

Haphazard Studies in the English Language

The *University Dictionary* which is sold by the MANILA DAILY BULLETIN at two pesos the copy, contains an essay on *Common Errors in English* by Dr. Farquon Johnson that will be run in installments in this department, commencing with this issue. For it is at once interesting and instructive; indeed, the editor of the JOURNAL, benefited by it greatly in his own diction, has seen nothing comparable to it anywhere. For this essay alone, he would not part with his own copy of this convenient English vocabulary at any price—unless he might, for the pittance at which it sells, obtain another. Dr. Johnson's pages fairly glow with linguistic erudition, as the student will observe. But the original was proof-read carelessly, and the errors which therefore appear in it have here been corrected. Where there are references to the *main vocabulary*, etc., any standard English dictionary may be consulted.—ED.

(Continued)

any. Often improperly used for "at all," as in "He cannot swim any," "She does not learn any." Such usage should be avoided. "He is not any better" is permissible, though most writers prefer "no" to "not any."

anyhow, anyway. These colloquialisms appear to be strongly entrenched in American speech, though objected to by certain writers. In formal diction they are replaced by "in any event, at any rate," etc.

any manner of means. Used improperly for "any means." It is a redundancy, owing a certain popularity to its alliterativeness.

any place. "Are you going any place?" should be "Are you going anywhere?"

anyways, anywhere. Unnecessary variants of anyway, anywhere.

apt. Frequently misused for likely and liable. "He is apt to fall" should be "He is liable to fall," or "likely to fall." Apt is correctly used when the meaning to be conveyed is "inclined or disposed customarily."

appreciate. A common error is to "appreciate a person highly," which is an impossibility, since to appreciate is to set a true value on, to estimate justly. In the sentence quoted "esteem" should be substituted for "appreciate."

The word is also now used with the meaning "to rise or increase in value" and is widely applied to prices of commodities, real estate, etc. In this sense it is the opposite of "depreciate," and this use is well established.

apprehend. Do not confuse this word with comprehend, as is so often done. Look up these words in the main vocabulary of this dictionary and compare their meanings.

approach. Incorrectly used to mean to address, petition, or appeal to, as in "The policemen approached the council for more pay," which should be "petitioned."

Approach is being used to imply bribery or underhand methods; as, "Meanwhile the senators were approached by a powerful lobby." One can approach a subject by suggesting it, or approach a person in any sense involving bodily proximity.

aqueduct. Be sure to sound the final t in pronouncing this word. So many times it is erroneously omitted by those who should know better.

Arab. Pronounced Ar'ab, not A'rab.

arabic. Mispronounced a-ra'bic. Should be ar'a-bic.

arctic. The first hard c sound is often wrongly omitted. The proper pronunciation is ark'tik.

area. Pronounced a'rea, not a'ri.

aren't. Colloquial contraction of "are not," but undesirable.

argue. Should be distinguished from dispute. To dispute is to disagree. To argue is to adduce reasons. We may dispute a bill, but do not argue it.

Argue is properly used in the sense of manifesting by inference; to imply.

Arkansas. Mispronounced Ar-kan'zas. It is Ar-kan-saw according to the law of that State.

arraign. Prepositions are often wrongly used with this verb. A man is not arraigned at a court, but in a court, at the bar, before a judge, on indictment, for crime, upon his arrest.

articles. In every sentence clearness of meaning is the first requisite. Too much attention cannot be paid to the correct use of articles, upon which the meaning often depends.

"The president sent for the secretary and treasurer" may mean that he sent for one or two persons. If two persons are intended, all ambiguity would be removed by saying "the secretary and the treasurer."

artist. A much-abused word with which the "doctor" and the "professor" can sympathize. Properly applied to those who practice the fine arts, its use has been commonly extended to include "artists" in hair dressing, on the tight-rope, and at the soda fountain, and the bootblack "artist" barber's hop. The original artists now prefer to be called painters, sculptors, etc., rather than share the glory of the term with its modern claimants.

as . . . as so . . . as. The former is used in affirmative statements—"I am as good as he," the latter in negative propositions—"She is not so young as you." This distinction, however, is too frequently overlooked.

So . . . as, in negative sentences, conveys an impression that one of the persons or things compared possesses some characteristic in a considerable degree, as in the sentence, "Mary is not so good looking as John." Here it is implied that John has a high degree of good looks. This suggestion is lacking when as . . . as are used.

Philippine National Bank's Present Position

Press verbosity has obscured the actual situation of the Philippine National Bank to an extent which justifies a statement of salient facts regarding it.

The reorganization act went into effect January 1, 1925. The bank's total profits from that date to June 30 this year have been ₱14,701,000, distributed according to law: Reserve for redemption of circulating notes, ₱3,500,000; surplus, ₱6,176,000; to the government on indebtedness, ₱5,025,000.

At the time of reorganization, to enable the

bank to adjust its bills receivable to a sound basis, with bad accounts written off, the government cancelled the bank's indebtedness to it in the sum of about ₱62,000,000, capital and deposits, reorganization providing, however, for the redemption of this debt with future profits. To date, ₱5,025,000 has been so redeemed, and the amount remaining to be balanced off is ₱57,000,000.

The bank is a heavy taxpayer, paying some ₱800,000 annually in taxes on its circulating notes, deposits and capital, and in income taxes.

Last year the bank's net profits were well over two millions, and a better showing has been made during the first half of this year, net profits for the six months being ₱1,584,000—to surplus, ₱396,000; to the government (included in the ₱5,025,000 above), ₱1,188,000.

More than 50% of the bank's business is with the sugar industry, whence derives the bulk of its profits. Its loans to sugar planters approximate ₱25,000,000; those to sugar mills (as industrial capital, used in the main to build the five bank sugar centrals in Negros), ₱29,000,000. Four and a half years ago, when the reorganization act took effect, this latter sum stood at ₱48,000,000; during 4½ years, that is to say, the mills have repaid the bank ₱19,000,000. As the stockholders, Filipinos, pay the bank, they increase their paid-up shares in the mills.

Both the loans to sugar planters and to sugar mills are classified apart from agricultural loans, yet in effect they do aid agriculture materially and directly. Since February it has been the bank's policy to undertake no new obligations in sugar, owing to this commodity's position in the world markets. No loans for new centrals are made, nor loans for planting additional cane areas not connected with any existing central. Crop loans are made, on the other hand, to maintain the existing mills at their maximum capacity during the grinding season.

It is said that this arbitrary restriction of the sugar industry (so far as the National is con-

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