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BUSINESS LEADING IN RESEARCH PLANS

MAGAZINE WRITER POINTS

Says Laboratories of Big Business Highbrow As Any College Faculty; Large Sums Spent

Big business has taken the lead in scientific research and considers its two hundred million a year spent in scientific work a paying investment, declares Silas Bent in the September Scribner's Magazine.

"Not long ago an erudite philosopher, referring casually to the research staff of a great corporation, observed that no American university could muster such an array of learning and culture," writes Mr. Bent.

"The laboratories of business are often as highbrow as any academic grove. Here, on some lonely salient of the boundaries of knowledge, a worker or a group of workers may pursue for months or years a faint gleam which, in the end, may lead nowhere. There are many of these slender peninsulas into the unknown; and always there is the effort to straighten out the line of attack, and to consolidate such gains as have been achieved.

Spend Large Sum

"It is estimated that \$200,000,000 a year is being spent in this country on industrial research, and that the government spends about one-third of this sum. Not long since your Uncle Sam was engaged in 553 separate projects, 360 of which were cooperative, with eleven hundred concerns sharing in the expense. What is known as 'the new competition,' under which allied industries band together to capture markets from other trade associations—such as brickmakers from lumber dealers—means also a new co-operation. The co-operation is within the trade association, and manifests itself, for one thing, in research for the good of the whole industry.

"Two hundred million dollars is an eye-filling figure; but it amounts to only \$1.74 per capita for the United States, whereas American industry spends \$11 per capita for advertising, in the creation of markets and the search for them. Advertising appropriations, well placed, have an economic justification; but think how much money we spend more or less foolishly: \$27 per person for joyriding and pleasure resorts, \$11 for candy, \$5 for cosmetics.

basis wherein all conditions are ideal, one traffic lane in each direction will carry 1,969 cars per hour in safety, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, if the cars are driven at exactly 22 miles per hour—and if there are no cross roads or turn outs.

Need Wider Roads

But to expect 1,969 motorists to be satisfied with a speed of 22 miles an hour is folly. Motorists desire to go faster and a goodly number feel happier at a slower pace. Further, accidents occur on two-lane highways, even at times when only a few cars are on the road. Where traffic is at all heavy it is dangerous to pass cars proceeding in the same direction, for a two-lane pavement was built as a two lane pavement and it cannot be stretched.

Edward N. Hines, of the Wayne county Board of Road Commissioners at Detroit, declares that 20-foot roads are no longer in the scheme of things in the Detroit area. Forty-foot roads with two-lanes of cars travelling in each direction constitute sensible thoroughfares near cities, he asserts.

The forty-foot highway, under ordinary conditions, is capable of carrying at least twice as much traffic as a 20-foot roadway, and at a more rapid pace. During rush hours and on special occasions three lanes of traffic may proceed in one direction. Many communities have found that even the temporary three-lane road has a decided advantage over a two-lane, in that opportunity exists to pass the slow driver.

Demand for Speed

The public is going to have speed whether or not road facilities are equal to the demand. Only one course is open and that is the provision of highways that make fast travel possible. Throughout the ages history shows that when conveniences have been developed the citizenry is going to take full advantage of them. It is a bit impractical to expect a public equipped with cars capable of travelling sixty miles or more per hour to content itself with half that speed.

Prohibition agents in Northern New York State are being made to wear special type caps to prevent their being mistaken for highwaymen. Well, there's nothing like warning the public.

If the talking movie actors said everything they used to look as if they were saying in the old "silent" days, the cops would get after them. 400,000 gallons of beer were consumed by singers in the Austro-German song festival at Vienna. Music hath charms indeed!

The little boy who used to tell the boss that grandmother died in order to get to the baseball grounds, now has a different formula: "I can't come in tomorrow; I've got to take grandma to the game."

STATE OWNERSHIP HAS POOR RECORD ABROAD

Invariable Story of Losses in All Countries Where Government Operates

State ownership of public utilities had a "somber record" in Europe and Australia in 1927, according to a report in the Christian Science Monitor. State-owned or state-operated railways in France lost 203,000,000 francs (approximately \$8,000,000) and are faced with prospects of a larger deficit at the end of this year. The Nord and Est line, privately-owned, were the only ones which showed a profit.

State railways in Austria lost more than \$4,500,000 during the year, and other state undertakings—forests, mines, postoffice, telegraph, telephone, Vienna opera and other theaters—showed deficits of more than \$1,500,000.

Low wages, long hours of labor, and high prices are the result of nationalization of industry in Soviet Russia.

The Australian Government brought to an end one of the most costly experiments in nationalization the world has known by selling the ships of the Commonwealth Line, founded in 1916. In seven years this government-owned line lost almost \$50,000,000 of taxpayers' money.

Reports are heard that President Coolidge may become the head of some college or school. If so, there will no doubt be a course on economy.

The American people speak their minds in the election, but the politicians are the ones who do the counting.

A doctor is privileged beyond all other humans. He can with impunity ask a woman to keep quiet.

HANDSHAKING IS NO LONGER VOTE GETTER

BARRED AS INSANITARY

At Least That Is View Taken of Practice By Health Authorities; Keep Clean, Slogan

When one of the two leading candidates for the presidency announced recently that he did not intend to kiss babies for publicity purposes, he unconsciously called attention to the arrival of a new order in politics. The woman vote, it has been popularity supposed, is won by the candidate who kisses the infants, while men line up for hours waiting for the handshake of a prominent official. But modern hygiene has risen up to shield babies from indiscriminate kissing, political or otherwise. What of hand shaking? Is it destined to go the same way in the interest of hygiene?

Many health authorities are urging that the custom be abandoned, even on the brink of a political campaign. So many harmful organisms can be transferred from hand to hand, and thus to mouth and nose, they declare, that unless precautions of cleanliness are taken there may be a real risk to the health in passing down the reception line.

Keeps Record

An officer in the U. S. Sanitary Corps who recorded all his actions during one day of ordinary routine found that among 119 chances for infection, 92 were occasions when he shook hands or touched his hands to articles that had just been handled

by others. It is the carrying of the infected hands to the mouth, or nose, either directly or through food, or through use of a handkerchief, as he pointed out, that may increase the dangers of spreading communicable disease.

Mussolini is said to have banned the handshake, partly on hygienic grounds, in favor of the old Roman salute with hand upraised. Another form of greeting which might be adopted here is practiced by the Chinese, who shake their own hands. If it is too much to expect that either will soon be accepted by Americans, we may get the habit of washing the hands after every manual greeting. We may yet adorn our receptions and political meetings with wash bowls, hot water, soap and towels, for the sake of the candidate's health and that of the handshaking public.

The Maharajah of Patiala, visiting Berlin, wears a turban of exactly the same color as the dress that his favorite wife is wearing at the moment. Now the fashionable ladies of Berlin are trying to get their husbands to adopt the same idea in regard to their hats. Well, if their wives were willing to change their dresses as often as the men change their hats, many American husbands would welcome the introduction of the idea in this country.

English spiritualists are entering politics. They are so well organized in fact, that the next British election may go by the quija boards!

Mrs. John S. Steele, of the Association for the Improvement of Divorce Laws, Inc., asks that "onesomeness" be regarded as grounds for a divorce. We think in some cases a little more "onesomeness" might work out as a preventative of divorce!

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