

Boppard, in the Rhineland. He came from one of the most distinguished German literary families. He studied for the priesthood, broke with the church and while teaching at the University of Würzburg, was torn with doubt and unrest. On breaking with the church, he resigned his professorship. He accepted a professorship in the University of Vienna in 1874, but his enemies caused his demotion. Later in

life, blind and in ill-health, he settled in Italy and Switzerland, dying in 1917. His most famous book was *Psychology from the Empirical Standpoint*. Brentano was one of the mainstays of the Austrian school of the philosophy of values. His brother-in-law, Theodore Funck-Brentano, is a famous contemporary Parisian professor and writer.

is the stuff of which our literature, our songs and our art must be made if they are to be our own. And Mr Botkin is performing a rare service in giving it permanent form.

KENNETH C. KAUFMAN

Stabilization: a legal view

Stabilization of the Oil Industry and Due Process of Law. By Maurice H. Merrill, 3 Southern California Law Review, 396-410, June, 1930.

The stabilization of the oil industry involves three sciences, law, engineering and economics. At the present time the limiting factors in achieving this goal lie in the field of law and economics. Professor Merrill, '19 arts-sc., '22 law, has in this article pointed out the legal obstacles. Proration, temporary complete suspension, and compulsory unit operation are the devices used by the industry for bringing stabilization about.

Professor Merrill summarizes his paper as follows:

Protection of the respective interests of producers from a common pool, the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources against waste and the devotion of such resources to socially preferred uses, at least within reasonable limits, all have been recognized as legitimate ends justifying state control of the activities of those exploiting mineral resources such as oil and gas. No case, as yet, squarely decided that maintenance of a sound economic structure in the oil industry represents such a socially justifiable end of governmental activity; but decisions upholding the validity of measures designed to promote economic well-being in other fields indicate that it should be regarded as legitimate, especially in view of the fact that stabilization of the oil industry does involve an element of conservation as well. Granting the legitimacy of the end, two of the means proposed, the two that have been put in actual practice to date, namely, proration and temporary curtailment of operations, seem clearly consistent with due process. The third, compulsory unitization of oil fields, presents more difficulties, and it seems very doubtful whether it can constitutionally be imposed upon non-assenting landowners and operators without compensation. Possibly the small chance of loss as compared with the almost inevitable gain to be realized by the operators would make compulsory participation in such a program good as against them, but the constitutional claim of the landowner to compensation seems almost unassailable.

This paper is a very scholarly presentation of the question from the legal angle and is a distinct contribution to the literature on the subject. It should be read by all students of the problem.

LEONARD M. LOGAN

Gas industry trends

Tremendous improvements are being made in the natural gas industry, making for cheaper production, less hazards in production and distribution, Wright L.

Belles lettres and bell ringers

THE STORY OF LITERATURE

Folk-Say: A Regional Miscellany. Edited by B. A. Botkin. Norman. University of Oklahoma Press, \$5.00.

The slender proportions of Mr Botkin's first venture in the collecting and editing of folk material, the 1929 issue of *Folk-Say* have nearly doubled in the present number; new names, names of writers and gleaners of national importance have been added to its list of contributors; in format, binding and illustrations it has become as handsome a volume as one could wish to see grace the shelves of a library; but the general plan, the ideal behind the work is the same. For *Folk-Say* is not a collection of folklore but a collection of folk material, necessarily including what they have to say about themselves.

The definition of folklore is a nebulous one among the experts; even the question of whether there is such a thing as an American folk is a debated one; some hold that whatever groups of American people there are have been so influenced by cultural contacts and the encroachments of a machine age that there is no natural culture among us. By a wise foresight Mr Botkin has avoided becoming embroiled in any such battle. His thesis is that any culture developed by any group of people, however affected by extraneous influences, is folk material, that any literature or lore they may invent is "folk say," is a popular creation and therefore worth preserving. In so many words the picturesque oaths invented to cuss a balky flivver are as much a folk creation as those used to anathematize a cantankerous mule. Hereby his field becomes unlimited; and in so far as the material, be it the product of an untutored child of nature or an interpretation of the same by a literary artist, is of

any value and interest at all, it is of an extremely great value and interest.

Nor is the publication of a merely local interest; the subtitle is A Regional Miscellany; and the regions referred to are as unlimited as is the choice of material; scanning its pages one finds the products of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana, several states of the Deep South, of the North, of the Middle West. Anything, from anywhere, written down by anybody, so long as it reveals the spirit of the folk, so long as it has an intrinsic value and interest is grist for the mill of *Folk-Say*.

And most of the material in the present volume has such value and interest. Here are poems in the style of Indian chants from the Far West; here are the tales of the Old Timers, from the short grass region and the pioneer days in Oklahoma back to early days in Indiana. The picturesque jargon of the pipeline crew rubs elbows with a sympathetic essay on New Mexican freighters. Reminiscences of witch lore in a Southern swamp neighbor with superstitions from the Ozarks; folk riddles and party-games are ranged with some appealing negro poetry (by negroes); and names of the great and the near-great are signed to theoretical discussions of who? where? and why? are folk; and what? when? and how? is folk lore.

A list of contributions and contributors would exceed the space allotted for this note, but much of the material has a curious value; much of it has a literary value; and all of it is the virile, genuine, sympathetic, human product of real folk. It

Felt, '16 sc., engineer of the Hope Engineering Co. of Mt. Vernon, Ohio points out in a leading article in the *Gas Age Record* for October 11, 1930. This is an article any person connected with the natural gas industry should read.

The element of gamble that increased the hazards of the industry in by-gone years is being eliminated by modern exploration methods through geology and geophysics. Drilling machinery is being improved.

Until the recent widespread development of large gas pipeline systems, a large amount of the gas developed was found incidental to the search for oil. There was a very limited market for gas and a gas well was often a liability, large numbers of splendid gas wells being plugged and abandoned for lack of sale for the gas. Now the trend has very materially changed, and numerous are the wells which have proved more valuable as gas producers than they would have been had they been oil wells. There is now a definite incentive to drill for gas. . . .

Probably the most spectacular development in the industry Mr Felt points out, is in the development of long distance transportation systems, two systems of pipelines being constructed that are more than 900 miles in length each. These lines are being financed more and more as a business venture and not as a gamble, even through sale of common stock.

Mr Felt concludes:

We see that much larger proved reserves with more definite information regarding the same, much lower transportation costs, a more scientific application of gas in industrial and process gas, cheaper financing and money costs and a much wider spread interest by the public in natural gas in general, have made possible tremendously large natural gas projects which are destined to have widespread effect on the economics of the future. It is not possible as yet to see an end to this movement, and it is reasonable to expect many more and larger developments in the near future.

Handwriting scales

Practical Handwriting Scales by Dr Henry D. Rinsland, '20 arts-sc., M. A. '24, has just been published by the Practical Drawing Co. of Dallas, Texas. One hundred and fifty teachers of penmanship assisted Doctor Rinsland, who is associate professor of education in the university's college of education, in rating 50,000 samples of penmanship. Fifty representative samples were selected from this group.

Oklahoma woodpeckers

The Woodpeckers of Oklahoma. By Edward Drane Crabb, '21 arts-sc., M. A. '23. In Publications of the University of Oklahoma Biological Survey. Norman. University of Oklahoma Press. 1931. Price seventy-five cents.

In addition to being the most complete work of its kind, being a definitive catalogue of Oklahoma woodpeckers, Professor Crabb has presented a pleasing pic-

ture of the service to humanity of the woodpecker family. Woodpeckers (except the yellow-bellied sapsucker) are a help to mankind, Professor Crabb declares.

Man can appreciate the work done by woodpeckers more fully when he is brought to realize the futility of his efforts to rid apple trees of the flat-headed borer and others, and then is compelled to recognize these birds as the only potent vertebrate enemies of such insects.

The sixteen kinds of woodpeckers native to Oklahoma are described and their economic status clarified. An exceedingly valuable publication for bird lovers.

Mr Crabb is assistant professor of zoology in the University of Colorado.

Scientific terminology

Writing in the December number of *The Scientific Monthly*, Dr Duane Roller, '23 sc., contributing editor of *The Sooner Magazine*, and associate professor of physics in the university, urges a revision of scientific terminology, to be done with the co-operation of pedagogues and scientists. Doctor Roller has shown the way to such a revision in his monograph *The Terminology of Physical Science* published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1929.

The need for such a revision he states in a preamble:

The saying that "one ought not to investigate things from words, but words from things, for things are not made for the sake of words, but words for things" is credited by Diogenes Laertius to Myron. The fertility of this view is exemplified in the success of modern science. Words must be regarded as a means and not as an end. But this does not signify that, in the study of things, words should receive no attention. Myron implied that they should be investigated. In the natural sciences, words are not, of course, fundamental in the sense that instruments, processes and laws are fundamental. Yet, aside from mathematical symbols, they are the only means we have for giving unique designations to the things that are more important. These unique designations continue the terminology of science.

The most progress (towards revision) will be obtained by convincing teachers and writers that a revision of terminology is practicable and that it really is an important step in making science more practical to the learner.

Briefer notes

"Green Grow the Lilacs," a play by Lynn Riggs, ex '23, opened December 8 in Boston. It is being produced by the New York Theater Guild.

Dick Caldwell, '26 arts-sc., is the author of "The Hopi Snake Dance" which was published in *Holland's Magazine* for December. Mr Caldwell is city editor of the *Sapulpa Herald*.

Carl H. Milam, '07 arts-sc., secretary of the American Library association, was chairman of the committee on reading at

the White House conference on child welfare held at Washington November 19-22. His committee urged extension of the public library service through more municipal and county libraries, a library in every school, and the development in every child of "a permanent and desirable habit of reading" which "should be the prime objective of the teaching of reading and English literature in the schools."

Walter S. Campbell, who is better known nationally by his real name Stanley Vestal, is at present at Nice, France, where he and his family are spending the winter. Mr Campbell is making rapid progress on his life of *Sitting Bull* which Houghton Mifflin will publish this year.

George Milburn, ex '29, is represented in the December number of the *American Mercury* with another Oklahoma Saga.

Earl Sparling, ex '19, contributes an article to the December *Vanity Fair* on miniature golf.

Frontier Trails, edited by Edward Everett Dale, '11 arts-sc., and published by Houghton Mifflin, is receiving favorable national attention, some critics calling it the best book on the west yet published.

Howard O. Eaton, whose book *The Austrian Philosophy of Values* remains the unique treatise on this important development in philosophy, is working at Prague this year on a life of Franz Brentano.

Radio soloist

The Norman Transcript recounts the success Ivan Lehrer, '23 mus., has had since leaving the university. Under date of July 29, *The Transcript* states:

Ivan Lehrer, university graduate of 1923 and son of Oscar J. Lehrer, who has won recognition as a radio piano soloist and orchestra leader in Chicago, has returned to Norman to visit his parents in his "first vacation in eight years."

Lehrer has had his own orchestra for the last year and a half at the Palmer house in Chicago, and has broadcast piano solos regularly twice a week over radio station WGN in the Drake hotel.

While in the university, Lehrer had his own orchestra, and after leaving Norman in 1923 he joined Paul Whiteman's Collegians in Chicago. Later he played with several different orchestras, including those of Paul Ash and Bennie Kreuger, and played with Paul Whiteman's band in making phonograph records.

Talking motion pictures have cut the demand for theater musicians, and prohibition has eliminated the demand for musicians in cafes, but the tremendous popularity of the radio has provided many jobs for musicians in the broadcasting studios, Lehrer says.

The greatest effect of the radio is to cut down the sale of phonograph records and to hurt the song publishing business, he believes.