

## WORKMEN INVESTING IN WORK

### MORE PROPERTY OWNERS

#### How Everyone Can Become His Own Capitalist

#### TREND OF A GOOD MOVEMENT

Attention has of late been directed to the increasing number of persons in Britain who are "saving up."

It is perfectly true that there are more saving persons among us now than ever before. This is especially due to two things. The first was the issue during the War of War Savings Certificates, now known as National Savings Certificates. The amount of these held, mainly by people of small means, is about £370,000,000.

#### Work of Building Societies

The second great influence has been the widening operations of Building Societies, which enable a poor man to buy his home on the instalment system.

He puts down a small proportion of the price of the house, and pays off the balance with interest by equal monthly instalments. Thus, by paying a little more than the ordinary rent, he acquires his home.

At the present time hundreds of thousands of people are doing this, and probably over a million people in our country now either own their houses or are buying them through building societies.

#### American Trade Union Idea

It cannot, however, yet be said that there are enough savers among us, and it is the duty of everyone to make provision for the future. In America the Trade Unions, dissatisfied with ordinary methods, have in some cases set up banks and begun to operate as capitalists.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers set up a bank in 1920, and their resources have now grown to about 30 million dollars. In another case a mining property is worked by a Trade Union. The movement seems to be spreading and developing.

Life assurance in America is much more popular than here. The working men there are not content to take out such very small death money policies as seem to content the thrifty on this side of the Atlantic.

#### Shares in Companies

Even more important is the practice on the part of many of the great American Joint Stock Companies of issuing shares to their workpeople, payable on the instalment system.

For example, there is the great United States Steel Corporation, which owns the greater part of the iron and steel industry of America, and is much bigger than the whole of the British iron and steel works put together.

About a million shares of this Corporation are now owned by its workpeople. From 100,000 to 200,000 shares a year are taken up by employees.

Here, surely, is matter for the serious consideration of our own people. The wider ownership of property in Britain would not only make for industrial confidence and happiness, but would secure the State against the ill-will of those who urge the workers to make war upon the property without which their work could not be carried on.

#### THREE SOURCES OF WATER POWER

An American engineer has just completed a survey of the three largest waterfalls available for power: the Zambesi in Rhodesia, the Santa Maria in Southern Brazil, and the Parana Falls in Paraguay. He reports that Niagara easily heads the list for usable power, with Parana second.

## A FAMOUS BOOK AND ITS STORY

### The Bible of the Moslem World

#### HISTORY LIKE A FABLE

A learned man in Manchester has just published new readings of a book which, next to our Bible, has played a greater part in the affairs of the world than any other volume that ever existed.

It is the Koran, the Bible of the Mohammedan races of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and it is their whole body of law. They obey its tenets much more fervently than many Christians obey their Bible.

The Koran's history reads like a fable. Mohammed delivered it in sections during some twenty years, declaring that it was the Word of God brought down to him by Gabriel. Some of it was written by Mohammed's scribes, at his dictation, on palm leaves, some on skins, some on the blade bones of sheep, and much was left unwritten but preserved in the memory of men.

#### Noblest of Arabic

When Mohammed died, in June 632, all the written parts were left jumbled together in a great chest, and the men who bore the unwritten remainder in their memories were being killed, one by one, in the constant wars. So a great session of writing was ordered in order that the Koran might be fixed for ever.

It was all written out, without order or date, in chapters of unequal length and in unequal verses, but in the noblest of Arabic, as fine a work in that language as the Bible is in English.

Observance of the Koran created a mighty people. In the course of a century they conquered an empire greater than Rome's. When barbarism crushed other civilisations theirs survived; when all other learning died, and a long night of ignorance brooded over the Earth, these sons of the desert kept one great fire of knowledge kindled.

#### Sale's Great Version

They became the mightiest race on Earth. They were the schoolmasters of the Old World. Not until they had been overthrown in Spain, where they had been masters for seven centuries, could Columbus sail to find America.

George Sale's version of the Koran is, on the whole, unchallengeable outside Islam, but there is only one version for the Mohammedans themselves. That is the version made after Mohammed's death, written in the Arabic of the Koreish tribe, and committed to the keeping of one of the wives of the Prophet.

From that version Sale gives us his English version, a volume rich in beautiful and noble thoughts, and immensely impressive.

## FREEZING A FIRE A New Device

A new kind of fire extinguisher has been invented for use in petrol storehouses, oil tankers, and other structures containing inflammable substances.

When directed on a blaze these devices actually freeze the flames to death. A very cold and dense carbon dioxide gas is released so that all oxygen is blocked, and the fire, with no oxygen to feed on, immediately dies out no matter how combustible the material burning may be.

Tests have proved this extinguisher to be very efficient, and even burning oil can be put out by its use.

## C.N. QUESTION BOX

All questions must be asked on postcards: one question on each card, with name and address. The Editor regrets that it is not possible to answer all the questions sent in.

#### What is the Average Length of a Full-Sized Conger Eel?

Between six and seven feet and the girth is about two feet.

#### Who Was the God Eros?

Eros is the Greek name of the God of Love called by the Romans Amor or Cupido, and by us Cupid.

#### What is the Simile Used for Clever in the Saying, As Clever As—?

Kipling says As Clever as Sin and another writer uses the expression As Clever as Paint.

#### Are Panama Hats Made in Luton?

The straw is plaited in America and imported made up, but at Luton the shapes are bleached, blocked, and finished for sale.

#### How is the Water-mark in Paper Made?

It is made by pressure of a projecting design on the roll in the mould, so making the paper thinner where it comes in contact with the design.

#### Why are Blood Oranges Red?

Blood oranges are a special variety, and are believed to have been obtained originally by grafting the ordinary sweet orange on to the stem of the pomegranate.

#### Was Daniel Defoe an Englishman?

Yes; his name was originally Foe, and he changed it about 1703 to De Foe for some unknown reason. His grandfather was a well-to-do farmer in Northamptonshire and his father a London butcher.

#### What are the Meanings of Bow, Stroke, and Cox in a Boat Race?

Bow is the rower nearest the bow or fore-end of the boat; stroke is the oarsman nearest the stern; and cox, which is short for coxswain, is the helmsman or man in charge of the rudder.

#### Are the Plover and the Peewit the Same Bird?

The lapwing, or peewit, known to science as *Vanellus vulgaris*, is sometimes called the plover or the green plover, but the bird generally known by the name plover is the golden plover, known to science as *Charadrius pluvialis*.

#### On What Do Mosquitoes Live?

The females of many species feed on the blood of mammals which they suck through a proboscis. The males, however, do not feed in this way, and it has been suggested that, failing to obtain blood, mosquitoes support themselves on the juice of plants. The facts are not known for certain.

#### What is the Origin of the Phrase To Kick the Bucket?

Dr. Brewer says a bucket is a pulley, and in Norfolk a beam. When pigs are killed they are hung by their hind legs on a bucket or beam, with their heads downward, and oxen are hauled up by a pulley. To kick the bucket is to be hung on the beam or bucket by the heels.

#### Who was Omar Khayyam?

He was an astronomer-poet of Persia, born at Nishapur about 1071. He died there in 1123. He reformed the Moslem calendar and wrote mathematical treatises, but he is best known today by his Rubaiyat, or quatrains, of which Edward FitzGerald translated 75. The translation is far finer than the original.

#### What are the Proportions of White, Black, and Yellow Races?

The population of the world by race is estimated as follows: Aryan, or white, 812,000,000; Mongolian, or yellow, 645,000,000; Semitic, 75,000,000; Negro and Bantu, or black, 139,000,000; Malay and Polynesian, or brown, 40,000,000; American Indian, or red and half-breeds, 28,000,000.

#### Is it Colder or Warmer After Snow Has Fallen?

Dr. J. G. M'Pherson, Lecturer in Meteorology in the University of St. Andrews, in his Meteorology says the small absorbing power of snow for heat reflected and radiated from the sky during the day has an important effect on the temperature of the air. The temperature of lands when covered with snow must be lower than when free from it.

#### How are Lakes Formed?

Lakes have been formed in various ways, such as the underground movements of the Earth's crust causing the ground to settle and form a depression into which rivers drain; 2. The deposition of clay and gravel by glaciers forming mounds and ridges enclosing hollows which have become filled with water; 3. The accumulation of barriers across river valleys holding up the water; 4. The erosion of the earth wearing away a hollow for water to accumulate in.

## THE NEW COMET

### HOW TO SEE IT

#### Ball of Misty Light in the Northern Sky

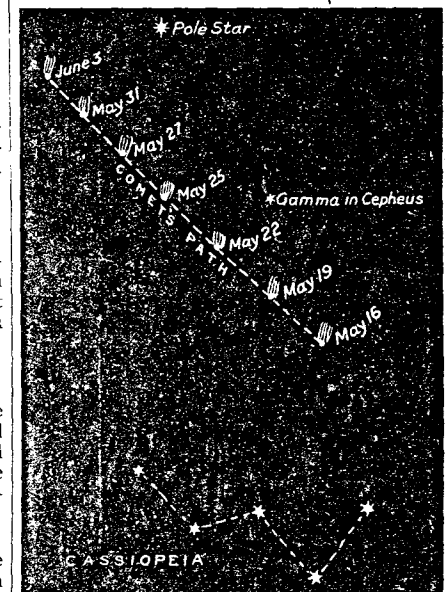
#### VANISHING INTO SPACE

By Our Astronomical Correspondent

The striking constellation of Cassiopeia has an added glory just now, for the Orkisz Comet 1925c is on its borders, and will soon be observable between Cassiopeia and the Pole Star.

Our star map shows, on a very small scale, the comet's path through this portion of the sky during the next two weeks. Unfortunately, the comet is not visible to the naked eye; but the next fortnight, in the absence of moonlight, will provide a good opportunity for seeing it, with the aid of good glasses.

It will appear like a ball of misty light somewhat brighter in the middle,



Where to find Orkisz's Comet

and not at all like the popular conception of a comet as a star with a long hairy tail.

The five brightest stars of Cassiopeia, forming the well known W, will be easily identified low down above the northern horizon between 9 and 10 p.m. Above them and almost exactly between them and overhead, will be seen the second-magnitude Pole Star, or Polaris. It is the brightest luminary in that part of the sky.

With the aid of these stellar guides the comet's path may be readily and exactly identified. It is well worth seeking, and should be looked for on a dark, clear night, and in places free from much artificial light.

About the end of next week the comet will be only a little to the left of the third-magnitude star Gamma in Cepheus, and about eight or nine times the Moon's apparent width away; while it will be about fifteen times our satellite's width to the left of the Pole Star at the beginning of June.

#### Last Glimpse of a Comet

This comet, discovered this year by Orkisz in Poland, on April 4, is now about 145 million miles away; but when at its nearest, a fortnight ago, it was 135 million miles distant. It is rapidly receding from the Earth and the Sun, and so is getting fainter.

It will, however, be interesting to watch its progress night after night, as it gradually mounts higher in the sky towards overhead, until the last glimpse is obtained before it vanishes into the dark depths beyond.

Reid's Comet 1925b is now adorning the skies of the southern hemisphere, and is below our horizon; while Schain's Comet 1925a, now to the south of the constellation of Leo, is still too faint for field glasses to reveal. G. F. M.

**Other Worlds.** In the morning Jupiter south before dawn. Mercury east. In the evening Mars west, Saturn south-east.