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Accountant who walks alone

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The Accountant Who Walks Alone

SELF-RELIANCE is an admirable trait. Resourcefulness and courage have won many a battle. Only original thought will solve certain problems. But the accountant who is so independent that he refuses to take counsel; who is so short-sighted that he is annoyed by advice; and who, most of all, resents criticism, is headed for anything but complete success.

Success, obviously, is a relative term. Any attempt to define it, except in a flippant manner, meets with a problem which is at once perplexing and discouraging. What would fit the condition of one individual is far from applicable to the next. Some men measure success in dollars; others in satisfactory accomplishment. To some it means position and social standing, or a goodly portion of creature comforts.

However one might be disposed to quibble over definitions it would probably be admitted that progress is an element of success. He who plods along, year after year, without elevation in rank or increase in compensation, may rightly be adjudged lacking in progress. Such cases, if analyzed, would probably show as the causes, extreme diffidence, apathy toward study or improvement of the mind, and false con-

cepts of independence founded on conceit and ignorance.

There are accountants who have attained some measure of success when judged by comparison with a former state. In the light of comparison with other men who started out with them on an equal footing they are rank failures. In no field as in accountancy, perhaps, are there such striking contrasts of success and failure among men.

Those in one group have improved every opportunity of increasing their fund of knowledge. Taking the ten talents entrusted to them they have gained ten more. Unceasing study, developing the power of absorbing and classifying information, and learning to apply their knowledge to each new problem, have made them increasingly valuable.

The other group contains the men who are content to function in a mechanical fashion, figuratively speaking, posting the blue tickets to the left-hand side of the ledger; the red ones to the right. They have neglected the precious chance of learning and of developing mentally. Pride has kept them from accepting suggestions as to their work or plan of professional life.

Conceit has developed confidence in their ability to walk alone.

It is never too late to begin correcting the vicious habit of walking alone. A start in the direction of study will open up many possibilities before unseen. The seeking of advice and counsel from associates will

reveal new slants on matters too often taken for granted. Nothing is so stimulating as constructive criticism properly accepted. Walking alone is dull business. To be up and doing with the thinkers and doers is an important factor contributing to success.

The Tale of the Token

By A. J. FARBER and P. C. JENNINGS, of the Pittsburgh Office

ONE of the most recent developments in the operation of modern street railway systems has been the introduction of the token (metal check) to take the place of paper tickets and cash fares. This has resulted in a new phase in the auditing of the books and records of a street railway company.

All new tokens, whether purchased from a manufacturer or made by the company, are received by the treasurer and a record made of the quantity thereof. Upon receipt they are counted and wrapped in packages by machines, the number in a package depending upon the rate of fare in effect, e.g., where the tickets are sold to passengers at the rate of three for 25c, they are wrapped in packages of thirty each, representing a fare value of \$2.50 a package. The packages are then placed in canvas sacks, each sack containing a similar quantity of tokens, usually one hundred packages, which in the case of the rate mentioned would have a value of \$250.00. The sacks are stored in the vaults of the treasury department and the tokens are then ready for use.

All barn ticket offices and other ticket offices are furnished with a fixed supply of tokens from the stock of the treasurer, the amount furnished being governed by the needs for a period of two or more days. These advances are in the nature of imprest funds for which the accounting department holds receipts. Out of the im-

prest token funds of the barn ticket offices, the conductors attached thereto are furnished with a fixed amount of tokens and their receipts taken therefor. As the conductors dispose of their tokens through sales to the public, they replenish their supply by purchasing for cash additional tokens from any ticket office which in turn replenishes its supply through purchases for cash from the treasury department. Sales are made by the treasury department in sack lots only and by the ticket offices in package lots only.

In order to establish a control of tokens on hand a stock account is kept by the treasury department which reflects quantity of tokens only and not the value thereof. This account is charged with the number of tokens received from the manufacturer, and with the number received by the treasury department through the daily fare collections. The account is credited with the number of tokens advanced to the various ticket offices, and also with the number sold to the ticket offices to replenish their supply. Therefore, the stock account is a perpetual inventory of the number of tokens on hand in the treasury department.

The accounting department also keeps a stock record which shows the location of all token funds, the quantities thereof, and the value at the rate of fare in effect. The stock account kept by the treasury department should be in agreement with the