

CAN A MAN EARN A MILLION?

An Interesting Discussion of a Great Social Problem. If Adam Had Delayed Until This Time He Wouldn't Take Rank With the Plutocrats of the United States.

How Millions Are Made. W. D. Redington of Sidney, N. Y., discusses the question "Can a man earn a million?" in the following letter addressed to the Editor of the Journal of United Labor.

History shows that men have started poor in free America, the home of the oppressed, and at the age of 40 years have been able to accumulate their wealth not only by the million, but by many times a million. These men have, no doubt, legally accumulated their enormous wealth so far as legality is conferred by the laws of our country, but not honestly.

The Louisiana lottery scheme has been declared illegal by the laws of most of the other States; yet, by a careful study of the workings of this scheme, we only find the true methods by which men are suddenly thrust into possession of fabulous riches, viz.: speculation. If ten boys, with ten marbles each, go out to play that most innocent of boyhood's games, and one boy, by either his skill or good fortune, secures the 10 marbles from each of the other nine, he has 100 marbles, and the odds are now 10 to 1 in his favor. In the same manner as the wealth of one increases that of a proportionate number decreases. No matter in what manner it is gained, whether by speculation in bonds, mortgages, lands or stocks; whether by interest, gambling, bets or lotteries, it is the same. The condition is not changed, the method is altered. Should a million dollars be inherited, it does not obliterate the fact that a million dollars cannot be honestly made in one generation, nor ten, even though each generation extend over a period of 100 years.

Could Adam have lived until the present day, and earned two dollars per day for every day in the year, never spending a cent for anything, his total earnings would not have amounted to so much as the wealth of Warner Miller, New York's Republican candidate for Governor last fall, whose wealth is estimated at \$5,000,000, and whose age does not much exceed half a century. And yet, according to the laws of the State of New York, and the United States, Warner Miller has legally acquired his wealth, and, as the world goes, is an honest man.

Fifty years ago there were but few millionaires in this country. To-day they are so common that in an enumeration of the wealthy men of our land only the names of those worth from five to one hundred and ten millions were considered worthy of mention.

How many longers of hard unceasing toil, even at good wages; how many deprivations, how many heartaches to obtain honestly the possession of a million dollars, few can realize, and no matter how long, for time is too short for him ever to reach the goal. Most workmen and women have no time to give the matter a thought, and consequently do not comprehend the enormity of a million in round numbers. To illustrate: Could a man have been born in the year one, and at the present time have reached the good old age of 1889 years, and have been able to have labored untiringly and unceasingly during the long period of his existence, not stopping on Sunday, Christmas, New Year's, Washington's Birthday, St. Patrick's, Decoration, Fourth of July, Labor or even circus days, toiling on, and on, like a mere machine, furnishing his own lubrication 305 days in a year, for 1889 years, receiving as a compensation for his labor the most liberal sum of \$2 per day, or \$730 per year, and provided he had remained a bachelor all his life, receiving only a cent for strawberries or ice cream for his girl, or a cent for the support of himself or family; suppose so great had been his economy, that his only clothing had been the leaf of the Garden of Eden, his only shelter the blue vault of heaven, his only bed the green verdure of mother earth; suppose he had never spent a cent for marbles, jack-knives or gingerbread in his boyhood; for railroad stocks, church pews or laborer in his manhood; or for fast horses, steam yachts or Pullman palace cars in his old age; suppose he had to his credit every cent he had ever earned, without interest, he would now have the stupendous sum of 1,378,970, which in these times would hardly furnish him a seat in the New York Stock Exchange.

If it has been clearly shown that a man living 1889 years, with all the advantages enumerated, can acquire but \$1,378,970, is it to be wondered at that the average man, whose allotted lifetime is but seventy years, cannot honestly become a millionaire?

Suppose the man of our own time begins work at the age of 14 years as a wage-earner at \$1 per day receiving no pay for Sunday work, he would receive \$318 per year. Supposing at the age of 20 years he embarked in a railway locomotive engineer to earn \$5.50 per day, every day, for the balance of his 70 years' lifetime, he would have earned at the time of his promotion \$318 per year for six years, which would aggregate a sum of \$1,908; during the next 30 years he would earn \$33,875, which, added to the \$1,908 previously earned, would at the age of 70 years place him in possession of \$35,783. This sum would purchase a seat in Congress, or enable him to make a trip around the world if he was economical. He would in country places, be considered well-to-do; but not rich, as the world now goes. This sum is all a man can honestly earn in a lifetime under the most favorable conditions, and still he has not acquired the tenth part of a single million. But here is another realistic problem to solve, which cannot be overlooked and which still further reduces his chances of becoming worth a million. At the moment he begins to earn his own living he becomes dependent upon his own resources. We have seen that his yearly earnings for the first six years are \$318 per year; out of this he must pay:

For 1 pair of shoes (K. of L. label), \$ 4 00
For suit of clothes (Sunday), 10 00
For suit of clothes (workday), 5 00
For 2 hats (K. of L. label), 2 00
For underwear and other necessities, 15 00
For board, 32 weeks at \$1, 100 00
Total, \$202 00
Leaving balance, \$116 00

For the six years would net \$666. He has time he is 20 years of age he sees a chance of promotion to the rank of locomotive engineer at highest possible wages, and at the same time assumes the duties of a man of a family. In the due course of time he has a wife and three children dependent upon him for support. At \$35.00 his annual income,

should he work every one of the 305 days, would amount to \$1,277.50. At the least calculation he must expend for:

Food, \$ 75 00
Fuel, 60 00
Provisions, 110 00
Clothing, 240 00
Incidentals, 50 00
Total, \$535 00

This would leave him a balance at the end of each year of \$742.50, which multiplied by 50 would produce \$37,125, to which may be added the \$678 previously earned, and he would then, at the age of 70 years, have a surplus of \$37,803 to maintain himself and family the remaining days of their natural lives, providing there had been no sickness and no other expenses than those enumerated, which would be impossible, and that he had received no interest on his money honestly earned and economically expended. If he had saved and laid by at compound interest \$500 per year for 50 years he would then only be worth \$145,000, and only a few thousand more than one-tenth part of \$1,000,000.

This statement, compared to that of a man with a much larger family and much smaller income, is sufficient to dispel any hopes the latter might cherish of ever honestly becoming a man of million.

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FRESCOO HIS FRIEND, And Gets Sued For the Joke, Which May Cost Him \$2,500.

Frederick Schultz sues August Michel to recover on damages sustained in a novel way, says a St. Paul dispatch to the New York World: Michel is proprietor of a St. Paul hostelry, at which Schultz put up on the night of July 8 last. Michel and Schultz were old-time friends. The mutual good-will had never been disrupted in any way. After the usual good-night Schultz went into the room assigned him, crawled into bed was soon asleep. Downstairs, where Michel was distributing liquors to his customers at the bar, all was hilarity. Michel, taking advantage of the frame of mind his customers were in, left the bar in charge of an attendant, and, securing pots of red and black paint from his woodshed, proceeded upstairs to the room occupied by Schultz, who was fast asleep.

Removing the quilts from his sleeping guest, Michel painted his friend's body from head to foot with spots, black and red alternately, in the most approved Sioux Indian style. Schultz awoke with a start, and was unable to defend himself.

Michel's work did not stop here. He wanted a suitable wind-up; so, opening the door wide, invited the public to come in and gaze at his handiwork. Quite a crowd assembled in the frescoed man's room, and had more fun over the matter than anybody. They laughed at and gazed Mr. Schultz in a fiendish manner, as he said. Finally they let him enjoy his appearance alone. Then he went to work to remove the obnoxious substance from his body, which was not the work of a few minutes. By reason of all the circumstances Schultz claims that he has been damaged to the extent of \$2,500. He wants that amount and he wants it bad.

Heecham's Pills act like magic on a weak stomach.

Singeing Pigs. Our readers often see in the market reports quotations of singeing pigs and may have noticed that they always sell higher than other grades, say the Iowa Homestead. "Singeing" forms about 1 per cent of the receipts in Chicago and are long, fine-boned pigs, not very fat, but of choice quality and well bred, weighing from 130 to 200 pounds. They are used to make choice cuts, such as St. Mary's, Birmingham and Walker shires, for the foreign trade. The hair, instead of being scalded off, is "singeed" by a machine made especially for the purpose, which makes the meat firmer. These pigs come from Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska, and always command a premium over other grades. The demand for this grade of meat is another evidence of the protest of the human stomach against too much grease.

Cannot Spare the Time. Nelson H. Baker, district attorney of Westchester Co., New York, writes: I have received many letters in reference to my testimonial, lately published, commending ALCOCK'S POUROS PLASTERS. I cannot spare the time to answer them in writing, therefore would again say, through the press, that I have found ALCOCK'S POUROS PLASTERS invaluable as chest protectors and shields against coughs and colds. Furthermore, I have found ALCOCK'S PLASTERS unequalled for pains in head, back and chest.

Handling Glandered Horses. Farmers do not realize the extreme danger there is in handling a horse attacked with glanders. says the Montana Live Stock Journal. A fair trial of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will soon satisfy you of the fact. No cold, however so severe, can long withstand its effect. It does not dry up a cold, but loosens and relieves it. It leaves the system in a natural and healthy condition. For sale by all druggists.

The Care of Eggs. Gather daily, washing the soiled ones, and if to be used within two or three days, place them in a cool room. If you wish to keep them longer than this, or "set" a hen with them, put them into a basket, in which first place about two inches of bran, packing them closely with the large end down, says the Nebraska City Wyandotte Herald. The philosophy is this: The air-cell in the larger end of the egg enlarges when the egg is laid away. If the butt end is up, the evaporation of moisture is greater, and the pressure of air through the open pores at the end rapidly increases the size of the bubble. If the butt end is down, the weight of the liquid contents pressing down on the bubble hinders the entrance of air, allowing only a very slow and gradual increase in the size of the air cell.

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Table listing Men's Sack Suits with descriptions and prices. Includes items like 'A fancy dark brown stripe cassimere' for \$8.50, 'A grey plaid (dark) cheviot, serge lined' for \$9.50, etc.

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Table listing Men's Frock Suits with descriptions and prices. Includes items like 'In fancy stripe 1 chevils' for \$9.75, 'A grey salt and pepper cheviot' for \$9.00, etc.

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