

"A Little Nonsense Now and Then"

A correspondent writes that the German peace overtures remind him of the American advertisement:

"If John Robinson, with whose wife I eloped six months ago, will take her back, all will be forgiven."
—Punch.

Hub: "Look here, Mary. It was only last month I paid a dressmaker's bill of \$74, and here is another one for \$60."

Wife: "Well, dear, doesn't that show that I am beginning to spend less?"

We wish to apologize to Mrs. Orlando Overlook in our paper last week we had as a heading "Mrs. Overlook's Big Feet." The word we had ought to have used is a French word pronounced the same way but spelled fete. It means a celebration and is considered a very tony word.—Williamsville Item.

Aunt: "Won't you have some more cake, Willie?"

Willie (on a visit): "No, thank you."

Aunt: "You seem to be suffering from loss of appetite."

Willie: "It ain't that. I'm suffering from politeness."

The recruit was not very robust, and during a trying route march had to fall out no fewer than five times. The sergeant got exasperated.

"You are in the wrong regiment," he shouted. "It's not this one you should be in at all."

The recruit looked puzzled.

"It's in the flying corps you should be," continued the sergeant, "an' then yer would only fall out once."

The Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon's keen wit was always based on sterling common sense. One day he remarked to one of his sons:

"Can you tell me the reason why the lions didn't eat Daniel?"

"No, sir. Why was it?"

"Because the most of him was backbone, and the rest was grit."—Tid-Bits.

At a recent fair in the west of Ireland, in which pigs were very dear, a buyer noted for his sharp tongue, eyeing a very small specimen for which an enormous price was asked, remarked:

"Are these guinea pigs?"

"Faith and they're not," said another would-be purchaser; "but they're two-guinea pigs."—Farm and Home.

BANKING AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS IN THE U. S.

(Concluded from page 4).

those securities originated in other States, has been opposed on the ground that it was an interference with inter-State commerce. But the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court takes the view that it is within the proper police powers of the respective States to protect their citizens from being offered securities unless certain preliminary conditions are first complied with.

The early freedom with which business was transacted, and which had much to do with the country's rapid development—though not without some accompanying evils—is being rapidly superseded by the closest Governmental restriction upon business of nearly every kind. Corporations are made the subject of drastic regulation, both as to their initial organization, the sale of their stocks and bonds, and as to their operations while their earnings are roundly taxed. The fact appears to have escaped American legislators that the object sought in these complicated acts which the Supreme Court has just sustained (they were called "blue-sky" laws) was attained in England most effectually by the Companies Act, a comparatively simple statute. Business in the United States rarely objected to the principle contained in any legislation designed to assure the honest conduct of operations. What is objected to, and not without reason, is the multiple regulation of business by some forty-eight States and the Federal Government besides. In the decision referred to, the learned Justice who rendered the opinion of the Supreme Court said: "It costs something to be governed." Not a few business men are wondering whether the cost and most of all the perplexity which so many varying laws entail, may not render this burden so heavy as to force them out of business altogether.

UNITED STATES LEADS FOR INSURANCE.

At the tenth annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents recently held in New York, Alfred Hurrell, associate general solicitor of The Prudential, dealing with "America First in Life Insurance," gave some interesting figures on the growth of the business, in part as follows:

"There is in force in the United States, on residents therein at the present time, over twenty billions of legal reserve life insurance. In contrast with this, the insurance in force on the lives of the people of Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Austro-Hungary, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Chile, on the last available statistics, was less than sixteen and a half billions. Estimating liberally the insurance carried in countries not enumerated, it is apparent that the United States has more life insurance than is in force elsewhere on the globe. At the end of 1915 the actual insurance carried in American life insurance companies was twenty-two billions, seven hundred millions, but some of this is carried on citizens of foreign countries. In the ten years from 1905 to 1915 the insurance in force in American companies increased just short of ten billions of dollars. The increase now is at the rate of over a billion of insurance a year.

"The per capita insurance in force at the end of 1905 in this country was \$159; at the end of last year it was \$227. In 1905 in England it was \$103, and at the end of 1912 it was \$162. Germany's per capita in 1905 was \$43; in 1914 it was \$60. France only increased its per capita from \$19 in 1906 to \$31 in 1912. Italy had \$6 in 1903, and by 1914 this had increased to but \$7 per person. So it is seen that, compared with the other principal nations, not only is our per capita much higher, but it had a steady annual increase over those countries in the years preceding the outbreak of the European war.

"It is to be noted, also, that while the population of this country increased during the past ten years approximately twenty per cent., the insurance per capita increased approximately forty-three per cent. During that time the increase in life insurance assets kept pace with the increase in our total national wealth, each increasing approximately ninety per cent.

EASY LESSONS.

Jacob A. Jackson, A. M., head of the literary department of the Mutual Life of New York, has put in book form under the title, "Easy Lessons in Life Insurance," a practical course of instruction in this line.

HOME CASUALTY LISTS.

It is officially estimated at Washington that 75,000 persons are accidentally killed in the United States every year. In four years of civil war 67,058 Union soldiers were killed in battle and 43,012 died of wounds. It is further estimated that not less than 2,000,000 people are accidentally injured in the U.S. each year.

In the belief that this tragic record is unnecessarily gruesome, Secretary of the Interior Lane has equipped a special train of twelve cars to visit every State with exhibits, showing how life is lost or menaced, and how it may be preserved. Hardly anything attempted in the way of conservation equals in importance the ends here sought.

If our casualties in a single year, most of them preventable exceed those of a desperate campaign in the present war, in which the machinery of destruction has been brought seemingly to perfection, it must be that we are the most reckless of peoples. Legislation is dealing sharply with the greed that subjects workmen to needless risks, but individual effort must be depended upon in the majority of cases for the better preservation of life and limb. Haste and inattention are largely responsible for disasters almost incalculable.—Insurance Register.

It was thought that a great European war would create almost insuperable difficulties for insurance companies, and many novel problems have arisen, but, taken as a whole, the San Francisco conflagration was a greater crisis for the offices than this world war. Whilst fire, marine, and accident business has prospered, life offices have paid war claims amounting to something like £3,500,000 to £4,000,000, but the claims have not arisen unexpectedly and in the course of a few days, as was the case at San Francisco, when our fire offices had to meet calls amounting to over £12,000,000. The San Francisco disaster was not accompanied by a fall in security values of something like 17½ per cent. however.

BRITISH LIFE COMPANIES AND THE WAR.

British life insurance institutions paid \$37,000,000 in war claims from the beginning of the war to last November, according to S. G. Warner, president of the Institute of Actuaries. The companies are large subscribers to war loans, having invested in British government securities upward of \$375,000,000, and had sold or lent to the Treasury securities with a face value of \$230,000,000.

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