

RUSSELL SAGE A PENNILESS FARM WORKER 75 YEARS AGO.

Youngest of Six Children, Russell Sage Was Born in Oneida County, N. Y., Before the Days of American Millionaires, Railroads and Steamships—His Few Educational Advantages—Youthful Dread of Poverty—Saved the First Dollar He Ever Earned and Has Never Been in Debt Since—His Boyhood "Nothing but Work"—First Financial Ventures Included Horse Trading and Running a Sloop Between Troy and New York—The Foundation of His Millions.—By Frederick Upham Adams, in New York Herald

Who one thinks of colossal wealth... Russell Sage was born in Oneida county, N. Y., on August 4, 1826.

the War of 1812, and, with the spirit of adventure in his heart, started out with an ox team and an emigrant wagon. He traversed the central part of New York, and finally came to the little settlement of Shennandoah, Verona township, Oneida county, N. Y.

Russell was the youngest of a family of six children, and they drifted away from the farm when he was a boy. From the earliest time he can remember he was busy with those tasks which fell to the lot of boys on a farm.

James Madison was President of the United States and the country had not recovered from the shock of the war of 1812. When Russell Sage was a boy there were no railroads, no telegraphs, and nothing which would be classed as machinery today.

Russell Sage was nearly fourteen years of age when the first railroad was built in the United States. He was a voter before the first steamship crossed the Atlantic.

Though born in a civilization as far removed from ours as that era was from the time of Julius Caesar, Russell Sage had lived to take an active part in some bewildering changes, and is today one of the master spirits in the world of finance and in railroad and mechanical development.

He had great faith in the canal and a clear idea of its route and object. I remember tracing its course on an old school map. It was a great event when the water was turned into the canal.

and with other boys and men I watched the water creep along the bottom and finally reach its level. "The opening of the canal was signalized by the firing of cannon across the country. The cannon were placed ten miles apart and the news was carried five hundred and fifty miles in eighty-one minutes. I stood for hours near the cannon in Verona, waiting for the boom of the gun to the east of us.

PRESIDENT SHAFFER, LEADER OF STRIKERS, DICTATING ORDERS TO HIS WIFE AND SECRETARY.



The central figure in the big steel strike, now raging, is President Thomas J. Shaffer, of the Amalgamated association, the active leader of the 55,000 steelworkers now on strike. The success or failure of the big campaign labor is wagging against capital is practically in this man's hands. The above authentic halftone shows the busy leader seated at his desk dictating strike orders to his wife, who is also his secretary.

It takes a wise man to keep one's first dollar I ever earned, and from that hour have never been in debt to a human being for a cent which could not be obtained when due. Russell went to work in a store in Troy owned by his brother, Henry Risley Sage. For his services he received \$4 a month and board.

HE MAY BE FRANCE'S EMPEROR.



Prince Louis Bonaparte. If the plotting of the friends of Prince Louis Napoleon proves successful, the crown of French republicanism is at hand and before many days the world will be introduced to a new emperor of France.

APPENDICITIS, the Malady of the Day, Due to Meat Eating.

Appendicitis is the malady of the day; it is the most prominent malady in the course of the discussions of the learned societies. Its causes must be numerous; in any case, the theories emitted respecting its appearance are manifold. M. Metchnikoff, in a recent communication to the Paris Academy of Medicine, attributed an important part in the development of appendicitis to intestinal worms, ascariides and trichocephalids, especially the last named, which, by causing erosions of the intestinal mucous membrane, create an entry means of infection by the morbid germs contained in the intestine.

with my work." HIS FIRST VENTURE. The Sage store was an old fashioned grocery; liquor by wholesale and retail formed an important part of the traffic.

Horses were in great demand, and the ambitious clerk ever had his eyes open for a promising Vermont colt. Many are the stories told of his shrewdness in horse trading. His knowledge of horses and his ability to buy and sell them more than doubled his income. He bought more land.

A PROFITABLE VOYAGE. At this period Russell Sage was a tall, rather awkward but strongly built boy between nineteen and twenty years old. Those New York dealers who imagined they could impose on his inexperience and ignorance of mercantile methods soon had reason to change their minds.

The young man then terminated his career as a clerk and entered into partnership with another brother, Elisha Montague Sage, and opened a grocery store at No. 40 River street. In two years the profits from his sloop and from other transactions were such that he was able to buy out his brother.

On himself he spent nothing. Already he was one of the most substantial citizens of Troy, with a reputation which made his word as good as his bond. He entered into a co-partnership with John W. Bates in the wholesale grocery and commission business.

He had an advantage which the boy today lacks. The country which spread out before his vision was a new and an undeveloped one. Every avenue of business and occupation was open to the lad or man of energy and talent.

Early in his career and when yet but a boy in years, a fleet of barges loaded with grain became frozen in the canal at an unprecedented early date in the year 1852. The weather prophets were sure of an unusually severe and protracted season.

BRITISH HONOR YANKEE.



D. C. Churchill, a young American engineer, will shortly sail to India to found a system of trade schools throughout that country. He will be paid a salary by the British government. The young man is delighted at the honor conferred upon him.