

Out Our Way

By Williams



Extra One Per Cent of Luck or Endeavor Often Turns Scale Between Bad Prospect and Victory

From the Kansas City Star.

In his story, "Periscope," which appeared serially in the Star, John Knox comments on the fact that the difference between victory and defeat is often a matter of 1 per cent. Against the U-boats the depth charges first used were ineffective. The American depth charges were "1 per cent." better and they cleared the sea of submarines. Many a battle has been won by an alertness in firing the first shot or by swinging a ship quickly from broadside to front position. Either of these feats Mr. Knox would describe as the 1 per cent. difference between victory and vanquished.

But it is not alone on the sea that the factors of success and failure are so evenly matched. Everywhere we turn we are startled at the slight margin of superiority between the champion and his competitors, and whether we attend football games or study affairs of state, we marvel at the inconsequential circumstances that turn seemingly inevitable failure into conspicuous success.

Jack Dempsey laid Gene Tunney low in the seventh round of their last fight. That was Jack's chance to regain the championship. But he was slow retiring to a neutral corner. The delay in the count enabled Gene to get to his feet and the fistic crown was lost to Dempsey forever. Fate had handed Dempsey a 1 per cent. advantage, but he failed to grasp it.

Disraeli was laughed down when he undertook to address the house of commons just three weeks after entering parliament. But he had an extra ounce of courage which caused him to stand his ground and defy his tormenters. Out of the embarrassing situation he emerged with a measure of fame that gave importance to his later acts and utterances and which lighted the path to the premiership of Great Britain.

When Thomas Edison first showed signs of deafness his parents no doubt were distressed that

he should be handicapped in the battle of life. Yet Edison avers that because of the shutting off of distracting noises he was enabled to develop great powers of concentration. Edison might have accepted deafness as an affliction and allowed himself to brood over the unfairness of his infirmity. Had he done so, all of us would be poorer. Except for that rare quality that sees victory in defeat Edison might never have given the world the motion picture, the phonograph, the Mazda lamp and the other wonders of his laboratory.

Lindbergh says that on his memorable flight to Paris there was a moment in which he was tempted to turn back. His plane had become heavy with sleet. The way was dark and rough. But he pressed on. Just 1 per cent. less of courage and Lindbergh would not have crossed the Atlantic to fame.

John Bunyan was thrown into prison because of his religious views. A bad break for anyone who loves freedom. Somewhere within the soul of John Bunyan was a 1 per cent. of something that stone walls and steel bars could not contain. The circumstances and adversity of imprisonment fanned to light a literary talent which otherwise might have lain dormant and been lost to the world. John Bunyan, an unlettered tinker, began writing laboriously, slowly. What he wrote was the immortal "Pilgrim's Progress," a book which ranks second only to the Bible as a "best seller."

How foolish for us to classify a defeat. How foolish also for us to become despondent over our own reverses and disappointments. Failure is for him who accepts failure. Success is for him who carries the battle to the enemy, always striving to put forth that 1 per cent. of effort, that extra ounce of ingenuity, that bare shade of superior endurance which is the true essence of heroic achievement.

INVENTIONS WANTED

From the New York Evening Post.
The English Institute of Patentees has issued its 1928 edition of "What's Wanted." This is a contented world, if we may take the volume as a guide to human needs. There is nothing much more exciting in it than the suggestion of a "magazine hammer which will supply a nail every time the hammer head is struck and drive the nail in with one blow."

Other inventions for which pleas are made include a safety razor blade that will remain sharp, a fountain pen that will write in three colors, a silent lawn mower, a contrivance for filling a pepper pot without getting pepper in the eyes or nose of its operator, an automatic mailing machine which will indicate a letter's weight and then frank it when the proper coins are dropped into the slots, and a bus seat which will give tickets and announce the journey's end.

If this list of desiderata exhausts the ideas of the English Institute of Patentees we most seriously doubt that its members will contribute to the scientific advancement of the human race. The automatization of life already has gone far enough.

What fun could children have with a hammer which could not possibly mash their fingers? What a loss to suburban life would be the elimination of the lazy advance of the lawn mower when someone else is pushing it! And as for fountain pens, what we really need is one which will write in one color, let alone three. Talking bus seats. Why not have them forcibly eject the absentminded traveler when he reaches his destination?

But these are trivial matters. If we must have more inventions let them be on the grand scale. We

On Investing Wisely

John Moody, president of Moody's Investors Service.
Years ago, at the age of 25, I thought I knew it all. It was then I wrote "The Art of Investing." At 30 years of age I wrote "How to Invest Money Wisely." After the book was published a shabby old gentleman, 85 years old, called on me and asked if I were the author. When I said I was and asked him what he wanted, he replied: "When I was 25 years old I wrote a book on how to invest money wisely, and look at me now. I actually am in need of food. I suspect that when you are my age you will be about as I am." The old

need something which will eliminate the need of doing any work during the summer months. We need a weather controller which will keep the cities cool and the seashore and mountain resorts comfortably warm. The English inventors are wasting their time if they aim no higher than pepper boxes and razor blades.

AIR-BORNE FREIGHT

Le Bourget, the flying field of Paris, reported a record breaking day recently with 42 airplanes plying in and out, 282 passengers and 11 tons of freight. All these figures are higher than in the previous record, set September 23, 1927.

The number of passengers, as compared with the tens of thousands that the through trains must handle in a day, is still very small, but it is a surprise to find freight making up in dead weight even half as much as the passengers. In the early days of public service air traffic about Paris freight did not figure at all. Passengers were allowed 30 pounds of hand baggage; steamer trunks could be taken at exorbitant rates, but commonly went "grande vitesse"—"big quickness"—on the rail-and-boat lines; by express, as we would say.

Eleven tons can easily be carried by a single freight car, even of European dimensions. It is an increase, and the increase will continue. But not many classes of freight can afford the stiff rates of air transport. So far as any one can now see, the railroads will continue to carry most of it.

THE NEXT ERUPTION

From the New York Herald Tribune
Betting on volcanoes is not much safer than betting on the weather, but the volcanologists have made a beginning of their science, and with seismograph readings to guide them can give pretty sound advance tips

gentleman, hungry though he was, had given me food for thought.

Now I believe that the span of human life is too brief a time in which to acquire the art of wise investing. There is, perhaps, a way to advise how to invest more or less wisely and with a minimum of risk.

There is nothing to "inside information" and the tendency to change investments frequently a mistake. A sound investment and infinite patience will make money oftenest. A business man with a surplus for investment should invest in high-grade securities only and those requiring no worry or attention from him. His business,

on a volcano's misbehavior. It is a striking fact that the current issue of "Natural History," issued by our own American museum, contains a photograph of Mount Mayon in the Philippines, and that the caption includes the note that "in all probability the next eruption will be exceptionally violent."

It is. The City of Legaspi has been virtually emptied, and the country for miles about Mayon is thick with ash. The cables report the loss of thousands of lives. We sometimes forget that the Philippines form part of the same volcanic danger zone as Japan. Manila's seismographs do not, like Tokyo's, record minor earth tremblings almost every day of the year, but they average two a week; and the archipelago includes 12 more or less active volcanoes.

Toward the south end of Luzon Island, is the greatest and most vicious of these. It spouted 28 times in the last century, and the last of these eruptions, in 1897, came without warning and wiped out a dozen villages. Mayon towers from the plain nearly 8,000 feet, to a cone as perfect as the pictured slopes of Fujiyama. Taal, within automobile range of Manila, is a smaller and less impressive volcano, but its position, smoking peacefully on an island in the center of a 17-mile crater lake, gives it a character of its own. Taal is watched hourly and its slightest tremble is recorded, but the natives doubt the science of its watchers, and at the last warning the natives, trusting to their own memories of the smoking mountain's gentleness, remained in their homes—and suffered. It seemed to them, as it must seem to many men closer to the centers of modern science, credible that mere human beings should be able to put their fingers upon the throbbing pulse of this great world and foretell its behavior.

after all, is his biggest speculation and he should devote his time and study to that.

There is no set rule for investing wisely. No public utilities generally have for some time been good investments. The true investor, however, must be a person with imagination and a vision of the future.

The investment trust seems to have been a mania in America for the last several years, although in England and Scotland the idea is very old and also very successful. The investment trust has come to stay in this country. The investment field generally will grow tremendously within the next 10 years.

"Grief Speculators"

Barred in Hospitals

"Speculators in grief" are henceforth banned from the corridors of Rome hospitals. The "speculators" are gentry who habitually loiter about the large public hospitals of the Italian capital. When they see some one emerging from a sick room they endeavor to ascertain whether the person visited has just died or is about to die and proffer cards for the undertaker's establishment with which they are connected. The etiquette of this profession was to approach only those persons who wept or otherwise showed great emotion. Competition, however, became so great that the eager "runners" for the undertakers began pushing their masters' services on hospital visitors indiscriminately. The Romans rebelled. One of the newspapers started a campaign against "speculators in grief." The police made several arrests and now patrol the wards so that one may visit a sick friend without unwelcome solicitations by the advance agents of an undertaker.

He Ought to Be Happy

"When two people like the same things their married life is bound to be happy," sighed the romantic girl. "Well, you and Herbert ought to be happy," remarked her friend, who wanted Herbert and didn't get him. "I know you love him, and I notice he is very fond of himself."—Answers, London.

Storms and Sizzlers

If a tornado kills five people, it is a big story. If a heat wave causes 30 to 40 to succumb, it is merely an incident.—Salina Journal.

Any man who is engaged in business is a fortune hunter.



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Patriotism Not Vanity

Miss Anne Morgan, philanthropist and reformer, said in a Y. W. C. A. address on patriotism in Atlantic City:

"Patriotism doesn't mean bragging and vanity, though some patriots seem to think it does. I often say that it is as bad for a patriot to be vain about his country as it is for a woman to be vain about her charms."

"Yes, that kind of patriotism is as bad as Mrs. Exe. Her husband, on a visit down here by the sea, watched her primping before the glass one day, and at the end of an hour he said: 'Heavens and earth, how vain you are!'"

"Without taking her eyes off her reflection in the glass, Mrs. Exe answered: 'Indeed, I'm not vain! I don't think I'm half as lovely as I really am.'"

Still

"What is that artist painting?" "The hired man." "I get you—still life."

When you are "uplifting," how much of anger and how much of love is there in it?

Quite Simple

An old-fashioned father visited his son at college on a certain big sports day.

Afterwards he was invited to attend a formal dinner. His son at first was rather anxious as to how the old man would behave, but everything went off wonderfully well.

Then the father noticed that his father had poured his coffee out of the cup into the saucer.

"Father!" he gasped. "What ever made you do that?"

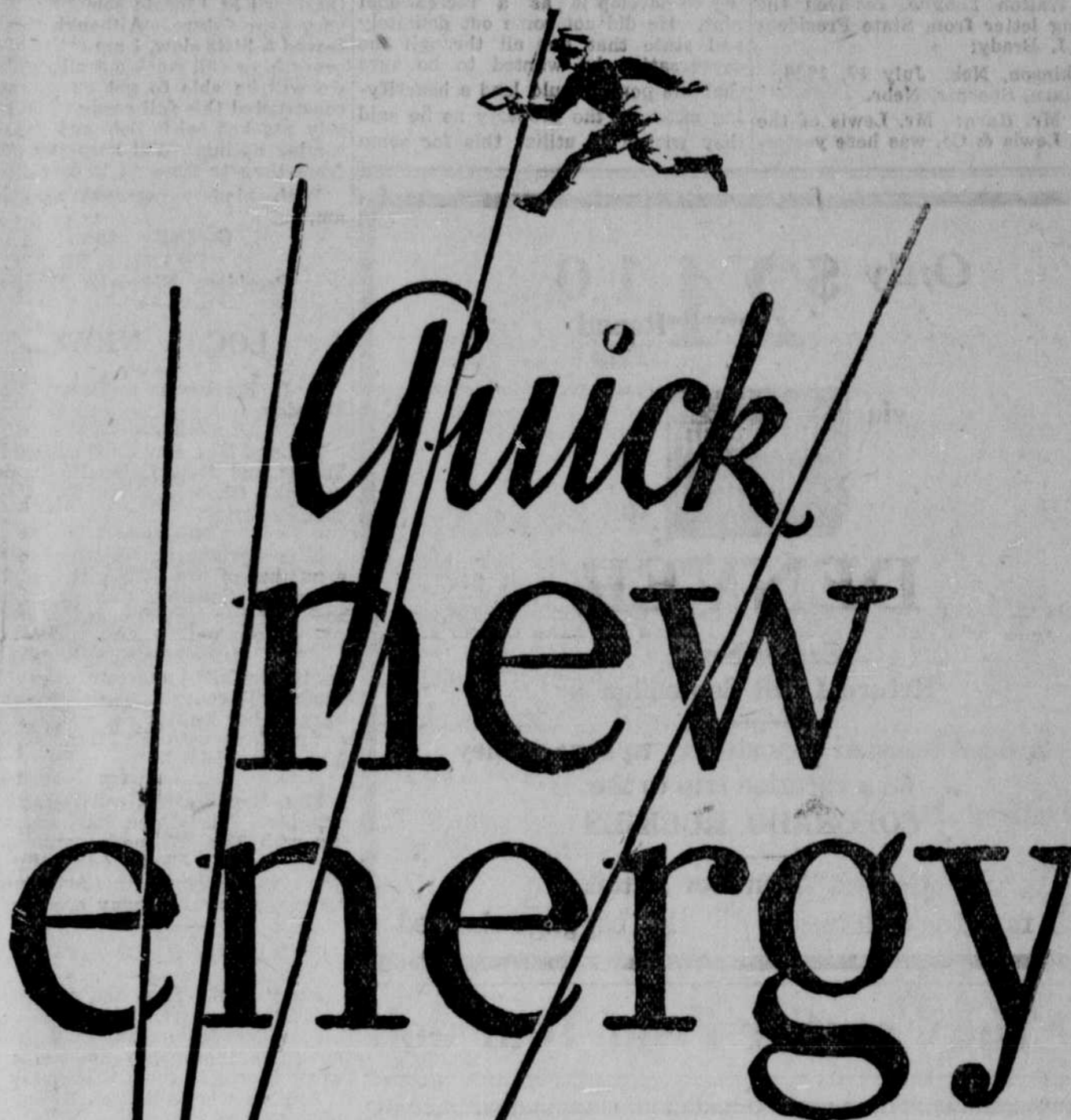
"My stars!" exclaimed the father. Just fancy, you at college and don't know that! Why, I do it to cool my coffee!"—Answers, London.

The Lost Is Found

A year ago Roy Wilson, of Goldsboro, N. C., lost three dollar bills while plowing. Reploving the same field this spring he turned them up again, and a bank traded the weather-beaten currency for new bills.

An Unfinished Story

Young Husband—Dear, our budget shows a big deficit for last month. Wife—That's fine! How shall we spend it?



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