting the rodent. The bodies are taken to the fire brigade station, where the tails are cut off in order that the reward may not be claimed a second time. The bodies are burned the same night in a furnace at the gas works.

Winning "at a walk" doesn't always prove up the easy job it looks from the starter's post.

Slumps in the aeroplane business won't necessarily mean that the bottom has dropped out.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

The Melodramatic Unities.
With the deepest sympathy we listen to the sorrowful tale of the poor woman whose wan beauty is enhanced by the silvery rays of the moonlight that rest upon her wan countenance.

"Oh, sir," she sighs, "have pity. I have been thrust out from my home, where I was surrounded by every luxury. The door has been closed against me, and I am star-r-r-ving. Out into the cold, cold world I must go. To trudge down the snowy streets in search of aid."

Choking back the tears that are brought to our eyes by her pitiful plight, we ask:

"But why do you not pawn some of the diamonds upon your fingers or the costly necklace which you wear to obtain wherewithal to feed and clothe yourself?"

"Alas," she weeps, looking up into the scattering snowflakes that have responded to their cue and are beginning to flutter down upon her—"alas, if I did that I could not be found starving in the old mill in the next act when the villain comes there to conceal the papers and to attempt to kill the noble hero."—Chicago Post.

Helpful to the Hen.
Little Mabel was visiting her uncle in the country and helping him gather eggs.

"What's that one you leave in the nest every time?" was the youthful inquiry.

"That's just the nest egg. It isn't a real egg, you know—it's made of porcelain," explained her uncle.

"Oh, I see," said Mabel. "It's the pattern that the hen uses."—Woman's Home Companion.

Went One Better.
"Did you hear how Mrs. Winnout got the better of Mrs. Getthere on her new hat?"

"No, How?"

"When she learned that Mrs. Getthere's hat was as big as hers she took the trimming off the hat, put it on the box the hat came in and wore the box."—Town Topics.

He Might.
"Pa, would you go up in an airship if you had a chance?"

"Well," replied Mr. Henpeck as he looked around cautiously to assure himself that he would not be overheard, "I might if I could be assured that no ladies would be admitted."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Alfred Knew.
"Can you tell us what auto-suggestion is, Alfred?"

"Yessum. It's when mamma keeps hinton' to papa that a lot of our friends are buyin' motor cars."—Kansas City Times.

She Was Dear.
"Please don't keep calling me 'dear' at the table," she whispered. "People will think we are on our honeymoon."
"But I can't help calling you 'dear,'" gasped the young man with the light pocketbook. "The portion you ordered amounts to over \$3."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Accurate Information.



Fortune Teller—This line here shows that you will die in a year.
Client—Good heavens! In a year?
"H'm, yes—but in which year I can't quite tell you."

After the Failure.
Mrs. Scraggs—My husband hasn't a dollar in the world, and I think I am entitled to a divorce.
Mrs. Baggs—On what grounds?
Mrs. Scraggs—On the ground that I married him for money.—Puck.

Jonah's Dilemma.
Whale—What are you going to tell your wife when you get home?
Jonah—I don't know. I don't suppose she would believe me if I should tell her that I had been to a fish dinner.—Bohemian Magazine.

A Joint Argument.
"I had quite an argument today with my butcher over the quality of a roast."
"Sort of a joint argument, eh?"—Browning's Magazine.

Autumn Bliss.
It is so sweet to wander far in autumn woods.
She all to him and he the world to her,
And so to sit beneath a spreading chestnut tree
And jump right up to save a steel speared burr
From crushing—
Ah, Charlie!
—New York Globe.

Qualified.
Knox—Windig ought to make a successful fisherman.
Blox—Why do you think so?
Knox—He's a natural born liar.—Harper's Weekly.

Those who can only get wisdom with age shouldn't take extra pains to stay young.

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