

Leave Well Enough Alone.

A close observer of business in this country cannot fail to have noticed the tendency there is toward "branching out" and opening in other parts of the city from that in which the parent establishment is situated. There is a strong disposition on the part of many to press success and strain the limit of honest dealing by trading too largely on a reputation honestly and in many cases earned by dint of industry and many years of hard work. The history of business men tells us that such a course seldom brings with it that success which the projectors anticipated. Of course in cases where unlimited capital stands at the back of the operator there is not so much danger of failure, but when the capital is only limited, and required for the efficient management of one place of business the position is changed. "Too many irons" in the fire has proved the ruin of many a worthy, well intentioned man. His business prospers well so long as he confines himself strictly to that which he has already established, but so soon as his attention is divided in the management of outside branches he sinks beneath the load. Not having properly calculated the circumstances, he too often finds that the fabric which he had built up and placed upon a solid foundation suffers from the drain of the outside branches, which, like parasites, feed upon the parent stem. Our advice to business men is, "let well enough alone." If the business you now have is prosperous and proving a fruitful source of income, bend all your energies towards its further development, and in the long run a much more satisfactory result will be obtained than if the surplus money had been ventured in "branches." Too often is it the case that the demand for his goods which the merchant finds in his old store entraps him into going beyond his actual capacity, and he lives to see the monument of his years of experience, reputation and credit tumble before his eyes like rotten clay.

Dams and Embankments.

The utilization of the water privileges throughout this country is a matter of importance to all, especially situated as we are in a land where the scarcity of wood as fuel material makes steam a very expensive motor. The power of water under the intelligent control of man, says a writer on hydraulics, is one of the chief instrumentalities in promoting human comfort and spreading the blessings of civilization. The uses to which it may be turned are so various and the products for the manufacture of which it is a serviceable agent are of such manifold forms and minister to so many wants of our nature, that the country which is possessed of abundant water power is looked upon as especially favored by Providence. But this invaluable servant, if once it bursts over the bounds which have been set for its action, becomes a destructive scourge, laying waste the very tillage it had made profitable, and bringing to poverty the community whom until then it had sustained in prosperous industry. The number of water privileges in a country like this are of course not as numerous as in a more hilly region. But still we have good privileges

which can be utilized, and from which a tremendous amount of power can be obtained. The proper construction of dams is a matter of the greatest importance. The American Engineer offers some valuable suggestions on this question which may be read with profit. The dam, or embankment, it says, must be united to the foundation on which it rests with a watertight joint. A permeable foundation will give the most trouble, but moderate filtration through such a bottom will do no harm, if the water has to traverse a sufficiently long path, owing to breadth of base or obstacles in its way, so that the fractional resistance will reduce the pressure practically to zero. Water may then soak through without having the power to remove the earth or sand. The loss of water in this way is of no consequence in an abundant water power, but is more likely to be objectionable in the case of a reservoir, both on account of the loss and from the inconvenience which leakage may cause to adjacent property. There still remains the danger that the increased head from rise of water in time of freshet may increase the leaks to the point of bringing away the material through which the water percolates, when a washout will ensue in most cases. Thus leaky dams have stood for a number of years, and then failed rapidly at some time of unusually high water. So long as the issuing water is clear there is no immediate cause for anxiety, but when the flow is turbid the danger is imminent, and heroic measures for stopping the leak must at once be applied. The ends of the dams must be prolonged a sufficient distance into the banks to cut off any escape for the water in this direction.

Modern Milling Requirements.

A very sensible article is that written by Mr. Putz, of Buda Pesth, Austria, on modern milling requirements. Every one, he says, beginning the milling business, either poor or rich, should fit himself to be a head miller. If he is poor and in course of time becomes head miller, he is then always welcome and secure of position. If he becomes rich and has no longer need to continue milling, his knowledge remains in itself so much gain to him. It is a mistake for any miller to set a limit to his desire for success in his occupation, short of its whole possibilities of attainment; for in case he does this, having reached the desired position, he remains satisfied and does not seek further improvement, so that if opportunities to still greater advancement present themselves he is unable, for lack of preparation, to take advantage of them. It behooves every beginner to learn all he is able of each process in all departments of milling, studying while working in one capacity the theory of the next in advance, so that when called upon to do the superior work he will have only the practice to master. What the milling schools teach is good, but the comparative number able to profit by them is very small. The preparation of the schools is not indispensable, as every miller can obtain the knowledge needed to fill the position he aspires to, if he has good courage and resolution. I had myself only the benefit of two terms at a village normal school, where I learned little more than the A B C, but

I have, through indefatigable diligence, obtained position, and that in spite of strong opposition. I do not say this in self praise, but only as an example of what subsequent industry can do by way of making up for lack of early study. The feeling that sooner or later a man is to be a head miller, and that the success of his efforts depends on himself, gives him a sense of responsibility and leads him to assiduous habits in acquirement of knowledge outside of business hours.

Business Reform.

That there is need, and very great need for a reform in the conduct of business in the North-west no one can deny. The record of the past few weeks has only served to show that business as a rule has been carried on in a very loose manner, and without sufficient regard (on the part of the wholesale men) to whom they were selling. There seemed to be a feeling abroad that no matter who the man was that ventured into business could succeed. Men whose previous experience had only been at the tail of a plough or in some department of mechanical operation, rushed into business of which they had no practical experience or the slightest knowledge. Those who are engaged in wholesale trade in this city (men of experience themselves) ought to have known better than have made the advances on credit they did to this class of business men. The population of the country is as yet only limited, and they might have foreseen the difficulties they would have to overcome in getting their own back again. Perhaps there will not be much lost on this account, after all, but still there will be more than there should have been had there been careful supervision.

It seems to us that the caption of our article, "Business Reform," should be acted on at once. Let the long credit system which has played havoc in many cases, and caused serious embarrassment in others, be done away with, and that as soon as possible.

If a man can't afford to start and pay for his goods on short dates, he has no right to go into business at all. The feverish excitement of the past year has led people into many an enterprise which they would not have dreamed of. The wholesale men let them have goods freely. The crash came, and now they have the inevitable (for it cannot be characterized otherwise) result to deal with. Let all parties govern themselves accordingly.

Grain and Meat in Europe.

In a paper on agricultural statistics, read before the British Association, Mr. W. Botley gave some interesting facts concerning the food of Great Britain and the continent, as follows: "At present the food supply produced in Europe is equal to about eleven months' consumption, but in a few years the deficit will be sixty instead of thirty days. The present production and consumption are: Grain consumption in the United Kingdom, 4,607,000,000 bushels; continent, 4,794,000,000; total, 5,401,000,000 bushels. Production of the United Kingdom, 332,000,000 bushels; continent, 4,736,000,000 bushels; total, 5,058,000,000. Meat consumption in