DESERET EVENING NEWS

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AUDITING BOOKS AT NIGHT.

One Feature of Expert Accounting That Is Performed in Secret.

"I will venture the estimate," said a well known public accountant recently, "that not one-half of the number of defalcations and thefts from commercial and financial institutions and business houses in the city are never made public.

"Business men," he continued, "are loath to admit that they have been victimized. They go on the theory that publicity in such matters might injure their credit. Consequently, unless the amount is large, every effort is made to keep the matter out of court, even though it entails some loss.

"The public have an idea that the principal work of an expert accountant comes in play in settling estates, examining the books of corporations, making investigations for capitalists who are about to invest money in business ventures, opening up new books and going over the books of institutions that have been robbed.

"That is, however, but a small portion of the work. What we call the auditing feature of the business has developed largely of late. The conclusion of this reveals much that is startling to a criminal way, and leads me to the assertion that not one-half of the defalcations committed are ever made public."

When asked for a more complete explanation of the auditing feature the accountant said: "I will illustrate with a case that I have just concluded.

"The books of a large wholesale house were balanced by the office force at the end of the year. They showed the profits to be far less than was expected. The partners had an idea of forming a stock company of their business. They did not question the integrity of their cashier, who had been with them many years. At the same time they were anxious to find out if everything was going properly in their office.

"They explained the circumstances to me, and I proposed auditing their books and outlined the work. It amounts to nothing more nor less than this: Every night after the office was closed the partners and parties of the firm met two of my men who were specially detailed for the purpose. Together they proceeded to the office, opened the safe and worked until 3 o'clock in the morning.

"Every individual transaction of the day was taken up and entered on sheets of paper as though we were the clerical force of the house. We never made an entry on the books or attempted to check back from them. For a month we continued the work without the knowledge of the cashier or his assistants.

"The result was as I expected. We discovered an elaborate system of false entries by which the firm had been defrauded for years. The cashier was taken to task, without being informed that his books had been audited. He denied his guilt, threatened suits for slander and assumed a virtuous indignation. When the other set of books was shown to him, however, he wilted, confessed the crime and pleaded for mercy. As he had been with the house for a long time he was permitted to resign, and I of course am pledged to secrecy regarding his identity.

"That case," said the accountant in conclusion, "is but one of many where a crime is hushed up, and," he added, "that wholesale house is not the only one whose books have been audited, nor do we expect to terminate with it the auditing feature of our business."—New York Herald.

As a Substitute.

It was Sunday morning. The Boston young woman who was a visitor to her western relatives spoke to her aunt in a subdued Boston voice appropriate to the day.

"Aunt Rachel," she said, "have you a volume of Emerson in your library?"

"I am sorry to say, Waldonia," responded Aunt Rachel, "that we have not."

"Then I will read a few chapters from the writings of Solomon," said the young woman, taking down the family Bible with a sigh of mild disappointment.—Chicago Tribune.

Clear Eyes.

The resources of ingenuity and science are, indeed, in the opinions of some, absolutely unlimited. An elderly lady, by no means deficient in culture, hearing that a friend who had long lost the use of one eye, had recently been provided with a glass substitute, demanded, in all the emperor of friendship, "And can she see with it?"

This recalls a case reported not so very long ago in the papers, of a lady who actually sued a man because she could not see through the glass eye he had manufactured for her.—London Tit-Bits.

Beating Off a Dog.

If a dog springs for a man, the latter should guard his face with his arm and try to meet the animal with his forearm. With the right hand he should attempt to catch one of the animal's front paws. The paw of a bulldog is ultra sensitive. If it can be caught, a vigorous squeeze will make the animal howl for mercy and remove discomfiture.—Interview in [illegible] Herald.

Favorite but Fastidious.

"Mamma" and "papa" live in town, on the fifth floor, in a flat. A twenty-minutes to a o'clock each morning. At that time the Prep. boys and Packer pupils, as well as many who attend other private schools on the Heights, leave their homes up town and board horse cars which bear them schoolward. They assume the ownership of the cars at this hour, and although a startled business man may look out from behind his paper to inquire into the babel of tongues, he is completely ignored by the lads and lassies that fill the car and hang on by the straps from door to door.

The schoolgirl of ten years used to wear her hair in a braid down her back, and a white frilled apron, and she used to carry her books neatly strapped to a slate on her arm, but the modern Packer girl is an overwhelming creature, be she thirteen or twenty, and as for the Polytechnic boy, he buys a paper and has his books shined on the corner each morning before he gets on the car.—Brooklyn Cor. New York Herald.

When Traveling Was Tedious.

During the first quarter of the present century the westward trend of civilization was very slow. Up to 1825 canals had not been thought of west of New York. The average time required to make a trip from Cincinnati to New Orleans and back was six months. The craft made use of were necessarily small, and the cargoes proportionately light, and when they arrived in New Orleans in flatboats, which could not be taken back, the boats were abandoned and the hands returned by land. Under such disadvantages the commerce of the country was manual.

The farmer had no motive to increase the produce of his fields beyond the wants of his family and of newcomers who might settle in his neighborhood. Corn and oats rarely commanded more than 10 to 12 cents a bushel, and wheat from 30 to 40 cents. The average price of good beef was $3 to per 100, and pork from $4 to $2 per 100, according to quality.—Edward Rosewater's Omaha Address.

A Gold Brick.

In a room of the assay office is displayed a metal brick which once cost a buyer a pretty penny, but which now goes begging. It was bought for a couple of thousand dollars by a man with that trusting faith in plausible strangers which makes life easy for the people who would rather be cheated than not. He took it to the assay office to get the official figures on his profits in the transaction, and there he learned that his purchase was an alloy. It might be almost anything else, but gold it certainly was not.

After that revelation not even a jackman could be persuaded to buy the bar. One to whom an appeal was made declined on the ground that he couldn't pay the current rate for old metal until he could find out what metal he was buying. And so the man who had been victimized went away sadly, leaving the yellow brick at the assay office. It is there yet, for nobody has offered to carry it off.—New York Times.

Long Island's Wonderful Fresh Eggs.

The eggs which are sold as a week old in the summer come from Long Island. That they are just as good as those which are a day or two old is shown perhaps by the fact that occasionally a chick is hatched from some when they are on the way to the city. It must be remembered, of course, that twenty-one days are usually required for an egg to hatch.

When a chick peeps out of one it must be confessed that the egg must have been fresh at some time. That such eggs are more than one week old seems a not altogether unreasonable conclusion.—New York Evening Sun.

Danger in Handling Paint.

The man who invents a method of handling paint and lead mixtures without danger of painter's colic as a result will reap a fortune. Some men are not subject to this complaint, but great numbers have been forced to give up the painting business from their liability to sudden attacks. Lead poisoning is one of the most dangerous afflictions known to the human race, and numbers of paralytics are now in our hospitals whose infirmity is due to the lead contained in paints.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Art of Conversation.

Not a very few scholarly men fail miserably in an effort to entertain. La Fontaine appeared stupid, Corneille was insipid, Chanvet's silence was more agreeable than his conversation, while Goldsmith "wrote like an angel and talked like poor Poll." On the other hand, those with very superficial attainments render themselves quite engaging. They have a way of delighting us with even the "airy nothings of speech."—Kate Field's Washington.

Germany's Loss in the French War.

According to Dr. Roth, a German authority, the Germans lost during the war with France 60,000 men killed or rendered invalid and $200,000,000 in money, this being the excess of expenditure or of material losses over the $1,250,000,000 paid by France by way of indemnity.—San Francisco Post.

The Most Pleasing Woman.

Feeling of a higher sensibility by the light of advancing centuries, I find that woman most pleasing whose self respect dominates her love of man.—Kate Field's Washington.

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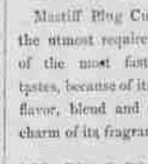

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