

WONDERFUL NEW INVENTION

To the Editor of

"Knots and Lashings".

Sir:—

A glance at the attractive pages of your bright little sheet, which a friend has casually placed in my hands for perusal, assures me, in advance, of the interest I am persuaded will be yours when I draw your attention, as I do now, to a little device of which I am the original inventor and introducer, for lightening the labours of that overworked class of imperfectly appreciated geniuses, the editors of our newspapers. You are aware yourself, Mr. Editor, of the extreme difficulty, at times, of discovering sufficiently attractive and at the same time illuminating TITLES for items of popular interest as well as those of occasional instruction. The little device referred to is already in daily use by thousands of justly famous writers of fiction in their work of creating original plots and situations, without which the important business of catering to the ceaseless craving of the public for NOVELTY would come to an abrupt standstill. And what grander, or more glorious, use could be made of the divinely given inventive faculty than to devote oneself freely to the task of stoking the vital fires, thusly, of so large a number of huamnity? and what more appalling than to see the delicate machinery of the human brain at a rate of speed constantly accelerating without direction, with nothing to feed upon, approaching chaos with our sanitariums, both public and private, already filled with pacifists, militant suffragists and pro-German Secret Agents.

Mr. Editor, a great work lies before you. In brief, my device consists of a series of discs, revolving side by side, each bearing on its periphery words of a certain class, an adjective group, verbs, nouns, judiciously chosen, to the number of six or seven aforesaid discs. These are set revolving by the simple dropping of a weight into a slot provided for the purpose, much in the manner of those machines employed for making wagers that are often seen in the lobbies of our public hostleries. Only in this case when the discs reach a state of stable equilibrium there lies, before the eye of the operator, a line of printed words instead of the usual symbols of wagering. And quite as startling and at times disconcerting is the operation of this machine. Ideas result, even under the operation of a mere child, that no normal human brain

could ever otherwise invent. These suggest plots for stories, and I could give the names, Mr. Editor, of many popular but eminent writers of fiction who owe to me their just fame, but I am not permitted to overstep the sacred bounds of confidence.

By an ingenious arrangement words beginning with the same letter can be brought together, thus producing that alliterative head-rhyme so dear to our ancient poets, so necessary to the modern journalist.

Judging from the general tone of your occasional serious articles, your little sheet is the organ of the Brotherhood of Engineers in Canada, so that I append a few examples of what may be accomplished by my invention. Just as they would supply titles for articles already written, so on the other hand they suggest subjects upon which (if I may in all modesty say so) much might be written.

Should it appeal to you, a representative will be pleased to call and explain the machine in detail and be authorized to make very liberal terms, on a royalty basis, for its use at the Engineer Training Dugout.

Your seriously sincere servant,
(Sgd) **Abey C. Code**
Inventor.

Examples:—

Suspicious Sentry Scrutinizes Sapper. (About 10 p.m. after pay day).

Humorous Horse, Holding Head Horizontally, Shows Sad Subaltern Surprising Stunts. (Daily, 1.30 a.m.).

Proud Paymaster Passes Pluto-
cratic Pay-checks. (I don't think).

Sentimental Sapper's Serious Situation. (Breach of Promise?)

Effervescent Evangelist Exudes Elongated Effort.

Befuddled Booze Battler Betrays Bias. (I can't imagine what these last two might refer to).

A Cheering Thought.

"I dreamed last night that I had died and gone to Hell."

"Well, it might have been worse."

"Huh?"

"It might have been true."

A Famous American preacher Said, "The Hen is a wonderful creature!"

The Hen, upon that,
Laid an egg in his hat,
And thus did the Hen-reward-
Beecher.

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