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THE OMAHA BEE—THE HOME PAPER.

FIXING FACTS IN THE MIND

Expert Memory Man Tells How Not to Forget Names.

NOTED CAREER OF FELIX BEROL

Immigrant Boy Dishwasher Twenty Years Ago, Now Trains Memorists of Ministers and Lawyers.

A young immigrant boy, dishwasher by occupation, walked into Cooper Union one night, sleepy and tired, and picked up a book at random. He was a very ignorant boy; he had never heard of Shakespeare, and Lincoln was a myth, but he liked a book now and then. So he read.

The boy was Felix Berol, today the greatest "memory man" alive; the dishwasher who twenty years ago knew nothing except that he existed in a rather dull world, today is the man who has 300,000 facts at his instant command. The book was Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," the factor in Berol's life that changed the whole current of his career. For he found that he couldn't remember anything he read, so he hunted books on memory. For seven months after that first night he was kicked around from the pillar of Cooper Union to the post of Astor library as a loafer. For some time, even though he was interested greatly, he would nod over his book; dishwashing for twelve hours was rather a job. But he read voraciously on the subject of the things that awaken the mind. He began to plan a little system by which he could remember things. In seven months he was on the vaudeville stage as "Berol, the Mental Marvel, with 5,000 Facts in His Head."

Mr. Berol smiles deprecatingly now at that paltry store of information, for today there are sixty times 5,000. Yet he mitigates the deprecation by asking, "What do you know? What knowledge has the ordinary man outside his business? How much of your college education have you retained? Then he reels off the history of the war of the Spanish succession or gives in full the construction of the digestive system.

Practical System.
How did he do it? What is his secret? The system is one of "hooks" and "slips," all very mysterious to the uninitiated, but quite simple and practical to the men who know. Every single fact to be acquired is written down on a slip of paper, on the other side of which is the "hook," or suggestive idea. The student, by repeated reference to these slips, soon learns the "hook," and thereby, of course, instantly can recall the associated fact.

"We use the principle of assimilation," said Mr. Berol recently, "when we find, imagine, or make a word, which is easier for us to remember than the word we are trying to remember. Those assimilations are called homophones. As names of persons, for instance, generally mean little or nothing to us, they are hard to remember. By assimilating those hard-to-remember words into words which mean something to us, which therefore are easily remembered, we will be able to recall the names of people without difficulty. A little practice soon will enable us to find homophones to fit any name which we may encounter. There is no name, however strange, for which a homophone may not be found.

"The homophone easily may be associated with something about the person's features, business, peculiarities. There are several kinds of associations, that of similarity, of contrast, of succession, of contiguity; it depends entirely upon your power of imagination. For instance, take that portly woman yonder. The most striking thing about her is that she is fat. We find that her name is Fry. See, how easy that is. There is a tailor named Nutting. Assimilation: Nutting—nothing. Association: It is very seldom that one can get a good suit for nothing.

Association is Essential.
"Memory never starts on its own account; association is absolutely essential. Although memories are by no means powerful, they constitute an important part of the act of remembering."

Just by way of experiment a few questions were put to Mr. Berol.

"When was Mendelssohn born?" asked the reporter.

"On the third of February, 1809," came the instant reply.

"How long is the River Jordan?"

"It extends sixty miles, though it really is 200 miles in length."

"What is the population of Ceylon?"

"Four hundred and thirty-eight thousand four hundred and fifty-six, with an area of 25,000 square miles."

"Who invented the sewing machine?"

"Elias Howe. He exhibited the machine first on September 10, 1846."

"What town are you from?" asked Mr. Berol, turning questions himself.

"Richmond, Ind. Can you give me population?"

"Twenty-two thousand three hundred and twenty-four."

"I knew it was somewhere around 25,000," replied the reporter.

"Which approximate knowledge is my reason for conducting a memory course," said Mr. Berol.

In teaching his class at the Young Men's Christian association, Mr. Berol gives a little talk.

"It is so easy to be exact," he says, "and so few people are. Now it really

doesn't affect my happiness to know that Lima, O., has a population of 20,000, but I want to show that people can remember anything they want to. If I were minister, I would know every verse in the Bible; if I were an insurance man, I would know every premium. There are all sorts of spare-time. Why take chances? Assurance is half the battle. If you know that you know, you are efficient and a happy man. If you aren't sure, you are inefficient and miserable. Read your slips on the subway, on the elevated, between times. Most men work eight hours out of the twenty-four, and then take mental recreation on a roof garden. The mind only needs a change; it never requires complete relaxation. Remember, the slips are very important. Doing certain things all the time, not merely when it is convenient, is what counts. Read them every spare moment, review them each week, and meantime keep adding new facts to your store."

BARTON AFTER GOULD ROAD

Wants Government to Collect Three Million Dollars.

SUBSIDY FOR BRANCH LINE

Matter is Investigated by W. T. Thompson and His Opinion Herebefore Made Has Not Been Acted Upon.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 28.—(Special Telegram.)—Representative Barton today introduced a resolution asking the Treasury department for information as to steps taken by the secretary to recover over \$3,000,000 alleged to be due the government from the Missouri Pacific railroad. In explanation of his resolution Mr. Barton said:

"Between July 25, 1896 and January 21, 1898 the government issued subsidy bonds in an amount of \$1,000,000 to assist in constructing a hundred miles of railroad between Atchison and Waterville, Kas. This road is now owned by the Missouri Pacific. The principal and interest due on those bonds as set out in a report by the secretary of the treasury, October 1, 1913 was \$3,627,902.80.

"A resolution was introduced in the house of representatives April 20, 1913, directing the attorney general to proceed immediately to collect this sum by foreclosure sale or otherwise. My resolution of inquiry sent to the secretary of the treasury was introduced for the purpose of showing to the country and to the members of congress that to date no action has been taken.

Investigated by Thompson.
"Mr. W. T. Thompson, solicitor of the Treasury department made a very careful and exhaustive examination of this case, coming to the conclusion that the government should take action to collect this money and so advised Franklin MacVeigh, then secretary of the treasury. For some reason this matter is permitted to continue without any decisive action being taken.

"The secretary of the treasury should make demand upon the present owners of the road to pay the principal and interest, and in event they failed to pay we should do as we would do in ordinary business, to foreclose the government subsidy bond line, and bring action for a sale of said road and telegraph line; for an accounting of its net earnings and for personal judgment against the present owners for any deficiency that remains unpaid.

"The age of subsidy bonds has passed. I believe all other roads that have this gratuity from the government have paid their debts and I cannot see one intelligent reason why enforced collection of this debt has not and is not now being made by our government officials."

Bestest Way Out.
A Louisville negro was caught with a number of hides in his possession, for which he could not reasonably account, and was brought into court charged with stealing.

"Guilty or not guilty?" thundered the judge.

"Not guilty," emphatically responded the negro.

"Then how do you account for the fact that you were in possession of two 35 bills when you were arrested, although you are known to have been unemployed for a year?" demanded his honor.

"I can't relate the circumstances, Mr. Judge."

"And that three hides of which you claim to know nothing were found hiding in your cellar?"

"I dunno, judge, but—"

"And that you were seen coming out of the tannery with these more?"

"The negro scratched his head in silence for a minute, then burst out:

"Looky here, Mr. Judge, if you is gwine to set so troublesome an' so 'quid-dive' 'bout this little matter, I's just gwine to take back what I said 'bout not guilty an' make it guilty."

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Kansas City

Three Trains Daily

Missouri Pacific

Lv. Omaha 11:15 p. m. 8:00 a. m. 11:30 a. m.
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Travel Information

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VIA THE

ILLINOIS CENTRAL

ROUND TRIP WINTER TOURIST TICKETS ON SALE DAILY, LIMITED JUNE 1, 1914. RATES FROM OMAHA, VIA DIRECT ROUTES:

Jacksonville, Fla. \$50.50
Tampa, Fla. \$62.10
Miami, Fla. \$72.60
St. Augustine, Fla. \$52.80
Palm Beach, Fla. \$69.00
Pensacola, Fla. \$41.00
Haines City, Fla. \$60.70
Havana, Cuba \$87.00

Also Many Other Destinations
Tickets going via one route, returning via another at slightly higher fares.

Reseekers' Tickets on sale the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

For full information and descriptive literature call at City Ticket Office or write S. NORTH, District Passenger Agent, 407 South 16th St., Telephone Douglas 264.

Special sleeping car service is now operated via Rock Island Lines between Omaha and Rock Island as follows:

Leave Omaha 6:08 p. m.
" Council Bluffs 6:28 p. m.
Arrive Davenport 3:27 a. m.
" Rock Island 3:37 a. m.

Passengers may occupy berths in sleeper (at Rock Island) until 7:00 a. m.

Tickets and reservations
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250 rooms at \$1.50 per day and up. Nothing better at our rates.

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Single rooms per day—\$2, \$4, \$5, \$6, \$8, \$10, \$12, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55, \$60, \$65, \$70, \$75, \$80, \$85, \$90, \$95, \$100, \$105, \$110, \$115, \$120, \$125, \$130, \$135, \$140, \$145, \$150, \$155, \$160, \$165, \$170, \$175, \$180, \$185, \$190, \$195, \$200, \$205, \$210, \$215, \$220, \$225, \$230, \$235, \$240, \$245, \$250, \$255, \$260, \$265, \$270, \$275, \$280, \$285, \$290, \$295, \$300, \$305, \$310, \$315, \$320, \$325, \$330, \$335, \$340, \$345, \$350, \$355, \$360, \$365, \$370, \$375, \$380, \$385, \$390, \$395, \$400, \$405, \$410, \$415, \$420, \$425, \$430, \$435, \$440, \$445, \$450, \$455, \$460, \$465, \$470, \$475, \$480, \$485, \$490, \$495, \$500, \$505, \$510, \$515, \$520, \$525, \$530, \$535, \$540, \$545, \$550, \$555, \$560, \$565, \$570, \$575, \$580, \$585, \$590, \$595, \$600, \$605, \$610, \$615, \$620, \$625, \$630, \$635, \$640, \$645, \$650, \$655, \$660, \$665, \$670, \$675, \$680, \$685, \$690, \$695, \$700, \$705, \$710, \$715, \$720, \$725, \$730, \$735, \$740, \$745, \$750, \$755, \$760, \$765, \$770, \$775, \$780, \$785, \$790, \$795, \$800, \$805, \$810, \$815, \$820, \$825, \$830, \$835, \$840, \$845, \$850, \$855, \$860, \$865, \$870, \$875, \$880, \$885, \$890, \$895, \$900, \$905, \$910, \$915, \$920, \$925, \$930, \$935, \$940, \$945, \$950, \$955, \$960, \$965, \$970, \$975, \$980, \$985, \$990, \$995, \$1000.

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