

THE GREAT CO-OPERATORS.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS.

By EVERET B. TERHUNE.
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If you have a pound sterling and I have a pound sterling and we exchange one with another, we find that the result is that you have a pound and I have a pound.

But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange them, you have two ideas and I have two ideas.

Accepting this as a fact it is very easy to see that nations as well as man can exchange ideas and benefit mutually thereby. Ideas are a commodity, and like any other commodity are valued according to the service rendered.

A year ago, shortly after the armistice, it was my privilege to conduct a party of representative American manufacturers to Great Britain, with the view of meeting British manufacturers and, as we say in the States, "comparing notes" with them.

At first our coming was regarded with apprehension by some of the more conservative members of the industry, but as soon as the true purpose of our visit and the sincerity of our motive were known we were received as friends.

We tried to be very frank at that time by explaining that there was a world shortage of leather and materials, and that as far as the States were concerned, American factories could not produce goods sufficient to meet the home demand. We came to study economic and industrial conditions, and to be helpful if it were within our power.

INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS.

As a result of the interesting conferences then held, a return visitation was made to the States this past autumn by a delegation of British manufacturers. It was then my pleasure and privilege to direct them on their tour of the industrial centres. The one thing that made the most forceful and favourable impression upon them was the "conference contact."

They found that there was no impregnable barrier between competitive factories, competitive salesmen or competitive merchants. Manufacturers producing the same grade of goods and competing strongly one with the other, were found to be on the closest possible terms when it came to a question of factory efficiency, methods of production, costing and the like.

EXTEND IT INTERNATIONALLY.

If such "conference contact" has been found advantageous in a country where production efficiency has been developed to a very high point, it is my contention that this same spirit of confidence and co-operation may "go to the States" and be developed advantageously in any other place where manufacturing industries thrive.

America would welcome delegations from any of the British industries and I am quite sure that your business men in freely imparting to their brothers across the sea any information which might be to their advantage.

The world's business from now on must be an open book and the imparting of information must not stop with the manufacturer or the merchant, but must even extend to the consumer himself.

WORLD PROBLEM.

It is true that many of the more progressive manufacturers of America are desirous of extending their trade into the markets of the world, but with domestic consumption on the increase and at such a high per capita basis, and with factory production so held back by shortened labour hours, an appreciable amount of shoes have been exported up to the present time.

This is not a good sign in any sense of the word if one is to consider each productive nation's possibilities.

As a helpful link in the chain of industrial service the American manufacturer desires a plan.

Can you not see that the shortage of shoes the world over is significant and a real social problem. Only one person in six the world over possesses boots and shoes of a character suitable to their needs. Millions of men have learnt in European warfare the utility of the modern machine-made shoe—they are not going to be satisfied to go back to the saddle and the barefoot.

Their desires are communicated to others. The result is a demand for shoes and more shoes. All the capacity of Britain and of the United States is not going to satisfy the demand in many years. It is, therefore, the hour to co-operate—to make efficient the service of shoe-making to our own public as well as to the shoe wearing world at large.

Every corner of the globe must be secured to get raw hides and skins, tanning materials and the hundred and one necessities for shoe manufacture.

The shoe is by far the most complicated article of manufacture evolved for export—America it takes 170 operations and over 210 machines to create the modern shoe. Certainly the assembling of the best ideas of "shoe men" in Britain and in the United States will be an advantage to all.

Not only in shoes but in every other line of industry is such interchange possible, and what is more, welcome to Americans.

Think it over in conservative Britain. There is a great deal of service between us, and it is a solution of not only exchange but of some rather pertinent social problems.

FOOTBALL.

BRYNMAWR SILVER BAND CUP.

Great interest was taken in the semi-final of the Band Association cup competition, which was played at Gilwern on Wednesday, the teams being the recently formed Brynmawr Wednesdays and Clydach. Several well-laden trains containing supporters of the respective teams were in attendance, and played selections before the match to one of the largest crowds seen on the Gilwern ground. A decision of the organisers that the semi-final and final should be played on neutral ground resulted in the match being played at Gilwern, and it should be mentioned that though Brynmawr had never previously played on the Gilwern ground, Clydach, who are near neighbours, have enjoyed this privilege on many occasions. The teams lined up as follows:—

Brynmawr:—P. C. Evans; W. Price, Morris; Street, Powell, Fisher; D. Morgan, Edwards; T. Watkins, W. Watkins, B. Richards.

Clydach:—Jones; Francis, Reg James; T. Francis, T. Williams, E. Williams; R. Reynolds, T. Evans, E. Williams, W. Williams, Morgan. Referee, Mr. W. Gunter, Ebbw Vale.

Brynmawr started with the wind in their favour. They at once became aggressive, and forced a corner. Clydach forced play to the Brynmawr goal, where the defending side were penalised ten yards out, but Reynolds sent the ball over the bar. Brynmawr again took the play to the opposite goal, and forcing three corners had hard lines in not scoring. The Clydach play improved, and Reynolds scored an easy goal, this being followed by a splendid goal by Williams. Half-time: Clydach 2, Brynmawr 0.

The second half opened with a rush by Brynmawr, which was not sustained, and tame play took place in midfield for some time. From a melee in front of goal Evans headed into the net for Clydach, and after some further play Evans added two further goals. A dispute arose between the linesman and the referee, and the crowd being unruly, the field, the game was abandoned about seven minutes before time.

Clydach were certainly the better side and deserved to win. Final score:—Clydach 5, Brynmawr nil.

ABERTILLERY COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY.—Before His Honour, Judge Hill-Kelly.

AN APPLICATION.

Among the applications was one made by Mr. W. A. Jones (Messrs. Powell, Hughes and Jones, Ebbw Vale) on behalf of the parents of William Ross, for the apportionment of the sum of £150 paid into court, awarded in January last on the ground of the parents' partial dependency. Mr. Jones stated that at the time of the hearing no opportunity was afforded of making the application. Both parents were very old.

Sarah Ross, 27, Waon Ebbw, Nantglo, mother of the deceased, said she was 74 years of age, and that her son William was killed on February 18th, 1919. Deceased was the only child, and was at that time living with her, his age being 50. Her husband, Thomas Ross, was unable to work, and had received £110 in settlement of a compensation claim. He was unable to follow any employment. Witness stated that her two brothers who lived with her paid her £1 per week each for board and lodging. She paid £1 a month in rent, and paid a girl £1 per week for assistance in the house. She received an old-age pension of 10s. per week. She produced two unpaid accounts—about £37 for funeral expenses, and about £12 for groceries.

Mr. Jones asked for an apportionment of 25s. per week, but His Honour pointed out that with the £50 odd paid the amount remaining would last little more than two years at that rate. He ordered £1 per week to be paid out, together with the sums mentioned which were owing.

HOW TO SOFTEN CORNS AND CALLOUSES.

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TOPLIS AT BLAINA.

A CURIOUS STORY.

It is stated that Percy Toplis, the alleged Andover murderer, and perpetrator of the Thornbury and Tarrant motor outrages, has been seen in Blaina. The story goes that Toplis, in answer to the description of Toplis, in spite of the fact that his face was plentifully besmeared with mud—entered Salem Baptist Chapel on Monday evening, during the progress of a prayer meeting, and took a seat in a new, high-backed chair. The stranger is said to have attracted some amount of attention, and to have been in a "perturbed and apprehensive condition." If this was Toplis it is quite within the bounds of possibility that he was somewhat nervous and agitated owing to the unwelcome attention he had from the other worshippers, though it hardly squares with accounts which have appeared of the coolness and sang-froid which he had displayed in his earlier exploits. However, the suggestion that the stranger who, when recommended to go to the police to obtain a night's lodging, "appeared very agitated and answered with an emphatic 'No'" was Toplis, the cool and calculated criminal who has evaded the police for so long, should be accepted with all reserve.

The stranger is said to have been wearing a dark muffler, a cap, and a tweed coat, and to have kept his head lowered during the service. He is stated to have had a very grimy face, on which the dirt was obviously faked as to invite suspicion. After the service a collection was made on his behalf—Toplis having informed a deacon that he was destitute, and had walked from London—and seven shillings were handed to him, for which he did not appear to be particularly grateful. It is alleged that during the service the stranger did not join in the singing, and that the remainder of the congregation were disappointed in his apparent lack of spiritual fervour, but it is to be hoped that this was not the chief reason why one member of the congregation informed a Presbyter that he was convinced the stranger was, if not Toplis himself, at least a criminal! Possibly this ardent worshipper was interpreting somewhat too literally Shakespeare's dictum with reference to "the man that hath no music in his soul." Be that as it may, no attempt was made to detain him, and after his refusal to accept the recommendation to seek a night's lodging at the police station, he is stated to have announced his intention of continuing his travels in the direction of Brynmawr.

Apparently, only after the departure of the stranger did suspicion develop into certainty in the minds of one or two members of the congregation that the nervous, agitated, and unkempt visitor was none other than the notorious Toplis.

ABERGAVENNY ATTRACTIONS.

Visitors to Abergavenny at White-tide will find plenty of amusement on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There is to be a fete in the Castle Grounds, with variety performances, a West End concert party, and a band for dancing every day. On Tuesday, in addition, there will be athletic sports and a mounted gymkhana in Bailey Park. Each day there will be competitions for dancing, and other interesting contests.

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A WATCHMAKER'S EPITAPH.

A curious epitaph is inscribed on a stone in the churchyard of Liddford, Devon, a most romantic village. Here lies, in horizontal position, the outside case of George Routledge, watchmaker. Integrity was the main-spring and prudence the regulator of the actions of his life. Humane, generous, and liberal, his hand never stopped till he had relieved distress. So nicely regulated were all his notions that he never went wrong, except when set going by people who did not know his key. Even had he been easily set right again. He had the art of disposing his time so well that his hours glided by in one continual round of pleasure and delight. In an unlucky minute put a period to his existence. He departed this life November 4th, 1802, aged 57 years, wound up in hopes of being taken in hand by his Maker, and of being thoroughly cleaned, repaired, and set going in the world to come.



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