

THE OBSERVER

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MEAT SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

The British government has announced that it will exclude all American packers against whom prosecutions have been instituted in the United States from bidding for contracts to supply meat to the British army and navy, pending the settlement of the suits.

The packers' argument would be all right provided the laws of supply and demand had not been amended by them, so far as relates to the meat industry. They have been building up a foreign trade. We have been gloating over the fact that ours is the roast beef of England, that our pork is feeding Germany and now we begin to see that the American consumer is paying for all that national glory.

wonders why we were shipping thousands of miles to London, \$50,000,000 worth of pork alone in 1910, when prices were so high in the United States—all we are told because of shortage of the supply compared with the demand.

The same consumer has a very strong notion that the supply and demand theory is no longer doing business but is only a fiction the packers like to advance. The prices to the consumer and producer are confusing to those who try to figure out the high cost of living at present on the basis of supply and demand. While the prices the householder has to pay for his meat have been going up by leaps and bounds, such is not the case with those paid to the farmer.

If the law of supply and demand cuts as much gure as the packers would have us believe now that there is a prospect of having some of their foreign trade shut off, there would not be the decline in the live stock industry shown by the census figures. While the price of meats was being boosted to the consumer the number of cattle in this country actually fell off 275,332 during the decade from 1900 to 1910, the total in the latter year being 69,080,000.

After five dinner parties in one day at New York, Taft announces that one great fault of this age is that people live too fast.

The last dime museum in New York has closed its doors. Naturally it had to quit when the metropolis is so full of freaks that can be seen for nothing.

The earth, according to Prof. Bauer, will cease its revolutions in 2,000 years. Perhaps part of the earth may but Central America never will.

Uncle Sam is sending out a bulletin, telling how to doctor sick bees. He also should tell what to do in case the bee resents the treatment.

A man at Washington has discovered that the possession of a Carnegie hero medal fails to fill an empty stomach.

With the American Eagle and the Russian bear in any sort of a contest, it is only patriotic to predict that the fur will fly.

The modern hustle for money suggests that some people have forgotten that the present styles for shrouds have no pockets.

When the cow jumped over the moon, it seems she took the price of butter with her.

They are cutting up the Maine, and soon nothing will be left but its memory.

STEAM PUMP FISHING.

It Was Rapid, but Disastrous, and France Stopped It.

One of the most singular fishing devices imaginable was discovered by accident in France. Though extremely simple, the system is revolutionary.

A pond on the farm of La Marie-quette, bordered by rocky shores, was drained one year by the aid of a steam pump. Each stroke of the piston drew up twenty-five gallons of water, and the pond was emptied in a few hours, and not only was the water drawn off, but all the fishes also were transferred to a new element.

This was a revolution. The owners of ponds in the neighborhood followed suit, and the proprietor of the pump made a specialty of this sort of work. He "let" one of his pumps, modified for the purpose. The peasants of the region called it "the fish pump." Each stroke of the piston brought up torrents of water, in which were fish and crawfish, together with mud and debris.

One pond of several acres was cleared of fish at an expense of 36 francs, or \$7.20. The process was ingenious, but as one cannot have his fish and eat it, too, and as such rapid consumption would have led to equally rapid extermination, the authorities stopped the practice.—Scientific American.

HACKNEY COACHES.

Tradesmen Protested When They First Appeared in London.

In a letter dated April 1, 1639, Mr. Garrard, writing to the Earl of Stratford, says: "Here is one Captain Bully. He hath been a sea captain, but now lives in London, where he tries experiments. He hath erected according to his ability some four hackney coaches, put his men in a livery and appointed them to stand at the Maypole in the Strand, giving them instructions at what rate to carry men into several parts of the town, where all day they may be had."

"Other hackney men seeing this way, they flocked to the same place and performed their journeys at the same rate, so that sometimes there are twenty of them together, which disperse up and down."

Citizen shopkeepers bitterly complained of this, saying:

"Formerly when ladies and gentlemen walked in the streets there was a chance of customers, but now they whisk past in the coaches before our apprentices have time to cry out, 'What d'ye lack?'"

The word cab, a contraction of cabriolet, was not used until 1823.—London Standard.

He Liked Scotchmen.

The late Meredith Townsend had an affection for Scotsmen as contributors to the Spectator, of which he was for so many years proprietor and coeditor. Mr. Townsend's liking for the Scots was based on an experience he had in Leith when a boy. He was on a holiday and had run short of money for his return to London. He boldly boarded a London passenger boat, intimated his desire to the captain to go south, explained who he was and stated that he was without funds. Seemingly favorably impressed by the lad's tale and appearance, the captain, a Scot, said that would be all right and showed him to a cabin. "But," said young Townsend, "this is a saloon. As things are steeperage would do all right." "Na, na, my mannie," said the captain. "If I trust ye at all I'll trust ye first class!" London Spectator.

A Tragic Possibility.

Uncle Leven, a grizzled old wood sawyer, was told by a lady for whom he had been working to wait in the kitchen for his supper. Aunt Caroline, the cook, filled his plate with choice bits from the "great house" table, and Uncle Leven fell upon them with relish. Soon, however, a cloud crossed his face.

"What all you, Unc' Leven?" asked Aunt Caroline solicitously. "Is you got er pain?"

"Tain't dat, Sis' Calline," said Uncle Leven, "but I's feared I'll git filled up befo' I eats all I wants."—Youth's Companion.

A Cigar Lighter.

Gibbs—I went a railway journey the other day and took a box of cigars with me. Nibbs—Well, I suppose you had a good smoke? Gibbs—Aye, I had that, but when the train had started I found I'd no matches. Nibbs—No matches, and yet you'd a good smoke? How did you manage for a light? Gibbs—Well, you see, I opened the box, took out one, and that made the box "a cigar lighter."—London Tit-Bits.

The Cure.

"Alas, I am blind!" wailed Love. "Why don't you consult a doctor?" asked Experience. "I know a famous specialist who could cure you." "What is his name?" asked Love. "Marriage," replied Experience.—Philadelphia Record.

Conjugal Amenities.

She—I was a fool when I married you. He—Aren't you a fool still? She—No, I am not. He—Then you should be thankful to me for reforming you.—London Tit-Bits.

Chief Factory Inspector Davis of Chicago has issued statistics showing that the enforcement of the ten-hour law for women in Illinois has cost Chicago hotel men not less than \$50,000 a month, since July, when the law went into effect. The half dozen big

Prices Take Another Drop

on Ready-to-Wear garments. The most successful January Clearance we've ever held. Now we make the remaining garments still lower in price with the intention of entirely cleaning our racks before the arrival of spring stocks. Never before have we ever attempted such a price sacrifice



Final Clean-up Of Ladies' Suits \$3.90

In our window today we're showing a choice line of tailored suits that sold regularly up to \$22.50 All the popular shades and materials.

Your Absolute Choice \$3.90

Final Clean-up One Piece Dresses \$3.90

Just fourteen of these elegant silk and wool dresses. The regular prices were as high as \$25.00. They won't last long at such a sacrifice in price.

Your Choice Now \$3.90

White Dresses and Linen Suits \$1.90

You could not buy the material alone in these garments for twice the price we're offering this selection. They're in the center window today.

SELECT ANY ONE FOR \$1.90

Regular \$10.00 to \$25.00

Lingerie & Linen Dresses \$3.90

This includes the best styles and materials in the entire stock, beautifully trimmed in dainty laces and embroideries. Both short and long sleeves. You must see these to appreciate these values.

\$3.90 While They Last \$3.90

In the East Window Today



Many other extraordinary values like the above throughout the entire store during the remaining days of this sale.

WEST'S

WEST'S

Arcade Theatre

Four Thousand Feet of High class Photoplays.

"MANHESA"—A Spanish town. A beautifully photographed and tinted scenic picture.

"WHITE BRAVE'S HERITAGE" Kalem A spectacular western production.

"LIFE IN THE U. S. ARMY" Edison A great feature picture. It is a thoroughly commendable and instructive film.

"THE HOUR OF EXECUTION" Gaumont Following very closely the famous story of Damon and Pythias, gracefully conducted and tinted.

"ONE O NRENO" Lubin Every smile and laugh in this very amusing picture arises from the situation, truly a very clever picture.

Laura Green Wills, in latest illustrated song production, entitled,

"WAITING DOWN BY THE MISSISSIPPI SHORE."

A Working Capital of Over \$215,000 00 Inspires Confidence in This Bank

The stability of this Institution, The substantial men behind it, Its reputation for progressiveness, Its large loaning capacity, Its spirit of accommodation, have attracted customers whose deposits aggregate over \$700,000.00. Promote your interests by allying yourself as a depositor with this strong and successful institution.

La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON.
CAPITAL \$ 100,000.00
SURPLUS 115,000.00
RESOURCES 1,000,000.00

United States Depository

department stores in Chicago, according to the statistics, obeyed the law at an extra expense of \$1500 a day during the holiday season, being compelled to employ 1,000 additional persons.



After a Cold Auto Ride

What could be more comforting or exhilarating than a nice cup of Hot Chocolate, which you will always find ready at this season of the year at our Soda counter? We give it to you pure and cheering, full of that goodness and nutriment so peculiar to the best quality of Chocolate. It is a food, drink and medicine all combined, at low cost.

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