Too Busy to Improve

When Opportunity Knocks at Your Door Do You Answer, "I Haven't Time"?

There is the age-old excuse that has kept many a man from making his mark. In its capacity for covering a multitude of short-comings, it has no equal.

It's the world's greatest alibi.

Whoever admits that he is too busy to improve his methods, has acknowledged himself to be at the end of his rope. And that is always the saddest predicament which any one can get into.

For there is a vast difference between being busy and making progress. When we see that clearly, we have gained an important bit of wisdom.

The easiest thing some people do, is to keep busy.

You have seen the person who is always busy—doing trivial things.

Opportunity comes to him as to all others; but he is so occupied with sharpening his lead pencils, reading the mail or attending to other ordinary duties, that he has no time to listen. The routine of his work swallows him up, and he forgets what he is busy for. His favorite idea, and his response to all requests is, "I haven't time."

The man who makes progress is of a different stripe. He doesn't steal the office boy's work in order to keep engaged. He does not think of his job as something to fill up his time; but as something to accomplish. He has a goal; and he is always thinking, planning and seeking the quickest and best way to attain it.

Man must often choose between the trivial and the worth while.

When a proposal is put to him by his co-workers, who wish to guide and help him, how easy it is to reply, "I haven't time." But that is not the pathway to progress.

He should rather say to himself, "Let's assume that here is opportunity. I must consider carefully what it has to offer. Maybe I'll have to re-adjust my time; perhaps, I'll have to change my methods. But I am ready for anything that will help the business." Whoever reasons and acts thus cannot go far astray in the business world.

The man who is eager to improve, does not ignore requests. When he is asked to do something that he believes to be less important than the things that already occupy his time, he will think the subject through and then prove his point.

And "I haven't time" does not prove it!

All of us have time to improve—not only at the suggestions of others, but of our own initiative.

All of us wish to improve—for therein lies the greatest pleasure of honest work.

All of us can improve—for around all about us are many things on which we may start right now.

Here is the most inspiring thought I can bring you at the beginning of a New Year. And, if we are all agreed on this, we can round out 1922 with results which will make us all rejoice.

J. Ogden Armour.

Keep the Work Going.

(Rock Hill Record).

The Record hopes the York county delegation will pay due heed to the recommendations made at the meeting here last Thursday. It is undeniably a fact that the work of the York county farm demonstration agent and the home demonstration agent is a great factor in the affairs of the farms and the farm homes, and the work should be kept going. It would be very false economy for either one of these officers to be eliminated from the county supply bill.

Progress in county affairs means taxes, of course, but we cannot have progress without paying for it; and we must have progress.

Mrs. Roosevelt

Visitors to Washington may see Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt almost any fair morning cantering along bridle paths on her white mount. The wife of the assistant secretary of the navy still uses the side-saddle.

Man of Mystery Dead at Rocky Mt.

Allen Watt Lived a Life of Isolation and Mystery

Rocky Mount, Jan. 11.—With simple services at the grave by Rev. Frances Craighill, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Allen Watt, found dead early Thursday morning in the one-room hovel at South Rocky Mount, where he had lived in solitude for a number of years, was laid to rest in Pine View cemetery yesterday afternoon.

The remains of the dead man had been in charge of a local undertaker since having been discovered by authorities Thursday morning after death had claimed its victim during the preceding night. Correspondence found in his personal effects contained many letters from the Bank of Montreal, and the funeral yesterday followed instructions from the dead man's sister, his only known surviving relative with whom communication was secured through the Montreal bank.

The remains were laid to rest in a steel vault and every precaution taken so that they might be removed in the future if relatives so desired.

The passing of Mr. Watt concludes a life of mystery and isolation here. He was a native Englishman and drifted into this city over a quarter of a century or about the time the A. C. L. shops came to Rocky Mount and the boom hit the city. During the years that he has been here he has revealed nothing of his past nor has he had any form of employment, boasting on frequent occasions, it is stated, that he had never done any work. His home at South Rocky Mount was a mere one-room hovel where he lived in misery and isolated fashion. Those who knew him and were caquainted with him, however, declare that he was keenly intelligent and highly educated and especially well versed in minerology and kindred subjects and that he had traveled over the entire world.

Correspondence found in his personal effects tells nothing of his past, being devoted almost entirely to business deals and coming from banks and brokers who have transacted propositions and business affairs for the deceased. Sufficient figures are given to indicate that the dead man was the possessor of considerable wealth. Other letters were from his sister in Montreal, Miss Edith Watt, these personal letters being written upon Bank of Montreal stationery and dealing largely with business transactions. Stocks and bonds were prominently mentioned in many of the letters, the evidence being that the deceased was a man of means and member of a prominent English family.

Instructions were received Friday night from this sister that interment be made here, that her brother be given a first class burial and a bill of all expenses be sent her. Her wishes were carried out yesterday, and without any relative present to mourn his death, Mr. Watt was interred in Pine View cemetery yesterday afternoon. Any secret or tragedy that the man's life may have contained remaining forever locked in his own breast.

POINCAIR WILL COMPLETE CABINET TODAY

Paris, Jan. 13.—The impression prevails that Raymond Poincare will complete his cabinet today and submit the names to President Millerand for approval.

Developing Dairy Industry

Expansion in Sumter county along dairy lines is gradually coming about. Many more farmers are selling cream now to the creamery than were doing so a month ago, and from the inquiries made at the Creamery it is safe to say that more will yet do so. The campaign for publicity along these lines has attracted notice not only in this county, but further off. To handle cream in quantity a separator is needed: The DeLaval Separator Company, 165 Broadway, New York, writes that they cover this territory regularly, and will be glad to cooperate in pushing the dairy movement.

The International Harvester company writes the Young Men's Business League that they have noted the movement in this county and then goes on to say:

"We maintain an Agricultural Extension Department, and we are anxious to co-operate with you in any effort to promote better farming. We are especially interested in dairying, and we find that wherever the majority of the farmers are interested in dairying, and own from three or larger herds of cows that it is always a prosperous county.

"We are sending you a copy of our new booklet entitled, The Cow, the Mother of Prosperity.

"From the many excellent testimonials which we have received with reference to this booklet we are led to believe that it is an exceptionally good one when it comes to the subject of dairying. No doubt a distribution of this booklet in your county would do considerable good. If you will give us your list of farmers who have cows, we will be glad to mail all of them who request it a copy of this booklet free of charge.

Yours very truly,

"International Harvester Co., of America.

(Signed) C. A. Donaldson,

Adv. Dept.

The booklet referred to is quite interested, and anyone wishing one should write the International Harvester Comany, Columbia, S. C.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 13.—Gov. Davis has issued a proclamation urging the people to use Ohio mined coal in an effort to alleviate suffering. Many idle miners are described as facing extreme destitution this winter.

Blue Ribbon Editorial

Text of One of the Best of the Late Henry Watterson

Since the death of Henry Watterson there have been many references to his "To Hell With the Hapsburgs and Hohenzollerns." It was printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal of April 7, 1917, and was awarded the Pulitzer prize for the best editorial of the year. It was headed "Vae Victus" (Woe to the Vanquished.) Mr. Watterson wrote as follows:

"There are times when feeling must be sent to the rear; when duty must toe the line; when the aversion brave men have for fighting must yield to the adjuration, 'Give me liberty, or give me death!' That time is now upon us.

"Unless Patrick Henry was wrong—unless Washington and the men of the Revolution were wrong, that time is upon us. It is a lie to pretend that the world is better than it was; that men are truer; wiser; that war is escapable, that peace may be had for the planning and the asking. The situation which without any act of ours rises before us is as exigent as that which rose before the Colonists in America when a mad English King, claiming to rule without accountability, asserting the right divine of kings and sent an army to enforce it. A mad German Emperor, claiming partnership with God, again elevates the standard of right divine, and bids the world to worship or die.

"From the beginning the issue was not less ours than of the countries first engaged. Each may have had ends of its own to serve. Nor were these ends precisely alike. At least France—to whom we owe all that we have to sovereignty and freedom, and Belgium, the little David of Nations—fought to resist invasion—wanton, cruel invasion; to avert slavery, savage, pitiless slavery. Yet, whatever the animating purpose—whatever the selfish interests of England and Russia and Italy—the kaiser scheme of the world conquest justified it.

"First of all on bended knee we should pray to God to forgive us. Then erect as men, Christian men, soldierly men, to the flag and the fray—wherever they lead us—over the ocean—through Flanders—across the low countries of Koln, Bonn and Koblenz—tumbling the fortress of Ehrenbrestein in to the Rhine as we pass and damming the mouth of the Mozelle with the debris of the ruin we make of it—then, on to Berlin, the Black Horse Cavalry sweeping the Wilhelmstrasse like lava down the mountainside, the Junker and the saber rattler flying before us, the tunes being 'Dixie' and 'Yankee Doodle,' the cry being 'Hail the French Republic—Hail the Republic of Russia— welcome the Commonwealth of the Vaterland—no peace with the Kaiser—no parley with Autocracy. Absolutism and that divine right of Kings—to hell with the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns."

The Owls in The Attic.

(George Ballard Bowers, in Our Dumb Animals).

A California gentleman from the city purchased a big country home that had been vacant several years. After spending a large sum for improvements, he moved in to find that the rats made his nights hideous and the gophers destroyed his lawn, garden and trees as soon as they were planted. To add to his discomfort, a half-dozen barn owls chose his house for a meeting-place. They flapped, stamped, fought and hissed on the roof, and in the attic, while the rats, in increasing numbers, scurried, squealed, and fought in his bedroom and kitchen. One night the exasperated man went out with his gun to fire at an object in the moonlight, and with a dull thud a heavy body fell on the veranda roof.

When morning came, he climbed into the attic to find an open window leading out to the veranda, where he found the big owl he had killed, but, on the floor under the rafters of the attic, another blinked her big eyes to see what danger was near. She left her nest with two white eggs to crowd into a corner. The eggs and the bird did not interest the man so much as the materials of the nest, built of bits of fur and bones of his enemy, the rat. The attic floor was strewn with bits of dried rat skins and bones. He now understood and stroked the hissing, frightened bird affectionately. That night a half-dozen owls celebrated for hours, flapping, hissing and stamping, but the disturbed sleeper only smiled. He was glad his friends were having a good time.

After another week the noise of the house ceased, not a rat or a mouse was to be seen, the only sound heard in the night was a gentle swish of wings mingled with low hisses; then noisy shrieks had gone with the squealing and scurrying rats.

Fearing that his friends had gone, he returned to the attic one evening to find the mother owl guarding two funny little balls of whitish gray cottony down, with hooked beaks and tiny talons resembling those of the big fellow he had killed, and reminding him of two tiny white monkeys huddled in a corner for warmth.

He snapped out his light to watch. Noiselessly an owl friend entered with supper for the little family. The meal was a big gopher.

The man watched an hour while owl friends brought into the attic six gophers, a rat, and seven field mice.

Now the two little owls have grown up, and the owner smiles and wishes they were a dozen. His fields, lawn and garden are free of gophers, rats, and mice.

Mexia, Texas, Jan. 13.—Martial law has resulted in the exodus of undesirables from here, according to national guard officers.

It is easy to work on the level; watch a man when he hits a hill.

To Teach China U. S. Ways

Miss Winnie Wong of Hong Kong is studying at Radcliffe College. She likes Americans and American life, but she is going back to China when she completes her education. "I hope to give all that I have seen and all that I have learned to those who have no opportunity to come to America," she says. Her father is founder of the Specie Bank of China. Her mother is a leading educator.

Miss Bleibtrey Has New Job

Ethelda Bleibtrey, called the world's greatest woman swimmer, has a new job. But she hasn't laid aside her swimming suit. She's playing ball in it—that's Ethelda batting—at Atlantic City, where she has taken charge of the Ambassador Swimming Club.

Aids Famine Stricken

Julia Ward Howe Hall, great-granddaughter of the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," is chairman of the Junior Commission for Russian Famine Relief, in New York.

SUES FORMER KAISER

Widowed Daughter-in-Law Demands Maintenance Allowance

Berlin, Jan. 7.—Princess Joachim of Prussia, widow of the former Emperor's youngest son who committed suicide in 1920, is bringing action against William Hohenzollern for a maintenance allowance, on the ground that her marriage contract, concluded in accordance with the laws of the Hohenzollerns entitles her to the means of subsistence.

The case was begun before a Berlin court Thursday. Counsel for the defense argued that these laws were no longer valid. The hearing was adjourned after a brief discussion to permit of an attempt to compromise the settlement outside the court.

Yale scientists says the moon is slowing up the speed of the earth, and here we had been placing the blame on Mr. Volstead.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"Hungary to Name County Szechenyi" said a headline the other day. Hurrah for Hungary! We've always thought that man should be named again and more simply.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Scientist says a mosquito has 22 teeth. Hope they all ache.

The funny part of it is that when congress is feuding it really thinks it is deliberating.

Arms Conference Continues

M. Sarraut Will Remain at Head of French Delegation

Washington, Jan. 13.—President Millerand has directed M. Sarraut, head of the French arms delegation, to continue in that capacity until the end of the conference.

Soviet Will Feed Professors

Moscow, Jan. 13.—Aiming to get more efficient work from professors and scientist, the Soviet placed seven thousand of them on full government rations in Moscow in hope of inspiring work calculated to lead to an improved economic situation.

Irish Released From London Jails

London, Jan. 13.—Irish political prisoners in London jails were released under King George's amnesty proclamation. Instructions were sent to provincial jails for similar releases.

A Study in Taxes

(News and Courier)

Governor Cooper's message to the Legislature gives a statement showing the aggregate tax levied in each county of South Carolina for all purposes. It can be studied with profit. The figures show a total of $18,257,021.25 of State and county taxes. The constitutional three mill and special school tax total $6,467,928.71. The tax for ordinary county purposes and for roads is $6,335,438.67. The total State tax for all purposes is $5,429,927.13.

These are the figures for 1921. They take no account of the taxes assessed against the people of South Carolina last year for Federal purposes nor do they take any account of the city taxes. Governor Cooper in his message to the Legislature yesterday stated that "On November 1 1921, there was uncollected, from taxes of 1920, practically $1,250,000." Information is not available as to what part of the 1921 State and county taxes remains unpaid. We imagine that it is considerable. The burden of Governor Cooper's message is that new methods of raising tax money must be found. We heartily agree as to that but those who will study the figures which Governor Cooper gives and along with them will study the cotton figures for 1921 will go further. They will be driven to the conclusion that the State budget of $6,466,834.53 which Govenor Cooper approves for 1922 is utterly beyond the reach of the people of South Carolina this year, no matter what new methods of taxation may be devised and agreed upon.

The two main sources from which South Carolina gets its cash money are its cotton crop and its cotton mills. Most of the cotton mills are in the Piedmont country. Most of the cotton in 1921 was made in the Piedmont country. There were eleven counties of the State which, according to the ginning figures, suffered no damage from the boll weevil in 1921; that is to say, they made practically as much cotton in 1921 as they did in 1920, several of them more. These counties were Anderson, Chester, Chesterfield, Cherokee, Dillon, Greenville, Marlboro, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and York. In these eleven counties 404,451 bales of cotton were ginned in 1921. In all the other counties of the State only 353,876 bales were ginned. The cotton crop of thirty-five counties last year had a cash value at eighteen cents a pound of $31,848,840. The State and county taxes assessed against these thirty-five counties in 1921 amounted to $11,745,095 87. That was more than a third of the value of the money crop of these counties and it leaves out of account the city taxes and the Federal taxes which the people of these counties had to pay.

The members of the Legislature have but to study the figures county by county to be convinced that no shifting of the tax burden will take care of the situation this year. There are counties in South Carolina, quite a number of them, where the State and county taxes more than double the total revenue of thec ountry i n1921 from the cotton crop. There is a long list of counties where the State and county taxes were from a third to a half the county's income from cotton. This being the case the fact should be apparent that neither the property owners nor anybody else in counties where such conditions exist can meet tax bills such as South Carolina has had the past two or three years. Those tax bills were based on the flush years of 1919 and 1920. The flush period having passed the appropriations simply must come down. With no sure money crop yet established in place of cotton the Legislature dare not this year impose taxes, State or county, totalling, as did the taxes last year, in most of the counties, over a third the value of the cotton crop.

Governor Cooper does well in his annual message to urge tax reform but more important at the present time than tax reform is tax reduction. The money is simply not available to maintain such appropriations as have been made in the past two or three years for State and county purposes. Some of the work which the State and the counties have been undertaking must be discontinued, regrettable as it will be to do this. In the case of all institutions, State and county, there should be sharp cuts and under the conditions which now exist these cuts in most instances ought not seriously to impair the usefulness and efficiency of the institutions. A dollar can be made to go a good ways now by good management.

Clarendon County Roads

Gravel to Be Put on Road to Sumter

The regular monthly meeting of the Highway Commissioners was held in Mayor Davis' office last Monday. Four of the five roads being built by the Commissioners are nearly completed, and final settlement will probably be made in February for these roads. The gravel for the Sumter road has been ordered out and the spreading of this will be started in the next few days—Manning Times.

Koritza and the Disputed Area in in Southern Albania

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12—"Any other coutry would be nonplused to awake some fine morning with two wars on its hands; but such a predicament is but an episode in Albania's history," says a bulletin of the National Geographic Society concerning the skirmishes between Albanians and Greeks in northern Epirus and the reported attack of Serbians upon Albanian towns along the River Drin.

"The country was created in 1912 to avert a World War, and when World War did come the troops of five countries occupied various sections of it. Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians were in control in the northern districts where Serbians are now making attacks, while France and Italy held the south, including the area about Koritza, which now forms the bone of contention with Greece. Durazzo, chief Albanian port, was seized by d'Annunzio.

Began Remaking Europe's Map

"Perhaps history will recognize Koritza as the scene of the first definite step toward remaking the Map of Europe. For there in December, 1916, was set up a government, generally referred to as the Republic of Koritza. While most of Albania was in Austrian hands this little republic, under French military protection, started to function as an Albanian republic, issued paper money, postage stamps, and established a national army with a fighting strength of 600.

"Before 1914 Albania was the newest country of the Old World, and it is peopled by the most ancient race of southeastern Europe. Edward Gibbon called it 'a country within sight of Italy, which is less known than the interior of America.' And more than a century after that characterization, before the war helped introduce the Balkans to America, a letter addressed 'Albania' was sent from England to the United States, and was was returned from Albany N. Y., with the notation 'Not for Albany, try Europe.'

"Few travelers visit Albania and information about the present day aspects of the country is meager."

Some First-Hand Impressions

The bulletin then quotes the first hand impressions of Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven, U. S. A., who was in Albania during the war, and wrote to the National Geographic Society as follows:

"The towns of Southern Albania are few and, though strange and picturesque in appearance, are in reality poor in comfort. Of cities there are not any. Koritza, with some 20,000 people, is the largest place, but it is far from being a city. However, if the towns are somewhat mean and squalid, they are interesting to the eye and have the charm of old-world quaintness. There are but four worth mentioning: Arjirokastro, so old, at least in appearance, that its origin falls back into the mists of time; the pleasant village of Premati, lying in a fertile valley along the river Viosa; Koritza, held by the French; and Valona, clean and thriving under the Italian army.

"They are all pleasant places to look upon, nestling among the mountains, in the valleys, and by the sea, with their old gray walls and roofs of stone dotted with storks; but they possess none of the comforts or conveniences of modern life.

Modern Conveniences Lacking

"Such matter-of-fact things as trams, hotels, or cafes do not exist in Albanian towns and would seem wholly out of place. Water is drawn from the wells as it was 4,000 years ago, or maybe from some nearby stream. Inns are represented by the khan, a stone building, half house, half stable, where caravans and pack trains stop to rest.

"Albania belongs to a time as far back as the annals of the world can reach and is as primitive as if it were in central China, almost as difficult to penetrate as Tibet itself. It is a land unfamiliar to the traveler and shunned by the tourist of today.

"If the three or four centers of population in southern Albania are a little disappointing as cities, this is not true of the country or of the picturesque villages which gather like gray splashes upon the grayer hills, where they appear to have nestled since the beginning of time. Rough stone huts they are for the most part, with flat stone roofs. For purposes of defense, they are usually situated half way up the lower hills, and the houses and out-buildings are often surrounded by strong stone walls.

"The valleys are rich and well cultivated, chiefly by the women, but present a desolate, deserted appearance, except in the day-light working hours. Not a farmhouse nor a stable is to be seen amidst all the fertile acres. The crops cannot be stolen; no bandit would think of destroying them, and so they are left unguarded."

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 13.—Four are known to have been killed in a cavein of a mine at South Scranton, which affected the surface area of five blocks.

Genoa Conference To Be Held

Cabinet Crisis in France Will Not Affect Agreements at Cannes

Cannes, Jan. 13.—The supreme council after examining situation created by the departure of the French premier ruled that the decisions on which complete agreements had been reached should become operative, especially the Genoa conference.

Ford and Weeks Meet this Afternoon

Washington, Jan. 13.—Henry Ford will confer late today with Secretary Weeks over his offer for the government's nitrate and water power projects at Muscle Shoals Alabama.

Mr. Ford said he was confident he would reach an agreement with Secretary Weeks.

AMERICAN POISONS WIFE IN PARIS

Paris, Jan. 13.—Thomas Stewart Ryan has been arrested charged with forcing his wife, Mrs. Audrey Creighton Ryan, the California violinist, to take poison tablets. The woman is reported to be dying. Ryan later stabbed himself, but not seriously. Ryan denied the charges.

Building Permits.

The following building permits have been issued in the city of Sumter since December 1, 1921 by Building and Fire Inspector, J. D. Chandler:

Repairing top to store on Oakland Avenue, W. D. Carnes, $30.

Recovering a two-room house on Walsh Grove, A. B. Buckner, $75.

Building three houses on Williams Street, $450 each, Miss Pauline G. Mecham.

Repairing of office on N. Main Street, Mrs F. K. Holland, $25.

Construction of one room to house on Calhoun Street, E. Murr Hall, $100.

Construction of house on S. Main Street, B. Walsh, $250.

Construction of shed on Harvin Street, N. W. R. R. of S. C., $130.

Repairing six room house, Joe White, $150.

Building house on Magnolia St., P. B. Leonard, $400.

Construction of automobile garage, H. L. Tisdale, $30.

Repairing office on Washington Street, Dr. E. R. Wilson, $75.

Recovering house on Hampton Avenue, E. R. Wilder, $125.

Recovering four room house on Oakland Avenue, R. H. Roberts, $92.

Constructing five room house on Purdy Street, Sam Sumter, $1,000.

Building gasoline filling station, Eastern Carolina Motor Co., $125.

Construction of two room house on Manning Avenue, Mattie Winn, $100.

Repairing of store on W. Liberty Street, C. G. Rowland, $225.

Construction of room to house on Northwestern Ave., A. Wright, $60.

Erection of colored church on W. Liberty St., $700.

Repairing house on W. Liberty street, T. S. Drayton, $1,000.

Repairing of five room house on Blanding Street, W. A. Walling, $360.

Building house on E. Liberty St., J. J. Brennon, $6,000.

Building two stores on Main street, McCallum Realty Co., each $4,000.

London, Jan. 13.—Georges Carpentier may ask for another fight with Jack Dempsey after meeting Ted Lewis, the Evening Standard was informed by Francois Des-Camps, Carpentier's manager.

Straight of Line

The vogue for the wrap built on cape line continues. This Bandler wrap a lighter model of duvetyne and moleskin is straight of line and distinctive in that it drops from the shoulders without the flare which usually accompanies such garments.