The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1908.

FARMERS' COMBINATIONS.

The President thinks that the Sherman anti-trust law ought to be modified for the sake of business men, wage-earners and farmers. To each of these great classes he believes that in its present form the law does more harm than good. Against evil combinations it is only partially effective, in his opinion, while its latest construction by the Supreme Court is such that it bans the good ones without discrimination. Mr. Roosevelt's remedy for this state of things is to forbid all combinations in restraint of trade, exactly as the law does now, but he would temper the ban by authorizing some administrative official to exempt combinations which appeared to be harmless or beneficial. This proposal looks attractive, but in principle it is dangerous. It is contrary to American ideas of government to give any administrative officer power to suspend the law.

For Congress to frame a law which shall discriminate between combinations which ought to be permitted and those which ought to be forbidden may be a difficult task. It may even be impossible. But it is a task which belongs distinctly to the Legislature, and not to the executive. If the official who distinguishes between the good and bad acts fairly, he must follow general rules, and it is no more difficult for Congress to lay down these rules in a statute than it is for an individual bureaucrat to embody them in an executive order. It may as well be admitted, however, that the distinction between good and bad combinations is almost as vague as that between good and bad men. The worst combinations in restraint of trade must be credited with some benefits to society; the best ones must be charged with many evils. Who would like to undertake to say just how much good and how little evil a combination shall present to entitle it to exist? It is to be feared that Mr. Roosevelt has not yet discovered the panacea for the trust disease.

Nobody knows how any given measure relating to combinations would work out in practice. When the Sherman law was passed, who dreamed that it would apply to either labor unions or farmers' societies? It comes to pass, however, that they are about the only bodies which it affects at all. There are men who frantically dispute the right of laboring men to combine to raise their wages, but there is nobody who has much to say against combinations of farmers to improve their products. Improvement of product, of course, means a rise in price, but it is generally conceded here that if the consumer pays more he gets a fair equivalent. But there are combinations among farmers which look, not to the improvement of their product, but solely to better returns for their industry. What shall we say of these?

Combinations of this kind do not aim to make the consumer pay more, but to diminish the profit of the middleman. As matters stand, farm products seldom pass directly from the man who raises them to the one who consumes them. Almost invariably they are handled by at least one middleman, and usually by several. The first middleman fixes the price to the farmer; the last one fixes it to the consumer. At one end of the line the price is made as small as possible. At the other it is made as large as possible. The middlemen share the spoils among themselves. The longer the line, as a rule, the heavier the tribute at both ends.

It is apparent, therefore, that farmers' combinations have a double purpose, neither of which is injurious to the public. Certainly it injures nobody to have high-grade food products on the market; and just as certainly the elimination of the middleman cannot injure the consumer. In general he profits by it, for, do the best they can for themselves, the farmers obtain only part of what the eliminated go-between absorbed. When it is possible to get rid of the middleman he should go, because, unless he is indispensable, he is a mere parasite devouring what belongs of right to others. He has been permitted to insinuate himself between producer and consumer and to prey upon both by reason of the fact that farmers have heretofore acted as disintegrated units. They have thought very little about their true economic interests, and when they have thought they have been powerless to act. Just as the laboring man is at the mercy of his employer when he seeks to bargain without the alliance and suppoft of his whole trade, so the isolated farmer is at the mercy of the middleman and of innumerable other powers that prey. The sheer robbery that is perpetrated upon farmers every year by humbug agents would pay off the National debt. They are swindled by book agents, peddlers, mining promoters, horse dealers, stove sellers, and, worse yet, by patent medicine vendors, to an extent that seems incredible. The law cannot protect them along these lines. It is only the growth of intelligence that avails, and sad experience proves that intelligence develops in the rural districts, in direct proportion as the farmers learn to combine. While they remain isolated it does not develop at all. To the sociologist and the lover of his kind the most hopeful sign of the times is the nascent spirit of combination among the farmers. Any law which acts to destroy it is a bad law upon the whole, no matter how much or what incidental good it may do. Better have no laws whatever for the regulation of trusts and syndicates than one which dooms the farmers to benighted heathenism and the laboring men to hopeless servility.

THE ILLINOIS CONVENTION.

It would be interesting to know whether or not the prayer which the Rev. J. M. Francis offered up at the Illinois Republican Convention was applauded as fervently in heaven as it was by the delegates. The occasion of the outburst in the midst of this sacred rite was the mention of Mr. Cannon's name. The saintly Mr. Francis was reminding the Lord how much the favorite son of Illinois had done to promote civilization in general and justice between the corporations and private citizens in particular when, purely by accident, of course, the name of the great man happened to slip through the minister's lips. Then came the applause. Did the holy personage mention the Lord's name also in his prayer? And if he did, was it also applauded? The report is silent concerning these diverting inquiries and perhaps they are useless. It may be that the Lord is not so popular in Illinois as Mr. Cannon is.

The platform which the convention adopted after being edified by this prayer is unexpectedly sensible. Of course it gives Mr. Cannon a glowing indorsement, heralding to an awe-struck world the great truth that "he is in every way fitted to be the party's standard-bearer in 1908." The unimportant fact that nobody outside of Illinois would vote for him is omitted from the indorsement, doubtless for politeness' sake. There is also a long paragraph of gibberish in praise of the Dingley tariff, which one easily pardons upon reading farther along that the platform really favors genuine revision.

The Dingey creation is "the most scientifically adjusted and the best tariff" ever invented in earth or heaven. Thus declares the platform in one sentence, but in another it recovers complete sanity and announces that some changes are necessary to "maintain the scientific accuracy of the tariff." There is something absurd about trying to maintain what never existed, still the first confession of newly converted sinners should not be satirically scanned. It ought to be read with that broad charity which covers a multitude of absurdities. The convention, after a great deal of gallivanting around the point, finally comes out and says in plain words that "some of the present rates must be lowered and some must be repealed altogether." This is grand, emanating from the dark remoteness of Mr. Cannon's own state, but a relapse soon follows and the platform strays off into the usual wild talk about protecting labor and raising the price of wheat by customs duties on imports.

There are some remarks about financial legislation, interstate commerce and the trusts, but they mean nothing and are not intended to mean anything. All that one can glean from them is an intimation that the Illinois Republicans stand with the President and perhaps this ought to satisfy the public.

REDUCTION OF THE HOP AREA.

The remedy for excess in any line of production is not far to seek. When supply, gorged to repletion, is no longer met by demand, it is time to reduce it to the required limit. This question is before the hopgrowers of the Willamette Valley at the present time. In the estimation of competent judges, full half the acreage now in hops in this section, and indeed throughout the entire Northwest, might with profit to all concerned be plowed under and planted to some other crop that would give a return for which there is a more certain demand.

Hopraising has in some years past in this state been enormously profitable to the growers and fairly remunerative to a large army of pickers. In the latter capacity it has solved the problem in hundreds of instances of the wherewithal to buy the children's schoolbooks, the farmer's boys' and girls' first ready-made suit, and the outfit for the new baby. It has, moreover, not infrequently helped out on the taxes, and even, where the whole family was afield working to that end, has paid the interest on the mortgage, and perhaps taken something off the principal.

In the present condition of the hop market, however, and with what appears to be a constantly lessening demand and consequently a lessened production of malt liquor, it is manifest that growers cannot, if they persist in the business, pay former prices for picking hops and have anything left for themselves from the returns on the crop. It is equally manifest that those who pick hops must be paid a living wage for the work or find other employment during the hop-picking season. This is the simplest phase of the situation presented by an overstocked and flat hop market and the prospect of its continuance indefinitely, but it is one that affects a large number of people and gives, at the hop-picking season, the greatest anxiety to the grower.

The reduction this Spring of the hop area by one-half, as urged by men in close touch with the situation, would give warning, months in advance, to those who have come to depend upon hop-picking for needed funds in the Fall as supplemental to returns from other lines of endeavor, that this avenue of revenue is closed, and it behooves them to open or seek another. As to the hopgrowers—being men of industry, and sagacity—they will readily find some crop for which the demand is more steady than it has ever been for hops, to take the place of the unprofitable half of their hop vines. The situation is a trifle disconcerting, but it is not necessarily discouraging in a section whose soil responds gratefully and bountifully to the intelligent efforts of the agriculturist and the horticulturist in the wide and varied field that is open to their endeavor.

THE S. & S. FRANCHISE.

It is a matter of regret that the conditions imposed by Schwarzchild & Sulzberger regarding a site for their packing-house plant were such that the City Council could not, or did not, see fit to grant them. Portland solicits the attention of any industrial enterprise that will in any way contribute to the welfare of the city and state. But when the S. & S. representatives announce that, failing to secure a certain site in the city limits, they will seek a location in some other city, they discredit the merits of the city in which they so earnestly sought a location. The natural assumption is that Portland was selected as a site for a packing plant because it offered special advantages in the way of transportation facilities, close proximity to an immense stock country, and cheap lands for a plant.

These are the advantages which brought to this city the Swift and Armour plants, and, from a strictly business standpoint, it is not clear why the demands of the S. & S. people should be more exacting than those of their great competitors. In refusing a franchise for a packing-house location in the city limits, Portland has placed no obstacles in the way of the enterprise that will not be encountered in any city, and this excuse accordingly fails to justify the S. & S. people in abandoning Portland for some other point. Seattle has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the independent packing plant, but neither the S. & S. people nor any one else can get a location as near to the heart of the city of Seattle as the Zimmerman plant is to the center of Portland.

For many years there has been a constant complaint in Seattle over the location of a large packing plant many miles out of the city on the tidelands, and if the S. & S. people were to go to Seattle and attempt to secure a location closer in, they would meet with the same opposition that was encountered here. There has never been a disposition in Portland to hold up new enterprises or place any unnecessary obstacles in their way. In this respect Portland has an enviable reputation, and will endeavor to maintain it. For their own good as well as for the benefit the plant will be to Portland, it is to be hoped that the S. & S. people will locate on some of the numerous sites fully as advantageous as that of their chief competitors.

VOTERS AND THE LAW-MAKING POWER

The most serious fault found with the initiative and referendum is the frequency with which resort is being had to that method of securing legislation. And this is a fault of no small importance. At the coming election the people of Oregon will be called upon to express their views upon 19 measures, many of which are so long and complicated that the people generally cannot possibly understand them. The average workingman, or business man, for that matter, cannot or will not take the time to study all these measures so that he may understand their purpose and effect. While a few voters will vote intelligently upon all, the great majority will vote understandingly upon a few of the bills and mark their ballots blindly as to the others. The Woman Suffrage amendment, the amendment changing the time of holding general elections, the amendment increasing the pay of members of the Legislature, the University appropriation bill, the compulsory pass bill and a few others, are measures which the average voter will understand and upon which he will doubtless vote intelligently. The fishery bills, the tax exemption bill, the proportional representation amendment, and perhaps one or two others, are measures which there is no likelihood that any considerable number of people will study and understand.

The initiative and referendum is being grossly abused. It was never intended that there should be such frequent resort to this method of enacting laws. The purpose of the direct legislation amendment was to give the people the power to legislate for themselves in the few and important instances in which the Legislature refused to enact the laws needed and desired. Such was the idea upon which was based the provision that bills could be proposed by petition of a certain per cent of the voters of the state, and it was assumed that these petitions would not be filed unless the subject matter was of so great importance and interest that the people would spontaneously demand the submission of the measure and voluntarily prepare and sign the petitions.

But in practice a different plan of operation has developed. As everyone knows, the measures are prepared by a few persons—perhaps by a single individual—and the petitions are circulated by men who are paid for the work at so much per signature. The people of the state sign the petitions because it is easier to do so than to refuse, and in a large majority of instances they sign without first reading the measure attached to the petition. Indeed, the men who circulate the petitions do not want the signers to take the time to read the measures. As illustrating this point, the story is told of a man who was circulating a petition for submission of one of the long measures now before the people. He handed the petition to a voter with the request that he sign it. The voter took the paper and remarked, "I'll have to read it over first," but he was relieved of this trouble, for the petition circulator promptly replied, "Well, never mind; I haven't time to wait. I can get plenty of people to sign without reading it, and I'd starve to death if I waited for everyone to read it through." And this was a fact. If every man who signed the fishery bill petitions had read the bills before signing, the bills would never have been filed.

There is one apparent remedy for this flaw in the workings of the initiative and referendum and that is to make it a crime for any one to pay or accept pay for circulating a petition. If a measure is not of sufficient importance and public interest to enlist the voluntary service of the people in circulating petitions, it should never go before the people under the initiative or referendum. Under the present practice, the man or group of men who have money to spend, and who are willing to spend it, can secure submission of any measure to a vote of the people, even though it be against public interest.

Properly used, the initiative and referendum is a reserved power which may be of great value to the people. But selfish desires rather than popular demand figure too largely in some of the measures submitted. Dollars bring the signatures to any kind of a petition. If the practice of hiring men to circulate petitions were abolished by stringent criminal laws, there would be no resort to direct legislation unless the real interests of the people demanded such a course.

A Los Angeles dispatch announces that the Corean colony in that city will raise a fund to aid in the defense of the assassin who shot D. W. Stevens. A Corean student in the University of California who will be sent to San Francisco to attend to the defense is reported to have "unequivocally indorsed" the assassination. The incident well illustrates the manner in which the freedom of this country is abused by the cold-blooded murderers who flock in from other countries where laws are more seriously regarded than they are in the United States. It might be a good plan for the Government promptly to send these murderous heathen back to Corea, instead of permitting them to carry on their treacherous work under the protection of the American flag. The wholesale deportation of this class of foreigners would result in a marked decrease in crime which is promoted and encouraged by such utterances as are credited to these Corean students.

The "Lownsdale method" of rejuvenating old orchards is growing in favor. It offers a relatively easy solution of a problem that has long vexed the more progressive horticulturists of the state and branded a multitude of farmers with thriftlessness. As shown by George Melvin Miller, of Lane County, in a communication published in The Oregonian yesterday, the proposed plan—i. e., cutting the old trees down to within eighteen inches of the ground, allowing the stump to sprout and top-grafting it later—is the most economical as well as the surest way to rejuvenate the old orchard, and one that will give the quickest returns in marketable apples. Considerations like these, not to mention the praiseworthy, clean and neighborly desire to get rid of pest-ridden trees, dispel the sentiment that lingers about the old orchard, and commend the Lownsdale method to practical, energetic farmers of the new school.

To the average landsman, as well as to a great number of men "who go down to the sea in ships," it is somewhat difficult to understand why the cruise of the American fleet should be regarded as such a remarkable performance, or why there should be any great risk involved in continuing the trip around the world. The natural assumption is that these vessels are at least as seaworthy as the diminutive, fussy little tramp steamers that churn their way round the globe about twice a year. Their engineers are also expected to know as much as the $60-a-month man on the tramp steamers. It is thus merely a case of plenty of coal and fairly good navigating skill. It is glorious to think that our beautiful white squadron has done something that no other naval fleet has ever accomplished, but a careful analysis of the performnace fails to reveal anything very difficult in the undertaking.

Rev. John Flinn celebrated yesterday his 91st birthday in this city. He is one of the few remaining ministers of the Methodist Church who labored in the Oregon country during the old territorial years. The Pacific Christian Advocate says of him: "He was an apostle of good cheer and comfort to the people." It may be added that this venerable man is still an apostle of good cheer to all who come within his narrowed circle, as in his serene age he reviews the activities of his early years, enjoys the retrospect and, untroubled, awaits the call that all must hear.

So great is the interest awakened throughout the Willamette Valley by M. O. Lownsdale's proposed horticultural reform that a future generation—be it many years hence—may write his epitaph, "Savior of the old apple tree."

President Louis J. Hill, of the Great Northern, who is soon to visit Portland, doesn't need to worry over the gate closed to those who buy tickets. He travels on a pass.

As one solution of the perplexing disciplinary problem at Stanford, how will it do to employ the old-fashioned birch just once all 'round and let it go at that?

Illinois Republicans tried to dodge and declare for "tariff adjustment." But even Joe Cannon's state had to submit and come out for revision.

Tom Taggart's Indiana Democrats eulogize Mr. Bryan as a "great moral force." The real French Lick stamp. None others genuine.

It is pleasing news up North to learn that the Republican party of Tennessee is in good health and has physical vigor.

It would seem that the faculty at Stanford really intends to run the institution.

Motto for this year's graduating class at Stanford: It doesn't pay to cut up.

Illinois has spoken, and its voice is for Cannon. For the present.

COLD STORAGE EGGS.

Consolidation of the Output—But 'Tis Difficult to Monopolize Hens.

Brooklyn Eagle.

The hen is about to get into action and various combinations of capitalists are preparing to put 200,000,000 dozen fresh-laid eggs into cold storage. These will be dealt out to consumers in various stages of age, at a great advance upon the prices which the purchasers will pay during the next two months, when the supply very much exceeds the demand.

The magnitude of the industry may be realized when we know that the bankers of New York, Chicago and Pittsburg have agreed to reduce the amount of their loans on eggs as collateral. Heretofore owners of eggs in cold storage have been able to borrow from the banks on their storage certificates at the rate of 14 cents a dozen. But the banks are becoming conservative, and this year loans will be limited to 10 cents a dozen. The restriction will make a difference of $12,000,000 in the amount of money which the egg dealers will have to do business with. Consequently upon that and other business conditions, the purchasers will reduce their prices from the 18 and 19 cents a dozen, which they paid last year, to 15 cents. But when the hens take their vacation they expect to sell their preserved product for 40 cents a dozen, regardless of the reduction in the prices paid to the poultryman.

These figures make vivid to the consumer the distinction between "fresh," "strictly fresh" and "just eggs" which the corner grocers maintain so scrupulously. The distinction depends upon the length of time the eggs have lain in the warehouses. It is to be observed that the payment of 40 cents a dozen will secure nothing more modern than the middle grade—"fresh eggs." The storage men expect to dispose of their product at that price after months of holding. But the figures also point a way out to some of those unable to find employment or to continue business in cities during the present depression. With capital for a little land and a few hens, a business is open to any man which all the trusts will not be able to monopolize. The combination may be able to cut the price on the eggs to be stored, but for the eggs that are "strictly fresh," within three or four days from the hen, there is and always will be a good market in every large city. The total of the egg business is said to be greater than that of iron and steel. But the production is and always must be subdivided into small plants. It offers a chance to the man or the woman with little money to become an independent producer, and such chances have become scarce under the recent progress of consolidation. It is hard to consolidate hens or to reduce their Spring output.

"COURTESY" IN PRESS EXCHANGES.

Why Should Any Journal Give Something of Value for Nothing?

Grants Pass Observer.

Country newspaper publishers as a rule are great for trading their sheets for any other papers that will trade with them. This is called "exchange" and there are probably some papers in Oregon whose exchanges are the principal part of their circulation. Every no account paper thinks it has claims of "courtesy" upon all other papers for the assumed right of exchange. The system has long been considerable of an abuse. Two years ago, when the present publisher took control of the Observer, two radical reforms were instituted immediately. One was that no paper would be mailed to subscribers outside of Josephine County, unless paid in advance; and the other was the striking off the mailing list of a score or two of worthless exchanges—that is to say, papers that were of no benefit to the Observer, and whose columns indicated that they received no benefit from the Observer. Odd enough, most of these papers continue to come to this office without the "courtesy" of exchange, but they are never opened. The publishers of them do not seem to be acquainted with their own exchange list. The exchanges that now come to the Observer are mostly local with a few city dailies. They are always welcome, because they continually contain news or other matter of value to the Observer, and in return they occasionally appear to find something in this paper of use to them. It is a nice little exchange list, but courtesy has nothing to do with it.

However, the Observer's wrestle with useless exchanges was a very small matter compared with the imposition along the same line suffered by The Oregonian. In this case, provided the exchanges were worth reading, the "courtesy" of exchange meant an $8 publication for a $1 publication. But many of the exchanges being entirely valueless, it developed upon The Oregonian to be at an expense of thousands of dollars a year as a contribution to newspaper "courtesy." Lately The Oregonian weakened on the one-sided deal and a large number of worthless country newspapers do not now receive the chief journal of this Coast as a free gift. Many of them, no doubt, feel sore at The Oregonian's flagrant breach of exchange of "courtesy."

LAYING MINES IN COLUMBIA

Government Engineers Strengthening Coast Defenses.

FORT STEVENS, Or., March 26.—(Special.)—The District Artillery Engineer is receiving a large shipment of submarine mining cable for use in connection with the laying of mines. As there might be circumstances which would require the prompt arming of the waters of the Lower Columbia, all the necessary articles for such a procedure are kept constantly on hand and are regularly inspected and tested to ascertain their efficiency.

A searchlight brigade, composed of seven portable searchlights, is expected to arrive in this artillery district some time in May for the purpose of determining by actual experiment the proper number of and most suitable locations for searchlights. This is of vital importance to artillery, as the tracking of vessels at night necessitates the use of these lights and requires that they should be of sufficient number to easily distinguish the target.

Select Albany Co-ed Debaters.

ALBANY, Or., March 26.—(Special.)—In a try-out debate last evening, Misses Willetta Wright, Rhoda Stalnaker and Mamie McKnight were chosen to represent Albany College in a co-ed. debate with Willamette University, to be held in May. It is the first team ever chosen to represent the local college in a debate exclusively for girls. There were five contestants in the try-out last evening in the college chapel. The question discussed was: "Resolved, That the United States shall permanently retain the Philippine Islands." Misses Martha Montague and Willetta Wright supported the affirmative, and Misses Mamie McKnight, Rhoda Stalnaker and Katheryn McMillan the negative.

Filipino Boys at Wisconsin.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., March 26.—(Special.)—Angosta Hidalgo and Raphael H. Aguilar, two full-blooded Filipinos who attended the university last year, are meeting with marked success in the University of Wisconsin, where they are enrolled in the department of chemical engineering. Both of these boys came from prominent families in the islands, Hidalgo being a Tagalo and Aguilar a Pompagno. Hidalgo received his preparatory instruction at Portland High School. He is president of the Philippine Club at Wisconsin, which consists of over 30 Filipinos, who are enrolled at the Madison College.

THE HOUSEHOLD

BY LILIAN TINGLE.

IN AN old Scottish book on Domestic Economy I came recently upon the following statement: "Onions are supposed to possess a considerable quantity of nourishment. They used to form the favorite bon-bons of the Highlanders, who with a few of these and an oat cake would travel an incredible distance and live for days without other food."

If this is true, it helps to explain a good many things, such as, for instance, the fine qualities and sturdy health associated with one's conception of a Highlander, and the traditional clear, rosy cheeks of the true Highland lassie. For the onion, with its relatives, leeks and garlic, has always been held in highest esteem as a "blood purifier" and destroyer of "cold, acrid and dangerous humors."

In the light of this statement also, I judge that certain recent streetcar neighbors of mine must have been Highlanders, although they were not in National costume and to all appearances had not a single bagpipe, sporran, glen, pibroch, cateran, dirk, or "whateffer" about their persons. There is no doubt, however, that they had been indulging freely in their "favorite bon-bons" and were now proceeding to "travel incredible distances."

* * *

And possibly there was Highland ancestry in the case of the delightfully pretty young girl who paused for a moment beside me in the vegetable market last week and, with the expression of one of Guido Reni's soft-eyed cherubs, exclaimed to her companion, "You know, I simply adore young green onions. Don't you?" I don't know, though, whether it would be safe to offer her a package of onions when she was expecting chocolates or marshmallows; but it seems certain that if many girls were to eat less of the latter and more of the former class of "bon-bon" it would be the better for their health and for their complexions.

But as every one knows this "Sphinx of Vegetables," this "Rose of Roots," as its admirers have called it, has one grave fault linked with its thousand virtues. Two centuries ago Swift sang:

There is, in every cook's opinion
No savory dish without an onion.
And he adds the warning:
But lest your kissing should be spoiled,
The onion must be thoroughly boiled.

* * *

Unfortunately there are many cooks who do not know or do not use the proper method in boiling, and most of us can understand the reasons for a definition, furnished by a little 9-year-old, of the word "aroma" in her spelling lesson. She wrote: "Aroma is what you have in the parlor when you boil onions in the kitchen."

A certain epicurean authority of the early nineteenth century, commenting on the couplets of the great Dean quoted above, says: "This warning is intended for the benefit of youthful gourmands. It is, however, a precaution of no great moment, as the period when a man begins to pay much attention to palatic enjoyments is nearly about the same at which the taint of his breath becomes an affair of lesser concernment either to himself or others. It may be remarked, by the way, that one sign of the precocity of the youth of this age is their beginning to talk of the business of the table at a time when their fathers were still upon their bread and milk."

* * *

Another writer states: "Undoubtedly the taste for onions, cayenne and olives increases with age." And a famous recipe for Spanish garlic sauce concludes with the words:

"This is rather an overpowering sauce for English palates, but it is much relished abroad and by middle-aged, traveled gourmands at home."

After that it takes a good deal of courage to confess that I not only have a general affection for onions and leeks, but (at the risk of being classed as "an elderly traveled gourmand") have a particular liking for this same Spanish sauce.

I firmly believe, however, that "the eater of raw onions, who loves his fellow men, should be as one set apart from them," and that "the price of indulgence is seclusion for a season." Sometimes I have had to take the seclusion without the indulgence, especially on one occasion on a German steamer where every one, from the captain down, began every meal with caviar and huge spoonfuls of chopped onions.

At the first meal I suddenly and completely lost interest in all things edible or human, and hastily made for solitude in my own little white cabin. But later, in self-defense, I took my "appetizer," and crunched the juicy morsels as the rest of the company did.

* * *

The ancient Egyptians, with their well-known passion for deifying useful things, regarded the onion as an object of worship. This may or may not have something to do with the many superstitions that have clung, and to a certain extent still cling about it, and the marvelous cures of all kinds that have always been credited to it. Still we would hardly expect in this age of science to find a so-called teacher of hygiene give the following instructions to her pupils: "When there is sickness in the house, place cut onions under the bed and they will sweep away all disease." How many people still confuse magic and medicine!

TAKES POISON AND USES GUN

Former Dalles Man Kills Himself in Cabin Near Underwood.

THE DALLES, Or., March 26.—(Special.)—Coroner Burget returned tonight from Underwood, Wash., with the body of Alfred Bergeron, which was found in his lonely cabin by a neighbor Tuesday. There was every evidence that Bergeron committed suicide.

A six-ounce bottle of carbolic acid was found on the table with half the contents gone. Bergeron had evidently drank a large portion of the poison, as his hands and face were badly burned by the fiery fluid. To make his work of selfdestruction doubly certain Bergeron had placed a shotgun beside his bed, which he ingeniously discharged with a handsaw. The discharge of shot entered the body and inflicted a fatal wound. From the condition of the body, death had resulted ten days ago.

Bergeron was last seen in The Dalles ten days ago, when it was known that he purchased a six-ounce bottle of carbolic acid. He left here for his home at Underwood after drinking heavily for several days. He had $35 in money when he left here and $28 was found in his cabin.

Bergeron owned land four miles from Underwood in partnership with Louis Comini, a marble worker of this city. He leaves a brother, Joseph, a Mill Creek fruit farmer, and three grown sons in Montana. Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow from the Crandall undertaking parlors in this city.

Catch Seattle Man in Arizona.

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 26.—The police this evening arrested Archie C. Bell, a contractor and carpenter, who recently arrived here, on a telegraphic order from the Chief of Police of Seattle, Wash. Bell is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses. It is alleged that Bell is an alias and that his right name is L. L. Sherr.

Advertising Talks
No. 1.

THE PERAMBULATING SHOWCASE

By Herbert Kaufman.

THE newspaper is a huge shop window, carried about the city and delivered daily into hundreds of thousands of homes, to be examined at the leisure of the reader. This shop window is unlike the actual plate-glass showcase only in one respect—it makes display of descriptions instead of articles.

You have often been impressed by the difference between the decorations of two window-trimmers, each of whom employed the same materials for his work. The one drew your attention and held it by the grace and cleverness and art manifested in his display. The other realized so little of the possibilities in the materials placed at his disposal that unless some one called your attention to his bungling you would have gone on unconscious of its existence.

An advertiser must know that he gets his results in accordance with the skill exercised in preparing his verbal displays. He must make people stop and pause. His copy has to stand out.

He must not only make a show of things that are attractive to the eye but are attractive to the people's needs, as well.

The window-trimmer must not make the mistake of thinking that the showiest stocks are the most salable. The advertiser must not make the mistake of thinking that the showiest words are the most clinching.

Windows are too few in number to be used with indiscretion. The good merchant puts those goods back of his plate glass which nine people out of ten will want after they have seen them.

The good advertiser tells about goods which nine readers out of ten will buy if they can be convinced.

Newspaper space itself is only the window, just as the showease is but a frame for merchandise pictures. A window on a crowded street in the best neighborhood, where prosperous persons pass continually, is more desirable than one in a cheap, sparsely settled neighborhood. An advertisement in a newspaper with the most readers and the most prosperous ones possesses a great advantage over the same copy in a medium circulating among persons who possess less means. It would be foolish for a shop to build its windows in the alleyway—and just as much so to put its advertising into newspapers which are distributed among "alley dwellers."

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COMPARISONS IN COST OF LIVING

It Costs More to Live, Because of More Luxurious Living.

Youth's Companion.

Few topics of conversation afford a more general agreement among all classes of people than the increase in the cost of living. Estimates vary as to how much the increase has been, but nearly every man who supports a family will say, without hesitation, that it costs more now than it did 25 years ago. There is truth in the statement, but perhaps it is not the whole truth or the most important part of it. Each man's experience has to do, of course, with his own family; and families have a way of beginning small and increasing. Moreover, as children grow older it costs more to keep them.

A more accurate statement is that the actual cost of necessities, although greater now than a year or two ago, has not materially increased since 1873, but that the tastes and ideals of the people have made the expenses of the family greater. The education in hygiene has made a necessity of the bathtub, which was formerly regarded as a luxury, and has insisted that all the plumbing be open. The additional plumbing, in turn, makes higher water rates.

The network of trolley cars offers inducements to spend a nickel for a ride, and makes it easy to take shopping trips, on which other nickels are spent. The telephone means another outlay. Refrigeration has made possible a far more varied diet, but it is also a more expensive diet; and the cultivation of vegetables under glass has placed upon the poor man's table in midwinter such articles of food as not even the rich could secure a generation or two ago.

Finally, there is the matter of fashion, which now provides evening clothes for children whose parents in childhood did not own a suit of any kind. Even the humble shirtwaist, sensible as it is, means an increase in the laundry bills. As a woman professor of household economics said, in an address in New York a few weeks ago, "We are told to drink certified milk, and yet cows refuse to give certified milk for less than 15 cents a quart."

It may cost more to live now than it used, but whether the cost of living is greater is something which will bear examination.

When Baby Wakes.

Chicago News.

At 6, when the baby goes to bed,
His carnal cravings satisfied,
He is so plump and rosy red,
So dimpled, sweet, and drowsy eyed.
That to his crib I often creep
And watch my wee one sleep.
'Tis then I vow this babe, somehow,
Is more than all the world to me,
I cannot say I feel that way
When baby wakes at 3!

When baby rouses me at 6
O'clock I really do not care.
I put him through his infant tricks
And toss him gaily in the air.
Most thoroughly I then enjoy
The darling little boy,
And gladly cry: "No gold could buy
This roly-poly winsome wee!"
I must confess I prize him less
When he wakes up at 3!

One night in pain our wee one slept,
The fever on his restless brow;
And then, as to his crib I crept,
In grief, that makes me tremble now,
I wondered if our little one
Would wake to greet the sun.
The long night through I watched with you,
Dear wife—and, oh, what joy to see
Our darling smile, at last—the while
He woke—at 3!