

ORIENT TAKES ITS TIME BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE JOB WILL BE ANY BETTER

(By Reginald Sweetland)
Efficiency is measured in units of time spent upon any particular place of work. Speed. Economists probably have a different phrasing for this, but for practical purposes this seems to be a sound way to describe matters in Chicago. Shades of Asia—that is something that hasn't premeated very far in the lands across the Pacific.

Take even so simple a matter as having a pair of shoes soled, heeled and polished. Here you can walk into a store, take a comfortable seat in a little cubby hole, read the paper that is handed to you by an obliging attendant, and within fifteen or twenty minutes you are on your way again.

If in the meantime, while waiting you wish to have your suit pressed, all the conveniences are yours and you can have it done while waiting for the shoes. The name of a chiropodist is tacked onto the wall and if you want to step next door or into the next room, why, this can be done also.

Measured in units of speed, this is something we of the orient know nothing about. In Japan, which boasts a certain modernity, you hand the shoes to your servant woman, who in turn takes them to the nearest cobbler. You will get them back in five days, or if you must press matters perhaps as a concession you will be accommodated in three days. What is happening in the intervening time nobody seems to know, and nobody seems to think it worth while questioning.

Matters Must Take Time

In Asia matters must just simply be allowed to take their time to reach the full fruition ordained by nature. You cannot hurry the far east. Those who have tried have generally ended up in some wayside mental ward picking

ing the flowers off the wallpaper.

In China if you want your shoes fixed you can generally get the job done in a fairly reasonable time—say a day or two days. The job isn't any better merely because it takes longer or because it is done by hand. If you want to be very plebeian you may stand on the street until the cobbler with his tools and his sheet of leather happens along. Then you take off one shoe and stand on one foot leaning against some friendly wall while the cobbler piles his craft. Naturally a small audience will gather, some will even sit on the sidewalk to watch while offering friendly advice to the cobbler on how best to do the job. The price will be the equivalent of ten or fifteen cents. Chinese leather is not as well processed as American and naturally you cannot expect too much.

While high-grade shoes are to be had in the stores, the high rate of exchange makes their prices somewhat forbidding for the ordinary purse. Chinese will make a pair of shoes for you for the equivalent of about 2, whereas a Japanese will charge you a little more. On the two, the Japanese shoes made in China or a certain modernity, you hand the shoes to your servant woman, who in turn takes them to the nearest cobbler. You will get them back in five days, or if you must press matters perhaps as a concession you will be accommodated in three days. What is happening in the intervening time nobody seems to know, and nobody seems to think it worth while questioning.

Russians Make Best Shoes

Some of the best shoemakers in Asia are Russians who fled their country at the time of the Revolution. One of the best of these has a small shop in Tientsin, North China, and supplies most of the officers of the United States 15th infantry with their riding and skating boots.

In making boots to withstand extra severe winters, this Russian lines them inside with a coating of camel hair between two layers of pliable

leather. In the sole under the surface leather he places a layer of asbestos about one-eighth of an inch thick. This serves as insulation against both cold and damp. He will make a pair of such boots for you for the equivalent of \$4 and they will come half way up to your knee. He is a small man, of gloomy face and few words. If he doesn't like your approach, or if you demand what he considers too much speed, he is as likely as not to refused to do the work for you.

His wife, a forbidding looking person, spends most of her time at the cash register. This may explain the temperamental nature of the shoemaker. By his own story he used to make cavalry boots for the officers of the Russian imperial army. This is probably the one story told by a Russian refugee that you can believe. He is quite out of fashion. What he should have said is that he was an officer in that army.

"Go Native" For Comfort

More and more Japanese businessmen are coming to wear western style footwear, but at night, when they reach home, they generally take the irksome things off and paddle around the house in stockinged feet. The great majority of Japanese wear wooden geta—a small piece of wood with two wooden strips underneath. When the roads are a slough of mud, these two under strips of wood may be all of four or five inches high. The clatter of geta on the streets is one of the most noticeable noises of any town or village.

Chinese shoes are usually made of cloth, with a very thin leather strip as the sole. They fit the feet snugly and are not taken off in the house. A Japanese would no more think of entering your house with his shoes on than you would enter a church with your hat on. Slippers, sometimes made of cloth, are generally left at the entrance so that all who enter may change their footwear. While the inside of a Japanese house may be—and most always is—spotlessly clean, the surrounding roads may be—and generally are—most filthy.

It is doubtful if you will find in all of China a single shoe-shine stand. If there are by chance any, you can count them on the fingers of one hand. Chinese servants clean and polish your shoes for you. This is equally true in Japan, though in Tokio there are a number of men and boys wandering around with shoe-shining equipment. It is not a profitable business. Servants do all the necessary work. And while Americans get a daily shoe shine, or a dozen if they wish, there is yet to be found the white man who at any time in China or Japan has ever shined his own shoes.

Popular Singer Famed For Records

NEW YORK, April 8—That clear warm contralto voice you hear in Frank Black's 90-voice symphony on The Pause That Refreshes on the Air broadcasts over an NBC-WEAF network each Friday at 10.30 p.m. AST, belongs to Elsie Baker—one of the greatest recording artists of all time.

Miss Baker, long one of America's most famous contraltos, established a still unequalled record during her 16 years with the makers of RCA Victor phonograph records. She made 174 recordings, more than any other woman singing for them. Wherever a phonograph is to be found in an American home there, too, will necessarily be found one of Elsie Baker's records.

Frank Black, in selecting the voices to make up his 25-voiced choir, picked only those singers whose reputation had already been established through concert work or radio. Miss Baker, whose recordings had already had a prominent place in the noted director's music library, was one of the first artists to be signed for the program.

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SERVICES IN THE CHURCHES ON SUNDAY

With warmer temperature and the roads in more passible condition, large numbers of the citizens attended church on Sunday.

At Brunswick Street Baptist church the morning service was broadcast over Station CFNB and the subject of the minister, Rev. G. W. Gulou was "Renewal of Fellowship." A pre-Easter communion service was conducted at 12.10 o'clock. In the evening the sermon subject was "The Suffering and Triumphant Christ," and it was the first in a series of special Easter services.

"Man's Responsibility as Lord of Creation" was the title of the address given by Rev. Dr. G. E. Ross at the morning service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church. This was a special message on the occasion of the annual service for the society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and is a prelude to Humane Week which commenced on Sunday. In the evening the pastor spoke on the eighth of his series on Practical Christianity, "The Field of Athletics." The monthly service for young people was held in the church hall at the conclusion of the regular service.

The usual services were held at Christchurch Parish church, it being the fifth Sunday in Lent. Holy communion was served in the morning at 8 o'clock. In the afternoon at 3.45 o'clock there was confirmation class. At St. Paul's United Church in the evening Rev. A. V. Morash was the special speaker, his subject being "Going Forward." His sermon was highly interesting. The morning sermon, preached by the pastor, Rev. George Telford was "The Renewal of Christian Fellowship."

At the evening service of Wilmot United church, Rev. J. W. Bartlett, the pastor preached a special sermon to the young people, the sermon being entitled "And So They Were Married," the sermon dealing with religion and romantic love. A large congregation attended to hear Rev. Mr. Bartlett's instructive sermon. At the morning service the minister spoke on "The Renewal of Christian Fellowship." Rev. Dr. Wightman spoke on the Evolution of Our Hymn Book at the men's Brotherhood meeting in the afternoon.

At the Devon Baptist church Rev. David L. Kennedy, B.Th. preached morning and evening. In the morning his subject was "Renewal of Christian Fellowship." The subject at the evening service was "Equipment for Defense."

At Gibson Memorial United Church in South Devon, the service for the day was an elaborate one. The minister, Rev. W. A. Burge spoke at all services. The evening service at 7.00 p.m., took the form of a service of praise. Prof. Robert Pugh, assistant organist of the Christchurch Cathedral, together with the local organist and choir, were present. The program was as follows:

1. Service Prelude: "Come Down, O Love Divine," Vaughan-Williams. Opening Hymn: (Tune: Darwall).
2. Trumpet Tune and Air, Hy. Purcell.
3. Larghetto from Clarinet Concerto—Mozart.
4. Air: "Rock of Ages" (From "Christ and His Soldiers")—John Farmer.
5. Allegro from Second Organ Concerto—Handel.
6. Chorale Prelude on the "Old 104th."—C. H. H. Parry.
7. Second Part.—Prayer, Scripture reading, theme by minister, "And they Sang a Hymn." Selections by choir.

Embarrassing moments of NBC artists: Conrad Thibault, when, at the conclusion of a cigarette program, he offered the sponsor a cigarette from his case containing a rival brand! . . . Louise Starkey, the Clara of Clara, Lu 'n' Em, when the buckle on her bridal gown broke just before the ceremony and she had to substitute a large hair-pin as a belt-fastener . . . Helen King, Em of the trio, who prides herself on her skill as a driver, when the car, in which the three girls were speeding to a broadcast, skidded and wrapped itself around a telephone pole. A police car finally landed them at the studio.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS REACH RECORD FIGURE

LONDON, April 6—More pennies and shillings than ever are being put into Post Office Savings Banks in Britain.

The Head Office has announced that deposits of small savers have reached the record figure of £355,000,000. They increased by £28,000,000 during last year alone. Over the last two years they have increased by £50,000,000.

These large sums are made up entirely of the occasional spare coins of villagers and townsmen in Britain. One of the methods of saving is to buy special stamps and stick them in a savings book. When a certain number have been collected the book is given to the local post office and the amount represented is credited to the saver's account.

Last year 250,000 "home safes" were issued. These are special post office home money boxes which can be taken to the local post office when the owner desires and the amount of them credited to his account.

The Post Office Savings Bank now has more than 9,500,000 depositors. And that number is increasing by 12 per cent each year.

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