

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

THE industry of the South, as was declared in a former writing in this series, clings closely to the soil; but, owing to the variety of Southern native resources, and to the advantages of climate, it takes a far wider range than the agricultural or rural industry at the North or West. All that we can grow, the South can grow, too, and many things to greater advantage. Take the item of fruit, for example: There is no variety known to our production—not even the apple—which is not produced in a high degree of excellence at the South; and in addition, the South produces a wide range of fruit impossible to be grown outside of a hot-house north of Virginia or Tennessee. Furthermore, thanks to its milder climate, the South ripens its fruits much earlier than the North, and so is able to put them into the general markets at times when the season is new and prices high. Alabama peaches may be found in the New York market before the snow is out of the Delaware and Jersey orchards; and Arkansas—everywhere in the South produced—strawberries are a good month earlier than the berry of Northern production. The South has been slow in seeing the business significance of all this, and even yet the Southern railroads are slow in co-operating with the Southern farmer; but it is seen at last, and very much is being made of it. Vast orchards have of late years been planted in Eastern Tennessee and in Northern Alabama and Georgia; and in Florida, where the lemon and orange orchards were ruined a few years ago, new plantations have been made further south and beyond the frost line. Small fruits and vegetables, too, are being cultivated of late years as never before; and it will be no long time in my judgment when the South will dominate the fresh fruit trade and the early vegetable markets of the North.

But it is in connection with her own great staples that the industry of the South is chiefly employed; and of these cotton is easily first. The annual production of cotton in the United States ranges in the neighborhood of eleven or twelve millions of commercial bales, approximately four times the annual production of any year prior to the Civil War. Every pound of this great cotton output belongs

to the South, and, reckoned at its farm value, it brings into the South annually close upon four hundred millions of dollars. And cotton, while the industry is only one of many sorts of agricultural production which make up the wide range of Southern industry directly dependent upon the soil. And in each and every one of these, recent statistics of production exhibit a prodigious growth. As in the conspicuous case of cotton, so with every other thing of Southern native production. In spite of the apparent backwardness of the country; in spite of the shiftlessness of the labor element; in spite of universal cringing about industrial failure at the South, there has been a vast expansion of Southern production in all its traditional and special industries.

Where there has been industrial failure at the South, it has come in connection with efforts to turn the energies of the country into new and unaccustomed courses—to teach the South new tricks, so to speak. And mostly it has come in connection with manufacturing enterprises founded upon the notion that the negro could be turned to account as a factory laborer. In many places in the South—so many that the traveler grows weary of seeing them—there are the wrecks of great cotton mills, idle and sinking into ruin. The theory upon which they were established has not worked out in practice. The raw material is at hand; there is cheap living for the workmen, and cheap fuel for the furnaces. In many instances there is a water power which never fails and never freezes. The conditions would seem ideal, but in spite of all this the thing could not be made to go. The whole trouble has been with the labor factor. The negro will not work in the regular, persistent and reliable fashion demanded by the necessities of the factory; and when, upon the basis of his failure, efforts are made to make the Southern mills with white labor brought from the North, that has failed. Not only does the negro himself decline factory labor, but he creates a social atmosphere which repels the white factory worker and makes it impossible to hold him in the South. Some of the cotton mills established so hopefully a few years ago are still in operation, some with negro workmen, and

some with whites; but many more are idle—manifest and acknowledged failures. This is not because the black man will not work, for under conditions to his taste he will work, and work well. He makes an excellent teamster, a good man of all work about a farm, a good domestic servant; and in many lines of mechanical work he makes a fair, if not strictly first-class, hand. Pretty much all the mechanical work of the jobbing kind in the Southern States is done by black workmen. The local blacksmith, carpenter and generally handy men of the country are black. In truth, the South gives to the negro opportunity to work at a great variety of trades. With us there is practically no career open to the man of black skin, excepting such as we brand as menial; we grate about equality; we criticize and even vilify the South for its attitude toward the black man; we give money to teach the negro Latin and the polite arts, and, in exceptional cases, we invite him—of course, with a proper feeling of condescension—to dinner. But while doing all this we deny him what he needs more than all this, namely, opportunity to earn his living by honest work in a variety of occupations. The South does not give the black man the hand of social fellowship; it does not hold him equal to the white man in any sense nor pretend to do so; it sets him off by himself socially, politically and even religiously; but it does give him a chance to earn his living in the whole range of the so-called industrial trades.

The great mass of black population lives upon the soil, as it did before the day of liberation; and it lives after the fashion which would seem very pitiful if the people did not everywhere and under all conditions of squalor appear cheerful and happy. The negro negro, even in the "black belt" of Georgia and Alabama, is a better man than the white man in a but of the most primitive construction, often than otherwise of one room, usually without floor or windows, and of course wholly destitute of what white people call furniture. It is, in fact, a meager shelter. Cooking is done over an open fire in the one iron pot which the place affords, and out of this pot the family eats with its fingers with as little regard for neatness as so many brute

beasts. A few dirty quilts made of cheap print and stuffed with cotton fleecy lie in heaps in corners during the day, and at night the members of the family lie together under these coverings for all the world like a litter of puppy dogs. From year's end to year's end the greater number do not remove the rags which serve for clothes night or day, and not one in a thousand ever took a bath, excepting in hot weather when they roll in the creeks and swamps for the sake of getting cool. In passing hundreds of these huts one will never see the slightest suggestion of an attempt at ornamentation, no patch of grass, no growth of flowering plants, nothing indicative of taste, of ambition, or even the wish for a decent cleanliness. Only very rarely may there be seen a woman washing clothes; and as a matter of fact, not one family in five ever has any washing done. I am now describing that type of negro life which is nearest savagery, and, in truth, not much better than savagery. It exists in all those parts of the country where in slavery days the blacks were simply herded for the work that could be got out of them and under conditions which gave them no domestic contact with the white race. Of course, there exists all over the South a better class of blacks, living in more or less close relations with the whites. It is from this better class that the black population of the North is to some extent recruited, though as a matter of fact the negro found in the North is not usually of Southern birth. More than likely he comes from the black quarter of some Northern city, from Philadelphia, New York, or even Boston. The Southern negro rarely wanders far from home, and the strictly plantation negro almost never. The former has rarely the industry or the personal responsibility to make an efficient car porter or hotel servant, and the latter lacks the intelligence to do anything but the commonest labor. Observation of the negro in the North affords no fair basis for opinion concerning matters involving the negro of the South, for the two types of man have little in common excepting the color of their skin. The Northern negro has been "differentiated," as the college men put it, by contact with Northern civilization, by orderly and disciplined habits of

life, by his generally better home, and by a measure of responsibility which in the South is not often put upon a man with black skin.

The intelligence and morals of the plantation negro are in keeping with the low standards of his domestic habit. He is of course wholly illiterate and he is more than likely to be a petty thief. He is not desperately wicked; he will not rob your house nor hamstring your horses. But he has no respect for property rights in things which appeal to his personal desires and appetites. He will steal your pigs and rob your henroosts and he cannot be made to feel that he does any wrong. A South Carolina landowner told me that in his state many kinds of industry for which the country was well adapted are practically out of the question because the negroes are so addicted to petty thievery; and by way of illustration he cited the case of pork and hog products in general. "In the old days," he said, "South Carolina was a great hog country, and to some extent we produce pork now, though not in sufficient numbers to supply the domestic demand. The trouble is that if one undertakes to raise hogs he has to keep all the blacks in his neighborhood supplied. It is simply impossible to prevent them from stealing pigs, and for this reason and no other the hog industry with us has fallen to nothing. It is the same with poultry and with many other things." Proceeding to further illustration of the negro character, my friend declared that there was not a local condition in his neighborhood which would have made the buying and storing of corn a good speculation. "It would have been some hundreds of dollars in my pocket," he said, "if I could have filled my granaries with corn, but it would have been ridiculous to do it unless I could have kept them under guard day and night. It is not that the people are vicious in the sense you call a thief vicious in the North; it is because they haven't the self-control to leave alone the things which appeal to their appetites."

The negro's lack of self-control rather than his vicious or criminal purpose is the fact out of which grows the special terror under which every white husband and father in the "black belt" has come

AN OREGONIAN WRITES OF INDUSTRIAL AND RACIAL CONDITIONS AT THE SOUTH

of late years to live. The terrible truth I think is not understood at the North that in large parts of the rural South no woman or female child, if they go anywhere unprotected. No country road is safe ground. It is never prudent for a woman alone or only with her children to open her door until she knows who is on the other side of it. This condition is not universal, but it is very common, especially in the Cotton States. There are whole districts, as far as any in the South, which have practically been abandoned by white people so far as residence is concerned, for no other reason than the basic and terrible of life there is too great to be borne. These are truths which it is well for the North to know.

All this ought to explain to thoughtful men in some sense at least the feeling toward the black race which is universal in the South. It is in many ways a kindly feeling; but at bottom there are in it the elements of fear and hate. The Southern man of today feels and feels truly that through no fault of his own he is made to suffer a terrible retribution for the folly and crime of former generations. The industrial progress of his country is held back; its political life is degraded; his own struggle for property is made difficult or hopeless and his domestic peace is threatened, by the terrible incubus of the black man. These are things to be borne in mind in making up one's opinion of the attitude of the white man of the South toward the black man. It may not in severely judicial eyes excuse all that the North condemns in the conduct of the South. But speaking for myself, and as a man born and bred in the North, I believe the Southern man to be a better judge than the Northern man of what is good for the South. I am not among those who blame the white man of the South for insisting upon such adjustment of the franchise as will give the control of political and social affairs in the South to the race of superior intelligence, thrift and moral responsibility. No country can prosper in its property or in its civilization under any other rule; and no spirited race can be expected to rest content under a system founded upon a theory of equality where in fact no equality exists.

At the time of my visit to the South—in December last—the Booker Washington

incident was new, or at least new enough to be the uppermost theme of discussion everywhere. I had some prejudice in the matter, for in my opinion there is not in this country or in any other a man personally and intrinsically more worthy of respect and consideration than this negro Washington. For myself, I should value the acquaintance and friendship of a man of his character and career, and I have no prejudice which would make me hesitate to sit at table with him, or to receive him socially. But a few days in the South convinced me that President Roosevelt had made a mistake in inviting a black man to the White House on a social footing. The reason lies in considerations far more important than any fact of personal character—in nothing less than the representative character of the two men. If the social catraction of the black man at the South were nothing more than a whim, still it would have been discreet on the part of the President to respect it in connection with his official hospitality. But in truth it is something more than a whim; it rests upon feelings which I have attempted to set forth in this letter. The white man of the South is afraid of the black man, whose astonishing fecundity is in many places threatening to overwhelm him by sheer pressure of superior numbers, and whose want of capacity and self-control is an injury and a menace to him. In his view, and he knows the negro better than any first-class white man, the negro is a social pest. The whole race has in the South is the social subordination of the black race. No other point is so persistently and even passionately insisted upon by the Southerner. And who among us shall take it upon himself to say that he is wrong? Who of us is better able to define the white man's problem in the South than the white man himself? It is, I think, the part of wisdom to surround the negro with a sense of fear and of fraternal dread, to permit the men of the South to determine this matter for themselves in the light of their own experience and judgment. And I believe that as fellow-citizens we have no moral right to do the things which outrage Southern feeling and which in the opinion of the white man of the South multiplies his difficulties and deepens the great problem which shadows his horizon. A. H. February, 1902.

Strange Stone Deities in Mexican Forests

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 10.—(Special correspondence.)—A remarkably interesting story of adventure, with a strong touch of romance and many amusing happenings as aside, is told in the report of the researches which Theodore Malar, the distinguished German explorer, has made among the prehistoric ruins of the Teimatinia Valley, Central America, for the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard. Mr. Malar spent the whole of the year 1898 and 1899 traveling and excavating, making many sketches and securing a large number of excellent photographs which add vividness to the printed account of his work.

The Teimatinia Valley lies close to where Mexico touches Guatemala, and the path to it is rough and lonely. Mr. Malar found some difficulty in making the authorities on whom he must depend more or less for aid understand his errand, and, when he had succeeded in that, found it hard to get satisfactory guides and native assistance for his expeditions, but the excellent results he accomplished amply repay him for all of his hardships and his painstaking studies have added much that is of value to what is becoming more generally recognized as the most important archaeological work of today.

Rediscovering a Ruined City.

With considerable difficulty Malar and his party penetrated the wilderness through which the Chinkila River runs, in search of a large ruined city which they found especially hard to rediscover

because of the thick undergrowth which smothered it completely as the result of forest fires. Indeed, it became necessary to send for the most experienced of the local guides, who had been told that some distance before any trace of the ancient buildings and monuments could be discovered. Then, Malar records with descriptions of his findings, that woodcutters had busied themselves about the place in a manner quite uncalculated for archaeology, had taken out from a great pyramid a slab covered with inscriptions, and finding it too heavy to carry off with them, had left it lying near by, after they had chipped pieces off from it as "specimens," seriously injured for any information it might give, indeed, he had frequent reason to complain of the ruthless destructiveness of previous visitors—natives, no doubt—whose only interest in the old temples broke into came from a superstitious and superstition that they might be treasure-houses. An amusing note of the explorer says that the "honest woodcutters" apologized for their meddling in one place by saying that they could not foresee that some time he would penetrate such a hidden corner, and adds evidence that one of the "honest" ones found a particularly pretty sculptured stone which he carried off to sell, only to get discouraged at its weight and the possibility of not being paid for it after all, and he had it in some unknown part of the jungle.

These must have been the petty annoyances of the expeditions, however, for some of the difficulties encountered were very real physical distresses. In order to secure pictures of one spot it was necessary to tie ropes to the trees which fringed the top of the steep walls of a ravine, and, descending by them, carry

the delicate photographic apparatus to the rocks below. Once, while camping in the open, the piercing screams of a puma at midnight terrified Mr. Malar's native companions, who, without scruples as "not exactly heroes." Again, a river was crossed only by sending one man over on a hastily built raft and following him in a rude boat, which, by good fortune, the advance guard had found concealed on the further bank.

Perhaps the most trying experience of which Mr. Malar tells was incident to a trip he made to the long-dormant Lake of Petha. There he found some remarkable painted rocks from which he determined to copy the designs. Scarcely had he finished his tracings from the dizzy perch afforded by a projecting stone when his men warned him of the approach of an Indian band. As soon as the newcomers spied Mr. Malar he set up a terrific outcry in broken Spanish, saying that the rock was sacred and that he must leave it. Finally, pacified, the native was induced to take the explorer's apology for the meddling in the temple, which he did by the most nerve-racking path he knew, apparently, leading them through a large waterfall, over a bridge made of a fallen tree-trunk submerged in the violent stream, and across another bridge of similar construction which, however, by way of variety, was suspended high above the wall, and had it in some unknown part of the jungle.

The most important ruins which Mr. Malar examined were those at Piedras Negras, in which he found many beautiful pieces of stone work and a large number of well-preserved inscriptions. It was the second time he had visited the place, and he was the better equipped for his work there.

The hills and valleys are here strewn



STONE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR FOUND AT PIEDRAS NEGRAS BY MALAR'S EXPEDITION FOR THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF HARVARD.

ADVENTURE AND ROMANCE FOUND IN A CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE

among them a great acropolis to which a monumental staircase leads. On a broad terrace are the ruins of a pyramid once connected with a large temple, in front of which now lie the fragments of eight stelae, or monumental stones, and of a lesser temple. Among the fallen stones was a sacrificial table broken and worn by centuries of storm and rain, but interesting in its partial destruction. The great slab of rock rested upon three square pillars, each of which was elaborately carved with a human figure. It was carefully cleaned and the surrounding forest growth cleared away to procure the excellent photograph which is reproduced in Mr. Malar's report.

The description which the explorer gives of the carvings which he found about the temples of the acropolis at Piedras Negras is very interesting. In his more recent examination he gave special attention to the temple at the foot of the pyramid, where the stela stand, and the carving on the lintels of its entrance. The carvings are in excellent preservation, showing the consecration of warriors. One of the stelae tells the story of "The God and the Victim" in vivid pictures. The god sits on a high throne, while below him priests are bringing several captives for sacrifice. Among the captives is an old man who has in his left hand a cane, and in his right hand a knife. Mr. Malar thinks his arts of magic may have caused his predicament. Close beside him is a "savage," distinguished by a hairy face, and through the half-painted lips of the condemned men is evidence that in their time the custom of fling the teeth in the shape of a saw prevailed.

The colors with which they were

originally illuminated had disappeared from most of the carvings, red seeming to have withstood the wear of time better than any other. That they must once have been gorgeous is easy to imagine, for Mr. Malar tells of one or two which he found particularly well preserved. On a stela which once stood at the edge of the second terrace was a god, and the god Ketzalkoatl. He was represented in full face, almost wholly in relief. His breast-plate was green, as were his cuffs and his round ear-pegs, and his hands were green. He wore a blue and white tunic, and the scroll work at either side was partly red and partly green. All of the feather work with which the figure was adorned was tinted a bluish green, and the rest of the background a deep red.

Mr. Malar's report, which represents so much labor and expense, so much learning and energy, is published by the Peabody Museum in the same finished form as the preliminary report on its recently completed work at Copan, which excited so much discussion and interest in the world-wide interest. Like the Copan researches and the investigations at Quirigua, also conducted at the instigation of the museum, Mr. Malar's efforts have formed a valuable addition to the museum's exhaustive study of American archaeology, and well represent the work which the institution is doing, and which it intends to make more generally known every part of Central America. As is the museum's custom, Mr. Malar's report has been put on sale at a price intended to cover merely the bare cost of manufacture.

IN THE FIELD OF POPULAR SCIENCE

IT is well known that if it were not for its powerful action as a drug and poison alcohol would be a cheap commodity. Sugars and starches grow in immense abundance in almost all the civilized countries in the world, and it is but a short step to convert these into alcohol by fermentation, a process due to the agency of micro-organisms. All cereals would thus serve and the roots containing sugar, such as the maple, and even fruit such as the grape, in a time of plenty might easily be a cheap source of spirit. Alcohol possesses excellent caloric value, it burns with a hot flame, it is easily vaporized and it yields, as a rule, no deleterious products of partial combustion as does oil or coal. It is thus well adapted as a fuel for the motor car, and already motor cars are being run with alcohol and with very encouraging results. The drawback to its use, of course, is its expense, but some effort to reduce this has been made with success by getting a concession from the excise (at any rate in France) to withdraw the high duty, which is done if it can be shown that the spirit has been rendered undrinkable, as wood alcohol. Similarly "denatured" alcohol is being employed in lamps for the production of an incombustible light by the heating of the Welsbach mantle in the spirit flame. The London Lancet says that it is not chimerical entirely to suggest that the day may come when we may not only owe our increased facilities of locomotion to the much-abused microbe, but some of our effectual means of artificial illumination also.

Skilled Workmen Leaving Trains.

After stating the fact that many of the most skillful workmen have, during the last half year, left the iron and steel mills of the trusts for employment with independent companies, the Pittsburgh National Labor Tribune makes the following comment: "There are various reasons for the preference the skilled workers, most of them members of the Amalgamated Association, are thus showing for the mills of concerns outside the trust. One is that in independent mills they are not liable to the grinding exactions of mill superintendents who know that their cost sheets will be compared with the sheets of dozens of other superintendents in the same employ. Another reason is that the independent mills, have, on the whole, exhibited a more cordial attitude toward the workers' organization. Whether the shrewd business men in con-

trol of the trust will allow the exodus to go much further without exerting themselves to turn it back may be questioned. The independent have certainly not been slow to make use of it for the solution of first-class skilled labor supply is concerned. It is a well-defined and formidable movement, which must quietly be having its effect on character of production and which would respectably suggest to trust managers that they will have to do something sooner or later to stop and counteract."

Center of Immigration.

Edward F. McCreaney, assistant United States Commissioner in Immigration at the port of New York, in an article in The American Federationist shows the change in the source of immigration in the following sentences: "In '90 the center of immigration was in Paris. A circle drawn with the center at Paris, touching the west coast of Ireland, would include all the territory from which the United States was receiving immigrants. Today the center of such a circle would be located—if the bulk of immigration be considered—at Vienna; but, geographically, taking into account the growing Oriental movements of Greece, Syria and Armenia, the center of this circle would be located at Constantinople."

Millinery From Germany.

The Germans have for years rivaled the French in the variety, quality and quantity of millinery flowers exported. The great center of the manufacture of artificial flowers is Schmitz, 35 miles from Dresden on the frontier of Bohemia. Official reports show that the value of this product shipped to these United States averages \$3,500,000 per annum. The total number of persons engaged in the trade is estimated at 10,000, the larger proportion being females, who earn \$7.50 to \$12.50 per month. The total export from Schmitz to foreign countries, other than to the United States, is said to be over \$1,000,000 per annum.

Industrial and Scientific Notes.

Japan has 246 persons to the square mile. Last year's fatalities in the Swiss Alps reached the record number of 118. The Vatican now has an installation of electric lights, which cost \$45,000. Three-fourths of the people of Cuba depend for a livelihood upon the sugar crop. More than \$2,000,000,000 of new securities

were listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1901.

One English firm has equipped more than 150 vessels with apparatus for using petroleum for steam fuel.

Automobiles which have a flange outside a pneumatic tire are being used for floating on the Transvaal railways.

Havre, France, is the world's largest coffee market. The amount of that commodity in the warehouses seldom falls below 2,000,000 bags.

The record for rapid slaughtering has been lowered, or raised, by an Indianapolis packing-house by turning 228 hogs into products within five hours.

An electric motor car recently doubled the length of Great Britain, traveling 110 miles at an expense of 5 cents a mile.

King Edward has put typewriting machines in the office of his private secretary. This is quite an innovation, the letters of royalty have always heretofore been executed by hand.

Within 10 years a German publisher has issued translations of five of the most read English and American novels. No one of them has had a sale of as many as 100 copies.

The newspapers of Manila speak with disfavor of the suggestion of the Philippine commission that a special revenue shall have a fixed value of 50 cents in gold, be coined for use in the island.

Germany's new tariff on sewing machines which varies from \$5 to \$9 will probably reduce the value of our export of machines to that country about \$1,000,000 a year. Last year we sold Germany \$1,125,000 worth.

The largest ship ever built in America will be launched at Cramp's yard next week. She is for the International Navigation Company's fleet and will ply between New York and Southampton; is 18,000 tons and will be a clipper boat.

The report of the Philippine commission shows that 100,000 Filipinos are now in the public schools, while 79 American teachers have already been engaged for service in the Philippine Islands. No teachers are also co-operating, and looking to the Americans for counsel in the pedagogical line.

Sake, the national drink of the Japanese, is a rice beer which is fermented by the spores of a fungus instead of hops. Its power to intoxicate is greater than that of the beers of Europe. It is more than 20 per cent alcohol while German beers have from 2 to 8 per cent of alcohol.

The Pittsburgh Reduction Company of Pittsburgh is at the present time the only

American producer of aluminum. It has three factories, one at New Kensington, Pa., one at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and one at Shawangunk Falls, Canada. The company has a capital of \$10,000,000, and has paid \$1,000,000 common stock, paying 10 per cent, for which \$200 per share has been bid in Pittsburgh without effecting any purchase.

Chopier recently announces the discovery of an electric light which does away with the carbon filament, and which he claims will produce a far cheaper electric light than the one now on the market.

His lamp is a glass tube with a bulb at one end into which he introduces gas generated from mercury. This gas acts as a conductor for the electric current, which is connected with it as in ordinary lamps, and the current flowing through the gas lights up the entire tube. Such a light would necessarily be deficient in red rays.

Many accidental shocks of electricity are reported which are not fatal, although the number of volts involved is greater than the number experience has shown to be adequate to the destruction of life in the electrocution chair. In accidental contact the contraction of the muscles of the body usually throw the man suddenly and violently away from the contact. In the chair of execution the current is prolonged and is sent through the long axis of the body and well grounded. One unconscious from electrical shock should be given the benefit of artificial respiration and stimulate in the method used for the drowned.

Out to a Peanut.

Oh, the peanut, with its ricket, As you crack it. Has a nutty sound to back it. At it bags from daisy shell; Whether fingers trim attack it, Or dimpled fists do thump it. Lip of line to pay one well. From its cozy, silk-lined cell!

Whether roast, candied, salted, It is a treat. Live there one who knows it faulted, If he but the truth will tell! Lives there one who has not halted, With affections assailed? (Unless nickels have defeated) By the roasting peanut's smile!

But when 'round the table brightly, Ever brightly, Goes the chaff and laughter lightly, And the gay one "forfeit" will; Then the peanut, roasted quietly, Beats all other "freshments," slightly, Save a loving glance, and, rightly, Lip of line to pay one well.

—Charles McElvaine in Leslie's Weekly.

The population of Germany increased by 7.5 per cent in the years 1890 to 1900—the highest rate on record in that country.

CLOSER MEAT INSPECTION

Portland Teacher Points Out a Reform.

HOW many of the housekeepers of Portland know that but 60 per cent of the fresh meat they purchase is passed under the Meat Inspector's eye? The fine large sides of beef and mutton that hang about the meat market are seen to bear the inspection stamp, thus giving the impression to the easy-going purchaser that all meat bears the same mark of approval.

Now let it be clearly understood that what is said on the subject is no protest against Portland's meat supply, much of which is a source of pride to the citizens. But if it is well to have part of the meat supply inspected, is it not equally well to have all inspected?

There is no doubt that the people of the United States are more particular in regard to the quality of the foods they eat than are the people of any other country. They are a deep-rooted respectance to eating the meat of animals affected with any disease, whether or not communicable or injurious to the consumer, while in most European countries animals affected with pluro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, pneumonia, Texas fever and similar diseases are considered fit for food if the carcass shows no signs of emaciation. In foreign countries meat inspection is a strictly sanitary question.

In our country "In Federal meat inspection it has been considered a duty to protect the consumer from meat which was offensive and repugnant to him, as well as from that which was actually dangerous to his health."

Our government stands ready to furnish trained and thoroughly competent inspectors to all abattoirs which have an interstate trade, and this, without cost or state trade, and this, without cost or price to the slaughterers or purchasers of meat. How generally Uncle Sam's liberal offer has been accepted by abattoirs throughout the East, the writer is unable to state. But that Portland is backward in this respect would appear from a statement which was printed recently in The Oregonian, made by E. M. Johnson, a New York butcher. He was somewhat surprised to notice that only about 75 per cent of the carcasses in the Portland markets bore the stamps of the bureau of animal industry. He thought it a pity

that all who slaughtered cattle on a large scale did not have government inspection of their meats, as it costs nothing, and is a safeguard to the health of the public. Portland's meat industry is a large and growing one, and with her interstate trade government inspection may be had for the asking. Yet the fact remains that but a trifling over one-half of the city's fresh meat supply bears the government stamp, and the question naturally arises why is this, and why is one of the largest abattoirs in the city without this inspection?

"The Federal meat-inspection law," quoting from the report of Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, "does not apply to abattoirs which do a strictly local business, and consequently the inspection at such places can only be made by the municipal health authorities. In most, if not all cities this service is very inadequate. The number of inspectors is not sufficient to maintain a proper supervision, and too frequently the inspectors are incompetent or entirely ignorant of animal diseases and the effect of these upon the public health."

"These small establishments," continues the same authority, "are often in a filthy condition, and they are frequently operated by irresponsible and unprincipled parties who would not hesitate to endanger the health of a whole community if by so doing they could increase their profits by a few dollars. It is at these small abattoirs where animals are slaughtered almost entirely for local consumption, that the greater part of the unsound and diseased meat which reaches the market is prepared for human food. The abominations of some of these places are unspeakable, and the wonder is that they can be tolerated by any civilized community. They probably would not be allowed to continue in operation if half of their inmates were known to those who have unwittingly consumed the offensive products."

Public demand for more but inspected meat is the only recourse against these places of horror.

Filth, disorder, brutality and general disregard for public welfare, soon give place, under the jurisdiction of a Federal inspector, to order, cleanliness, humane treatment of helpless animals, both

at the abattoirs and in transportation thereto, and all this transformation for the simple reason that the former state of affairs now entails too great a loss upon the establishment.

Nothing, we are sure, is necessary to bring about a more general government inspection of meat than that the public be placed in full possession of the facts in the case. Extracts from the following letter, written by one who is well informed regarding government inspection of meat, furnishes information of vital interest to all consumers in this city.

The writer states: "Sixty per cent of the fresh meat and about 50 per cent of the cured, or pickled meat comes from abattoirs which are under Federal inspection."

There is but one firm of local slaughterers taking advantage of this government inspection. They furnish the 60 per cent of Portland's fresh meat supply. All the large Eastern packers are represented in this city by local smoking and distributing houses, and they supply 5 per cent of the cured and pickled meats of this market.

"Federal meat inspection is not obligatory, as yet, on any of the only coercion possible to secure its adoption and retention by local packing firms, is that of business interest and public demand for meat bearing the stamps of United States inspection."

"Any firm of slaughterers preparing meat products for the interstate trade must secure this inspection, which comes upon application to the Secretary of Agriculture and agreement to abide by the regulations of that Department. It is, therefore, possible for all cities to have a perfect system of meat inspection without a cent of cost to the municipality, if they will simply provide such regulations as will restrict traffic in unstamped meat."

"As the only expense to the packer entailed by this inspection is the destruction of meat unfit for human consumption, the suggestion readily offers itself that the greater reluctance of a firm to admit the inspectors to their establishment, the greater is the need of their presence there."

Let Portland's purchasers of meat ask for and insist upon receiving none but government inspected meat, and another safeguard will be placed around the public health, and the sum total of suffering among some of God's dumb creatures will be lessened.

ELLEN R. MILLER.