

## COMMENT AND NEWS

## SPECIAL NOTICE

The photogravures of Frederick Winslow Taylor, the execution of which has just been completed by A. W. Elson & Co., Boston, are now in the hands of the Society ready for distribution. Those who knew Mr. Taylor best consider this a most satisfactory portrait. It measures 6½ in. x 8 in. mounted on a heavy white card 12 in. x 15 in. One or more copies will be sent postpaid from the secretary's office, upon receipt of the price, \$1.00 each.

The Syracuse meeting gives promise of being one of the largest ever held. In order to secure satisfactory accommodations, reservations should be made early, either through Mr. George D. Babcock, Franklin Automobile Co., Syracuse, N. Y., chairman of the local committee, or direct to Hotel Onondaga, Syracuse, N. Y., headquarters.

The past practice of allowing members 50% discount on all Bulletins purchased, with additional discount for quantities, can no longer be continued, owing partly to the general increase in the cost of production. The Bulletins are now costing the Society so closely the printed selling price that no further discounts will be allowed except in the following quantities: Ten copies or more, 10% discount. If more than twenty-five copies are desired, members should, wherever possible, order definite quantities in advance of publication. In this case, special prices will be quoted, based on cost.

## THE BOSTON MEETING

Past experience has again proved no criterion from which to judge of the future in providing accommodations for the members and friends of the Society. The preparations made by the local committee were taxed to the limit at the Boston meeting, with an average attendance as great as the annual meeting last December in New York. This is some indication of what may be expected in the way of growth for the year to come. As has already been suggested, the indications point to a record breaking attendance at the Syracuse meeting, May 18 and 19, and those who wish to attend are urged to make early reservations.

Mr. Hathaway's presentation of a paper on "Maintenance of Machines and Equipment as a Part of the Taylor System of Management," brought forth such discussion that one guest present, who had come from a city more than a thousand miles away, expressed the idea that it was worth ten times the expense to get the information and suggestions made at that time. The only criticism suggested was that a visitor not familiar with the high degree of standardization inherent in the application of the Taylor System would not appreciate that Mr. Hathaway was talking about a refinement in technique. This refinement, important

as it is, is a matter which in the ordinary shop would not be considered even a possibility. Naval Constructor Frederick C. Coburn, of the Charlestown Navy Yard, opened the discussion.

There was standing room only and little of that in the special car which carried more than fifty of the members to the Waltham Watch Co., Saturday morning. The careful preparation which had been made by the management of that plant resulted in a complete tour of inspection in groups small enough to have special matters of interest carefully explained by the conductors. Late in the morning all the groups were assembled in the company's reception room where President Fitch made a short address of welcome and refreshments were served.

The following resolution was unanimously voted at the meeting in the afternoon:

"Voted, that the Secretary be instructed to convey to the Waltham Watch Company, and particularly to President E. C. Fitch, Treasurer H. L. Brown, and Mr. E. L. Folsom, and those who guided the party through the plant, the sincere acknowledgment of this Society for their courtesy and hospitality in connection with the visit of this forenoon."

After the buffet luncheon at the Engineers' Club, the paper on "The Tabor Beneficial Society" was presented by Mr. Herman J. Hutkin of the Tabor Manufacturing Co., and developed a large amount of very valuable discussion, opened by Mr. Alfred B. Rich of the Dennison Manufacturing Co.

"The Manager, the Workman and the Social Scientist," the paper presented by President Person at the close of the afternoon session, was discussed in the evening, after dinner. Among those who took part in the discussion were Henry C. Metcalf, Professor of Economics, Tufts College, Medford, Mass.; Cecil Gregg, President of Evens & Howard Fire Brick Co., St. Louis, Mo.; H. K. Hathaway, Vice-President of Tabor Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; Felix Frankfurter, Professor of Humane Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.; John A. Fitch, Industrial Editor, "The Survey," New York City. The Society regretted that several of those who were on the program were unable at the last moment to be present, particularly regretting the absence of Mr. Henry Abrahams of the Boston Central Labor Union, Boston, Mass.

Inquiry has been made as to whether there has been developed a mnemonic classification on Law. Anyone who knows of the existence of such a classification or authoritatively that such a classification has not been as yet attempted will confer a favor by advising the office of the secretary, who will transmit the information to the inquirers.

## TWO FOREIGN LETTERS OF TIMELY INTEREST

## ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Sezione Italiana Della "Commission Internationale De Ravitaillement."

EMPIRE HOUSE,  
KINGSWAY,  
LONDON, W. C.  
FEBRUARY 14TH, 1917.

MISS FRANCES MITCHELL,  
SECRETARY F. W. TAYLOR CO-OPERATORS,  
BOXLY, HIGHLAND STATION,  
CHESTNUT HILL,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

DEAR MISS MITCHELL:

In 1913 Frederick Winslow Taylor gave me the authorization to translate into Italian his books. I started my work with the translation of his fundamental book, "Scientific Management," of which a second edition in Italian has just been issued. I take pleasure in forwarding you a copy.

I may add that Taylor's principles applied to our factories, as well as the French ones, have materially contributed to the increase of the production of our war materials, a contribution to our victory.

I continue to cherish the study of Taylor's principles; and shall certainly be very grateful if you will send me here in London, where I am presently on my Government services, whatever is being published about Taylor, his principles, and their application.

Thanking you very much for your courteous letter of the 15th of October last, and pamphlet therein, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) GIANNINI.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED FROM H. LE CHATELIER, DATED JANUARY 18, 1917

"I am pleased to be able to say that since the start of the war the ideas of Mr. Taylor have made great progress in France. His principles of management are being applied in a great number of plants working on war materials.

"Taylor's books are being sold as though they were appearing for the first time. We have just printed the ninth thousand of the Principles of Scientific Management and the fourth thousand of the April number of *La Revue de Metallurgie*—which I had consecrated to a review of the application of scientific management to industry."

MR. HATHAWAY'S COMMENT ON THE EXTRACT FROM MR. H. LE CHATELIER'S LETTER DATED JANUARY 18, 1917

This statement of Mr. Le Chatelier's is typical of reports that I have been receiving from various sources as to the widespread application being made in France of the Taylor System. While it is very gratifying indeed to know that Taylor's work is appreciated in such a practical way in France, at the same time it seems to point out to American industry the need of a more extensive adoption of the Taylor principles, and particularly to emphasize the seriousness of the mistake being made by American labor organizations and by legislators in their opposition to these methods as indicated by the recent anti-stop watch legislation and opposition to the application of the Taylor methods to Government work.

While personally I feel the keenest sympathy for the French people and have the heartiest desire to see them succeed industrially after the war and to have them adopt any means which will help in their recovery from the loss and damage they have suffered as a result of the war, at the same time I do not like the idea of any other nation surpassing us in the industrial world. If European nations after the war generally adopt and apply throughout their industries the Taylor Methods and we neglect to do so in this country it is absolutely certain that we shall not be able to compete with them.