

ON MAKING MONEY, AND MEN

On the wall above the desk in my library hangs a calendar bearing the picture of the Golden Rule Mayor of Toledo, who died with his life's work hardly begun, but who yet lived long enough to be inspiration to thousands over all this land.

The motto from his speeches chosen by the compiler as suitable for the day I write—indeed it is fitting for any day—is this:

"Making money is but one of the purposes of carrying on the business of the S. M. Jones Co.; making men is the other, and by far more important."

It is worth noting here that the company amply fulfilled both purposes. no "cold-blooded business man" intent only on getting the last atom of work one of his workmen for the least dribble of pay, did better financially than Jones. He made money enough for his broad and generous life; enough for his public activities and quiet benefactions; enough to share liberally with his workers and so help to make them men.

Money does not make men. True enough. But too great a lack of it unmakes them; fills them with a haunting, terrifying dread of the morrow that breaks down their moral stamina, destroys their independence, sometimes leads them to abandon themselves to folly and dissipation, through mere desperation.

It is all very well to preach prudence and thrift to men whose earnings keep them always on the narrow line between self-support and pauperism. Laying up for a rainy day is not so simple a process when the little set aside from each day's earnings makes every day dreary and dun-colored. Preaching thrift to the very poor is like telling a man who is starving that he should eat less.

Sam Jones did not fall into this error. He saw first that his men were well paid and their jobs as certain as their own frailties would permit—and even those frailties were judged always by a lenient and kindly boss. And then he would gather them all together and preach mutual helpfulness, co-operation and brotherhood.

Were his system universal there would be no such labor troubles as rack Chicago today. And mark you,

it paid. That is the last word of approval to be expressed concerning any system in the present state of the business mind.

It is one of the most serious counts in the indictment against the modern system of concentrated industry, and production on a colossal scale under the incorporate management, that it will not permit the maintenance of any personal relations between employer and employed. It makes money, to be sure, but it unmakes men. It makes things cheap—and men too cheap to buy them. The greatest industries—steel, railways, electrical equipments, oil—are run from Wall street offices by men who understand high finance, but look upon workmen as they look upon crude oil, or Mesabara ore—raw material to be bought at the lowest price.

My friend and colleague, Dr. Gregory, was impressed the other day by the pitiful case of a slain workman who was known only by the tag "96" about his neck, which identified him to the paymaster. How many of these there are no census can enumerate. Yet each tagged man has—or had—the hopes, the aspirations, the passions and the virtues of other men. Under the theory of our civilization, too, he has the rights and the liberties of all others.

But the ugly fact is that he enjoys neither rights nor liberty. The slave of the south was in most matters as free and in vital things vastly more fortunate than he.

To make men, as well as money. Could there be a higher ideal? Can any one name half a dozen corporations which maintain this lofty purpose? I know of one—at East St. Louis—managed by a bosom friend of the late Mayor Jones, Mr. N. O. Nelson. Perhaps there are others. But they will not be on the list of trusts, nor among the concerns whose managers make more by stock juggling than by the patient prosecution of a useful producing business—Willis J. Abbott in New York American.

"DE FUST KIND WORDS"

The negroes in New York are apparently more anxious to get away from there than those in the south are to leave this section. Negroes used to be inclined to the belief that if they could only get to New York or some other northern city all their troubles would disappear. This recalls the story of the negro who was received with great politeness in New York, but who could secure no work. He was greeted as "Mr. Johnson" and made to feel that he was of much social importance, but right there the kindness stopped. Finally, beating his way back south, he was lying in a Virginia hayrick when the farmer found him. Then "Mr. Johnson" was assailed with a volley of language that was appalling. Tears came to his eyes, and with voice a tremble he said: "Boss lemme take you by de hand. Dem's de fust kind words I heern since I lef' ol' Georgia."—Savannah (Ga.) News.

CORPORATION CROOKS

It is well enough to denounce the miserable tools in the councils of our cities and to thunder against the political bosses. But they are not, after all, the chief sinners. The chief sinners are the eminent and pious men who occupy the chief seats in the synagogue, who make long prayers on the street corners and who make broad the phylacteries of their garments. Somehow or other we must make such corporate crookedness unfashionable. We must hold the stockholders in such concerns as this Philadelphia Gas company to a very strict accountability. If a man chooses to rob his neighbors through such instrumentalities as this he must at least be made to know that his neighbors understand that they are being robbed and robbed by him.—Indianapolis News.



Steel Roofing, \$1.50 Per 100 Sq. Feet

Painted red both sides; most durable and economical covering for roofing, siding or ceiling. For barns, sheds, houses, stores, churches, cribs, poultry houses, etc.; easier to lay and cheaper than any other material; no experience necessary to lay it— a hammer or hatchet the only tools you need. At this price to all points east of Colorado, excepting Oklahoma, Texas and Indian Territory. At this price we furnish our No. 15 semi-hardened flat steel roofing, sheets 24 inches by 24 inches. At \$1.00 this same material corrugated as shown in illustration, or in "V" crimped, or standing seam. At 50 cents per square advance over above prices we will furnish this material in 6 and 8 feet long; \$2.25 for brick siding or beaded ceiling or siding. Send us your order for immediate shipment. Time will prove its enduring qualities. It withstands the elements the best of all coverings. Ask for further particulars. **WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE NO. A. M. 224** on building material, wire, pipe, plumbing material, furniture, household goods, clothing, etc. We buy at SHERIFFS' AND RECEIVERS' SALES, 100,000,000 feet of lumber from the World's Fair. **CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO., 35th and Iron Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.**

\$3.50



HIGHEST GRADE

STEM WIND

The 20th Century DUST PROOF WATCH

Solid silver, screw back and bezel, absolutely dust and damp proof, made especially for railroad men and others who require a solid substantial watch and an absolutely Perfect Timekeeper. Solid nickel silver movement, stem wind and set, both case and watch absolutely guaranteed for 20 YEARS. **SEEING IS BELIEVING.** Get this out and send it to us with your name, post office and express office address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination. You examine it at your express office and if as represented pay express agent our bargain sale price \$3.50, and express charges and it is yours. Order to-day as this advertisement will positively not appear again. **SET M. E. CHALMERS & CO., 556 Dearborn St., Chicago.**

Newspaper Bargains

Every family should have a daily paper. By special arrangement we are able to offer our readers the **Kansas City World**, daily except Sunday and **The Commoner**, both one year for only..... **\$1.75**

The Thrice-a-Week New York World, almost as good as a daily; regular subscription price \$1.00. Readers of **The Commoner** get both papers one year for the very low price of..... **\$1.35**

The Twice-a-Week Omaha World Herald. A democratic newspaper. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. A special offer good only for a limited time—**The Commoner** and **The World Herald** both one year for only..... **\$1.25**

The Nebraska Independent published at Lincoln, by reason of its able fight against railroad domination will be of especial interest to all reformers. **The Commoner** and **The Independent** both one year for..... **\$1.35**

The Farm and Home Sentinel. Indiana's great farm and home weekly paper and **The Commoner** both one year for..... **\$1.00**

The Central Farmer. This publication will be valuable to every progressive farmer in the west. **The Commoner** and **The Central Farmer** both one year for..... **\$1.00**

The Prairie Farmer. A leader among Agricultural Papers. Published weekly at Chicago. **The Commoner** and **The Prairie Farmer** both one year for only..... **\$1.00**

IF YOU ARE ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER TO THE COMMONER YOU CAN ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE OFFERS AND WE WILL EXTEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FROM DATE OF EXPIRATION.

No Agents' Commission Allowed

USE THIS BLANK

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

GENTLEMEN:-

Enclosed find \$..... for which send

The Commoner and

Both one year as per your special offer.

Name.....

Address.....

New Subscriber?..... Renewal?.....

PLEASE WRITE NAME AND ADDRESS VERY PLAINLY.

CHICAGO GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

MAPLE LEAF ROUTE

"The Right Road"

BETWEEN

Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Des Moines, St. Joseph, Kansas City, Council Bluffs and Omaha.

EQUIPMENT RIGHT, TIME RIGHT, SERVICE RIGHT. IT'S ALL RIGHT.

J.P. Elmer, G.P.A., St. Paul, Minn.