

THE OBSERVER

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THE MYSTERIES OF WORDS.

Our language is always in a state of fluxation or change so that the meanings of words alter, one hardly knows when or how. Take the word blouse, for instance, which once described a loose, ugly garment, worn by men and badly dressed women. By some mysterious transition, it now applies to the thinnest and most fragile of coverings, a thing of V-neck and transparency. Criticism is another instance of perversion. Standing for the power of nice discrimination originally, it is now a synonym for fault-finding. A year or so ago, when a certain prominent New York clergyman was sued for breach of promise, society instantly scented a scandal, and was disappointed that the breach was merely a failure to pay certain moneys as promised. By common usage the phrase has come to mean a failure to fulfil a contract of marriage. Thus, through the simple process of common use in a certain way, words are made to mean things other than their root meanings would signify.

Another amusing thing in regard to words is the way in which they come into prominence and have what in salesmanship would be termed "a run." For a time they are on all lips; then apparently the public's fancy changes, and another attracts the spotlight. Efficiency played up large something over a year ago. Reform was sadly overworked for a season; community had its innings, and then everybody was approached with a proposition. We can also remember when the adjective big was a favorable prefix. Preparedness and Americanism are the catchwords of the present, but even the pure bred Yankee could not guess what will replace them. Some unusual word gets into print; its novelty attracts; it is appropriated, but finally dies a natural death, and a new one "catches on."

We have, all of us, smiled over the enthusiastic school girl to whom a cake, a sunset, a new dress and a picnic are alike "perfectly elegant." Her vocabulary has its limitations; she has fallen into the habit of using a certain word without much regard for its appositeness. Really we should not smile; we all do it.

PLEASE PASS THE POTATOES.

Potato scientists are coming to the relief of the potato grower. Growing potatoes has of late years become a difficult operation, almost as difficult as successful chicken-farming. It is not enough to thrust seed into soil and fight beetles. Soil must be properly prepared and contain the correct chemical constituents. It must be watchfully cared for during the cropping season and after. Beetles must be conquered or checked. Other insects causing diseases of the vines must be combated. Seed must be healthy to prevent diseases of the tubers.

Recently potato genetics began to be taught in Minnesota. Scientist C. E. Brown in 1913 started a potato school. Not content with teaching all the points enumerated, he demanded an elimination of varieties. Minnesota farmers were planting 35 varieties. The result was a state crop of a decidedly mixed nature. Prof. Brown made up a list of eight eligible varieties, excluding all others in the interest of uniformity. The Minnesota Potato Growers' association took up Prof. Brown and waged an educational crusade. Consequences are now being noted. Minnesota has a larger average yield per acre than any other state and is getting better prices for a more uniform, healthy and better graded product.

The potato grower can get information on disease and insects affecting potatoes and how to fight them from the agricultural department in Washington. United effort along the lines followed in Minnesota would add hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly to the returns of potato growers.

HIGH COST OF LEARNING.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, records in its annual report that in the last 10 years representative institutions of learning have increased by one-fifth their tuition charges. Added to the higher cost of personal maintenance, this brings the expense of an education to a level inaccessible for a great many young men and women.

But has the most of an education actually been increased? Public libraries have in the past 10 years, been established in numbers everywhere. The government has taken up the problem of rural education, and, through the benefits of rural free delivery, there are few farm houses in this country where good books on all manner of subjects are not obtainable.

In addition, there is nothing to prevent anyone from cultivating habits of observation. The only tuition fee that is required in the great university of the world is an active interest in what is going on. Newspapers and magazines are within everyone's reach and Mother Nature is enrolling classes as usual in her established courses of study.

The person who seriously believes an education is excessively expensive, entertains the delusion that an education is invariably associated with a campus, four years or more of non-

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employment, ivy covered buildings, glee clubs, fraternities and other pleasant and valuable features of academic experience.

PSALMS I.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

GREEN CORN.

(By Dr. R. R. Daniels.)

Green corn is one of the most valuable of our late summer foods, since it contains considerable starch and sugar in an easily digested form. There are two principal reasons why this valuable food has fallen into disrepute with many persons; one is that it is often eaten with a mixture of other foods which prevents its proper digestion, and the other reason is that with occasional persons the hulls of the corn irritate the stomach and intestinal walls.

How to Cook and Eat Corn. The hulls of the corn may be disposed of simply by running a sharp knife down through the center of each row of kernels, then eating the corn out of the hulls. Inasmuch as corn requires thorough mastication, it is well to prepare it in this way for children. Corn should be put on to cook in clear boiling water, salt to be added when cooked, since in the cooking salt may extract the tissue salts. Corn should be cooked quite thoroughly depending upon its age, but over cooking should be avoided, and neither should it stand in the water after the cooking is completed; it may be eaten with plenty of butter and salt to suit.

How to Combine Corn. Green corn, to be digested with the greatest ease, should be eaten at a meal which contains neither meats, acids, nor other starches, in fact, little else should be eaten with it other than one or two non-starchy vegetables.

If tomatoes that are not particularly sour are to be had, a salad of lettuce and tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions if desired, may be added. The salad should be dressed with salt, paprika and olive oil. Corn in reality takes the place of both meat and starchy food, thus a dinner may be made of all the corn one wants with cooked vegetables and a salad such as we have suggested.

Dairy Business Growing

American dairymen occupied a strong position in the foreign trade of the year just ended. Their sales to foreign countries were by far larger than ever before, while imports of competing products fell to the lowest point touched in the last six years, declares a government bulletin. The aggregate value of our exports of butter, cheese, milk, and cream in the fiscal year 1916, according to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, was 24 million dollars, being 10 mil-

lion more than in 1915, and 21 million more than in 1911 or 1913. On the other hand, imports of that group in 1916 amounted in value to slightly less than 19 million dollars, as against 14.3-4 million in 1915, 10.3-4 million in 1913, and 10 million in 1911.

Export sales of condensed milk during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, rose to the stupendous total of 156 million pounds, valued at 12.1-2 million dollars, thus eclipsing the record of 87 million pounds for 1915 and the annual average of 16 million pounds for 1910-1914. The total exports of cream and milk, fresh or condensed, amounted to 13 million dollars during the year, being five times the value of imports of that character, while in 1911, five years earlier, imports valued at 2 million dollars were double the value of exports.

Cheese of American manufacture was also exported in unusual quantities, the total of 44 million pounds for 1916 being exceeded in recent year only by the larger aggregate of 55 million for 1915 and closely approximating the annual exports of from 50 to 80 million pounds which ruled some 25 years ago. Imports of foreign cheese tend steadily downward, 30 million pounds having come in during 1916, against 59 million in 1915, 49 million in 1913, and 46 million in 1911.

The year's exports of butter amounted to 131-2 million pounds, against 10 million in 1915, being twice as much as in any other year since

1907. In 1906 the total temporarily rose to 27 million pounds.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has no data on the prices at which imported dairy products are sold in the United States, since the values of imports are those in the countries of shipment. On comparing average export prices in domestic markets, however, it is found that the ruling level is about the same as that in the fiscal year 1913. Of butter, the export price in 1916 average 26.6 cents per pound, in 1913, 24.3 cents; of cheese, 16.7 cents per pound in 1916, against 17 cents in 1913; and of condensed milk, 8 cents in 1916, compared with 8.7 cents in 1913.

Two Marriages Performed. Justice of the Peace A. C. Williams was called on to officiate at the wedding of Edgar Hollifield and Emma Ward, both of Telocaset, at his office in La Grande, Saturday, August 19. On the day before, Friday, August 18th, Forest Adams and Ila Koyle, both of La Grande, were married at the office of the officiating magistrate, A. C. Williams.

"Plattsburg of the West" Opens.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 21.—A western Plattsburg opened with 600 Rocky mountain rookies in khaki on the broad Ft. Douglas parade ground near here today. Over the nearby hills and in camp the 600 will be drilled in the art of warfare for the next month. Bankers, cowboys, clerks and professional men are among the

number. Three of the Coast Artillery companies from Southern California points form the skeleton of the encampment. Infantry fighting will be the principal study, but instruction also will be given in other branches of army service. All the 600 volunteers had their traveling expenses paid by the government. When the camp ends September 16th the men will turn in their equipment and receive \$5 of the \$15 each advanced to the government for expenses.

Do You Know That

The hand that carries food to the mouth can also carry disease germs? Health first is the highest form of safety-first?

Tuberculosis and poverty go hand in hand?

The U. S. Public Health Service will send a booklet on flies and disease, gratis to all applicants?

The breast fed baby has the best chance?

Physical fitness is preparedness against disease?

Pneumonia is a communicable disease?

Cockroaches may carry disease?

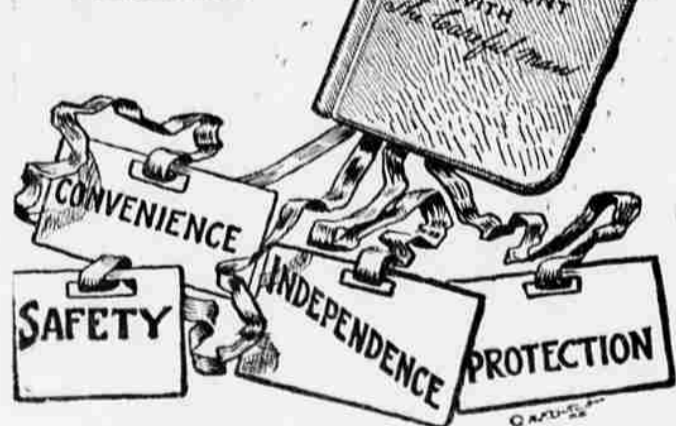
Will Have Many Visitors

It is estimated that between 4000 and 5000 people will go to Coos Bay during the latter part of this week. Excursions in celebrating of the completion of rail connection with Coos Bay are to be run the last three days of the week.

DOINGS OF THE DUFFS



The careful man knows what a Bank account means



THIS BANKER IS INTERESTED IN HIS DEPOSITORS. HE IS THE ONLY MAN IN TOWN WHO WILL GIVE YOU HIS ADVICE FREE. THE BANKER LIKES TO SEE YOU AND EVERYONE IN HIS COMMUNITY GETTING RICH.

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS AND SUCCESSFUL MEN CAN AND DO ASSIST EACH OTHER.

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