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A RUSE OF THE TRUSTS.

Organized labor is threatened with another danger in the halls of Congress.

The so-called Nelson bill, establishing a Department of Commerce in the cabinet, should be defeated.

The Nelson bill is a subterfuge of the trusts to gain a greater degree of control over the federal administration than they already possess. In its present shape the bill is a deliberate assault upon organized labor. It was formulated by the trusts, it is endorsed by the organs of the trusts and the trusts are using every means known to a debauched commercialism to rush the measure through Congress.

A dog is known by the company he keeps; and proposed legislation reflects the motives of its proponents. What class of the country's people are most vigorously championing the proposed Department of Commerce?

The trusts. That aggregation of millionaires, the American Manufacturers' Association, is the leading exponent of the alleged merits of this attempt to turn a great part of governmental machinery over to the class that is opposed to organized labor. This organization is doing everything in its power to force the bill through Congress. Already confident of the success of its scheme in this particular, the association has chortled a note of triumph in its official organ, "American Industries," and has even had the temerity to announce still further its predatory program to cripple the toilers.

It is declared to be the purpose of the American Manufacturers' Association to fight the eight-hour law, to prevent the passage of any anti-injunction bill and to otherwise do battle against the most cherished Legislative hopes of the American working man. This is the organization that is behind the bill to establish a Department of Commerce.

Already having passed the House, the bill is now before the Senate. There it will meet with vigorous opposition from the Democrats, but the crafty campaign of deception that has been carried on for more than a year in its favor may win despite the hard work of those who see its intended inner workings and will therefore vigorously oppose the measure.

There is a little joker in this bill, not apparent to the casual reader of the literature plentifully sent out in its interest. In the midst of two thousand words portraying in glowing verbiage the supposed advantages that will accrue to American industries through the passage of this bill, there occurs a very incidental mention of the most vital and far-reaching clauses.

The proposed measure transfers to the new department the Bureau of Labor, the Bureau of Immigration, and the Bureau of Statistics. That is the joker.

The fact that the trust element which seeks to control the machinery of government for its own ends, the element in the nation's life that is opposed to organized labor, is behind this bill, is sufficient warning of the manner in which the proposed department would be administered, if it became a fact. The forcing through of the Department of Commerce bill is but one subdivision of the declared plan of the American Manufacturers' Association to cripple the growing power of organized labor. The organ of the association, in commenting upon what it terms "a danger," says:

"It is recognized that, while organized labor does not comprise a tenth part of the working people of the country, yet it is like a body of regulars as against ten times as many volunteers. But now another troop of regulars are in the field."

Do the working men of this country desire that the Bureau of Immigration, the Bureau of Labor and the Bureau of Statistics of this government shall fall into the hands of their enemies?

If they do not they will make their voices heard in opposition to the bill, and they will do so quickly.

CARRYING COALS TO NEWCASTLE.

A somewhat significant light is thrown on the high tariff policy of the Republican party by the following dispatch which came over the wires yesterday: "Bilthe, England—Four steamers sailed from here this morning laden with coal for America."

That these great United States, practically underlaid as they are with fuel coal, should be the corrupt conspiracy of moneyed men, aided by the blind policy of the party of the trusts, be thus compelled to go abroad for one of the necessities of life, is shameful. We in the salubrious climate of the Pacific Slope, can form but little idea of the enormity of the offense which has been committed by the heartless combinations who seek to amass ill gotten gold through the freezing forms of the widow and the orphan, but in the bleak East the truth is better appreciated, and as sure as fate the time will come when those who have suffered from and those who have witnessed this most gross injustice, will remember and will seek redress.

It is cheering news that at least one grand jury has been found brave enough and honest enough to point out the monsters who thus take advantage of the people's need. In Chicago the other day true bills were found against 40 of these men and it is to be hoped that each and every one of them will be visited with the full punishment for his crime—a crime more despicable than that of one who robs a blind man's cup.

But the United States is concerned with a graver question than the plight of the Eastern poor, pitiable as is it. Shall the possession of a few paltry millions be a weapon by which a set of men shall work their will on the teeming millions of this great country?

The probable answer to this—or what is like to be an answer in the near future—is the fact that already a bill has been introduced in Congress providing that the Government take over the coal mines and the railroads and operate them for the benefit of the people.

Of course, the bill will not become law at this time. The country is not ready for so drastic a measure. Just what measure of relief will be devised is as yet hard to say, but so sure as the sun sets in the West the great mind of the American people has been awakened and with a few more such lessons as are now being experienced, it will be incumbent upon the Republican party to devise a remedy or to go down to defeat hand in hand with the trusts which have been so fostered by its policy as to have become a grave and growing menace to the inherent right of the American citizen to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

WHAT WE DO FOR THE FAIR.

Mr. M. D. Wisdom compressed into one brief sentence much good sense upon the Lewis and Clark Fair. Mr. Wisdom was asked: "What will the Lewis and Clark Fair do for Oregon?" He replied:

"The Fair will do for Oregon what Oregon does for it."

What Mr. Wisdom means is that the Fair and Oregon are not two separate corporation entities that have come into negotiation to determine how much this one shall do for that, and how much will be the return from the investment of the one in the other. Mr. Wisdom merely means that the Fair and Oregon are of a kind, are articulated in the organism of the Commonwealth, or, to change the figure, that the Fair is merely an opportunity offered the State. What the State does for the Fair will therefore determine what the Fair shall do for the State.

At this date, so close to a vote upon the appropriation bill, it should be unnecessary to devote space to arguing for the measure. Perhaps it is unnecessary. But the Journal views the project as of so great importance that there should be no danger of unattended

by its friends in guiding the bill through the Legislature to final signature by the Governor. It is in safe hands at the present time.

SURFACE OR UNDERGROUND ROADS

A subject that engages the attention of transportation scientists is the future of urban carrying of passengers. Will there be a complete doing away with surface roads and a resort to underground subways? In answer to this question, it is cited that accidents on the surface roads are 20 times as numerous as they are on the underground. For instance, in St. Louis last year nearly 100 persons were killed on the surface roads, while on the underground only four or five were killed. In New York, in Boston, in London and in numerous other cities the decision is in favor of the underground roads, and plans now forming are based upon the expectation that in time they will practically supplant the surface lines.

It is difficult to perceive how any other result can come from the overcrowding of our great centers of population. Land becomes so valuable and there are so many objections to the proximity of noisy surface lines

that the people will support any movement looking towards the substitution of the underground systems.

If one imagine the removal of all surface lines from the streets of a city, he will see at once the obvious advantages flowing therefrom. One of the nuisances of the surface line is the trolley poles and wires, that disfigure the streets and are suffered only because in most instances at this time there may be no other means of conducting urban traffic. The same is true of overhead wires and poles for telephone and telegraph lines, which under a rational regime would be placed underground, at least in every city of 100,000 population or more.

No doubt in time there will be no more overhead wires for any uses in cities. Transportation, telegraphy and telephony will be carried on underground and our streets will then be vastly improved in appearance, as well as safer because of the absence of wires carrying powerful currents of electricity.

Forty prominent financiers and society men of Chicago were indicted by the grand jury for conspiring to keep up prices of coal during the scarcity of that article. Because they were so prominent in social and business circles, said State Attorney Dineen, the names were withheld from publicity from Saturday until Monday. With all due respect to men who have attained prominence in finance and society, let it be said that it was assinine ignorance or silly pandering that moved the counsel for the State of Illinois to say such a foolish thing. He might even have had the decency to lie about it, rather than acknowledge so manifest discrimination between rich men who have sinned and men not rich who have sinned. It is virtual confession, and, too, according to most sound logic, the only conclusion to be drawn, that had the 40 men been not prominent financially and socially, the names would not have been withheld.

A corporation tax bill offered in the Oregon Legislature by Representative B. L. Eddy of Tillamook may operate to squeeze some of the water out of the corporations formed in this state. At the present time, corporations are often formed with \$1,000,000 capital stock authorized, and about \$45 of actual financial strength. It sounds big to issue certificates for \$100,000 to a man who invests \$9 in contributing towards the expense of getting the papers filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State, but it often fools people in other localities, who have no manner of gauging the real footing of the corporation in question. While the Eddy bill is not designed primarily for that purpose, but is a revenue measure, yet it is not the less valuable because it will have the effect herein indicated.

A full page article by the Rev. M. Eels on the Whitman controversy affords another opportunity to observe that probably both the anti-Whitman people are part wrong and part right and that the same might be said of the Whitman people. The sum and substance of the whole matter will be, some day when history gets its final record, that in the main Dr. Whitman's friends are correct when they contend that he was a chief element in the saving of the Oregon country; that he was a man of wonderful endurance and brave heart, and that the religious life and present political status of this great region are in large part results from his efforts.

The Treasury Department has decided that coal is now upon the free list, and that therefore there need be no payment of the 55 cents duty with a rebate afterwards given back. Now that the Congress has made a good start, why not carry the anti-trust program to its logical conclusion, and make the legislative record appear more consistent?

The Klukwit Indians have consented to the Columbia River & Northern building across their reservation, which was the only obstacle to the construction of the road. Portland will handle the Goldendale crop next fall, which will be brought to the river via this new railroad.

A contemporary is almost as much moved over the prospective election of Smoot of Utah as it was some years ago when John H. Mitchell was a candidate for the United States Senate. Then Mr. Mitchell was a candidate, and now some one else is presumed to be.

Portland will have a Civil Service Commission under the new charter. It is an auspicious day for this city, for it presages the ultimate overthrow of the rule of the municipal politician. Perhaps merit will be paramount to pull, hereafter.

The beet sugar men won in the fight against Cuban reciprocity, and secured the limiting of the reduction on the product from the island to 20 per cent below the rates prescribed by the act of July 24, 1897.

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce offers opportunity to remark that the Chamber has attained an organization worthy its mission, and is doing much for the advancement of Oregon.

Senator Hamilton of Pierce County (Wash.) proposes to introduce a bill for a pretended railway commission. Hamilton is an avowed Ankeny man. He will introduce the bill probably making the commission merely advisory

THE SOLILOQUY OF A LUMP OF COAL

(With apologies to Hamlet.)

To burn or not to burn—
That is the question. When the affairs of men
Were shrouded in the hazy nebula,
When dark and dismal forests spread abroad
Through which the grimy lizard crawled, and when
The prehistoric fanner fanned his skinny wings
Among the prime trees and shrubs and leaves
That still with moist and slimy creatures teemed—
In that dim time, ere yet the polar bear
Had set his frigid claws on Greenland's waste,
My noble ancestor, from wave to wave
Across dark continents, led lordly away,
While Ursa Major or the Greater Bear
Gazed down with admiration from afar,
And "a centaur" winked at Sirius
In fond anticipation of the day
Their fatidic acquaintance might be made
With my ancestors and progenitors!

But now, ah, me! all this changed, and here
I find myself materialized and hard;
Black is my visage, and my fate is black.
Divines give hint of to the wayward crowd
To burn to ashes in relentless fire,
Feeding with mine own substance that dread flame
Which eats my vitals and resolves me back
To nebulous condition once again!

Yet even this is not so hard to bear—
As that to which the fates have now condemned
My most unfortunate yet brightening being;
For though the grisly bear of polar climes
(The Ursa Ferox, exploiters' rights)
Stood at a distance most respectable
From me and mine in backward mist of time—
And though the Ursa Major of the skies
Respected at a distance that old stock
From which, through earth's contortions and travail,
I came to be the jewel that I am—
There now has come another horrid Bear,
Worse than the other two in this degree:
That he lays claim to a monopoly
Of me, poor me! in my most precious form—
Excepting that the diamond-encrusted
But to the claims of this great whitered Bear
Have been denied by Mitchell and his men,
Who dig me from the caverns deep and dark,
And hoist me to the garish light of day
There to be immolated to proud man!
And those, the dealers of the dusky mine,
In myriad numbers laid aside the ax
By which they were accustomed in the past
To hack me piecemeal. Therefore did there come
A mighty rumpus caused by my respite
From cruel hacking at the hands of men.

The Bear who claims me for his thrall avers
That he hath been appointed from on high
To be my master, guardian, owner—all!
And he doth much resent and rue withal,
The aspirations of the surging rank
That they should have a voice in that which he
Most vehemently holds is his affair;
Wherefore the indignation of the Bear.

And still the delvers with persistent will
Maintain that they, whose horny hands and brawn
Exhaust their vigor in the sunless depths,
In crushing my poor body in detail
And fating me to ruin—they maintain
That shekels should be paid proportional
To their most dangerous and heavy toil.
And, being refused the which, they did refrain
From digging out my bowels with their picks,
And then I ceased to burn—and called them bricks!

But oh, the dark, unmitigated woe
That all too soon I felt upon me come!
My peace is broken, for behold, I see
Contenting forces harnessed in one yoke
To pull together! He who compassed this
And robbed me of my innocent repose,
Who brought the Bear to the tailor to his door
Is known as Teddy—sometime Theodore.
Oh, Teddy, Teddy, hear me in my woe!
What have I done that thou shouldst treat me so?

ory without powers, to afford an excuse for members of the Legislature to ask release from the anti-caucus agreement, signed in the interest of Harold Preston, candidate for the United States Senate. It is claimed that if Hamilton's bill pass, enough members of the anti-caucus crowd will go to Ankeny to insure his election.

Twenty-one Democrats in Delaware offered to join six Republicans and elect a United States Senator from the ranks of the latter for the long term and one from the Democrats for the short term, and also to repeal the objectionable voters' assistant law. It promised to give Delaware representation in the United States Senate. That state has had no Senator since Adickes held up the state in an effort to secure his own election.

The year 1902 witnessed the building of more miles of railroad than during any other year of the past decade. The miles built per year have increased steadily from 3,024 in 1893 to 6,026 in 1902.

High protectionists in Congress are squirming under the pressure from the tariff revisionists, says a dispatch. Let them squirm. They know now what the people have done for many years.

Only nine countries in the world have a larger annual revenue than has the steel trust, and its bonded debt is larger than that of the United States.

It is claimed that the demand for coal from this country has strengthened the prices quoted upon the Bourse in Berlin, Germany.

Some one suggests that Venezuela should impose a tax on imported shells.

EMPLOYMENT AGENTS.

Astoria News: On the Jordan Saturday evening was a party of four disappointed seekers after a job in Brisk logging camp. They were sent down by an employment agent in Portland who promised them employment at the Brisk logging camp on Sisson Creek. In fact, Brisk had countermanded all orders for men over a month ago, and this unscrupulous agent took the \$3 fee from each man and sent them on a fool's errand at an expense of at least \$5 more. Albert Brisk happened to see them on the boat going over and told them the facts. It seems that they were also informed by the employment agent that the boats running from Astoria to the logging camps were all owned by the loggers and that men go over there at their own usual falsehood told these men and this game ought to be exposed.

[Note.—The Journal will assist the Astorian in giving publicity to the swindling operation of some employment agencies. This is one of the meanest sort of abuses—the bartering of a poor man's time for a crooked office fee.]

Can Try Another Kind.

Which would you rather be if you were twenty-seven and could have your choice, "a widow or just a girl?"
"Oh, a widow, by all means. A widow always has a big advantage. She can try an entirely different kind the next time."—Chicago Record-Herald.



TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Baker's "For Fair Virginia."
Cordray's "The Gambler's Daughter."
Frederickburg—Vaudeville and music.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquand Grand—"The Everlasting Dev's Auction." Charles H. Yale's production, Friday and Saturday nights, with popular Saturday matinee.
Thursday night—Piano recital by Ossip Gabrilowitch, management of Miss Lois Steers.

The Baker's "For Fair Virginia" for the week, with Saturday matinee.
Cordray's "The Gambler's Daughter" for the week, with Saturday matinee.

MANAGERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Whose Baby Are You?

Next week at Cordray's four nights only, beginning Sunday, January 25, the mirth-provoker of the season, Mark E. Swan's latest farce "Whose Baby Are You?" Manager Myron B. Rice has engaged a cast of excellent farceurs of metropolitan reputation, including Miss June Mathis and Mr. John F. Lee. To interpret the piece, "The farce is considered one of the greatest laughing successes of the season."

"The Devil's Auction."

The advance sale of seats will be placed on sale tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'clock for "The Devil's Auction," the new comedy by the Marquand Grand Theatre next Friday and Saturday nights with a popular matinee Saturday at 2:15 o'clock.

Statuesque Madge Torrance has been engaged by Manager Charles H. Yale to play the hero's girl in the 21st edition of "The Everlasting Devil's Auction."

Miss Torrance is a stately blonde of the English type, who is in direct contrast to Miss Lillian Herndon, a dashing brunette, and the Countess Fortune of the play. Further contrast can be found in the Titan-haired Miss Lily Sutherland, the American beauty, Miss Anna Courtney, or the dainty Parisian type of Miss Berna DeVoe. In fact, in conjunction with the principal dancers, acrobats, comedians and ballerinas, who represent almost every nationality from all parts of the globe, it is safe to say that the 21st edition of "The Devil's Auction" has established a congress of beauty in more ways than one.

Tom Reed as a Photographer.

Mr. Reed was particularly fond of a big collie dog of mine that would trot contentedly by his side for miles as he took his daily strolls. Always in the morning Duke was out to meet Mr. Reed, who was an early riser, and who stopped now and then in his long and ponderous strides to pet affectionately his canine friend. At one time Mr. Reed contracted the camera habit, and took several pictures of Duke, who posed for him in all kinds of attitudes. These pictures he sent me in the fall after his return to Congress, with a humorous note describing each. Of one picture, which showed me upon a bicycle wheeling with all speed toward Old Orchard, the dog foolishly came to the rescue, and a peculiar blaze in the sky showed where the sun ought to be, he said: "I should label it, 'Saul on the way to Damascus,' if I were not afraid of being irreverent."—Rev. Francis E. Clark, in the Independent.

Took Chances.

Tommy—Did paw say it hurt him worse than it did you?
Johnny—Nope; but it did, cuz while he wuz whailin' me I stepped on his corn.—Indianapolis Sun.

WHAT THE FAIR WILL DO FOR OREGON

By Thomas G. Devlin, City Editor.

The advantages of the Lewis and Clark Fair will not be confined to the boundaries of the present State of Oregon, but will extend to all of the Northwest originally designated by that name, and the ultimate advantages will be greater to some of the most distant sections than to the immediate vicinity where the Fair will be held.

The advantages of the Fair will be of two general classes—educational and material. We have been dwelling too much upon the last and forgetting the first, which is the more important. The Fair will stimulate study of this territory. Our own people will learn something of the wonderful land. There is nothing of greater value to a country than to have its people familiar with its territory. The history of the great Northwest will receive merited attention from those who are here, of all who expect to visit the Fair and of countless others who will find it impossible to come. The achievements of Lewis and Clark will sharpen the intellectual appetite, Irving's "Astoria" will be read with a new interest and what has been considered romance will be known to be reality.

The Fair itself will be about the least of our attractions. Few of our visitors will be content with looking upon our exhibits there; they will study the topography of the Northwest from our mountain peaks. They will see for themselves its rivers and streams, its broad prairies, its timber, its fisheries, its farms, its orchards, its mountains and its mines. These visitors will return to their homes with knowledge of the "wealthy, wonderful West," such as can be had by no other means. The knowledge of the climate, the climatic conditions and business opportunities which here prevail. That great material progress will follow is certain. Our population will be greatly augmented, industry after industry will be developed and the fortunes that have been made here will be only moderate as compared with those that will be made. The volume and diversity of our products will astonish the world.

But progress does not come alone. With increased population, wealth and power there will come increased responsibilities. The people who are here must prepare the foundations upon which the greater commonwealths of the Northwest shall be built, as did the early colonists in their several localities on the Atlantic Coast. Ambition for personal gain or preferment must give way to a purer patriotism, love for country and confidence in its future. The greatest advantage of the Fair may be along these lines if we so desire.

OPINIONS OF OTHER EDITORS

Lewis and Clark Exposition.

At a meeting of the Rush Club Thursday night the matter of advertising the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition was brought up. The Budget reports the following: "W. W. Whipple brought up the subject of the Lewis and Clark Exposition and asked for the opinion of the club. He said that, second to Portland, it would be of the greatest benefit to Astoria and for this reason the association should use its most earnest efforts to advertise it throughout the country. This suggestion was favorably received and it will be taken in hand by one of the regular committees."

Foxy Red Men.

Sheridan Sun: Last Thursday some of the Grand Ronde Indians came to town to celebrate according to the dictations of their appetite. They were not long in procuring from some unknown source a sufficient quantity of firewater and they proceeded to have a good time. Before they had proceeded far they ran up against Marshal Brobaugh, who, with the assistance of two or three other men, landed the drunken Indians in the city jail, where he was going to keep them until morning. The next morning when the Marshal took their breakfast to them, behold the jail was empty. The Indians had sobered up during the night and had burned the jail door down and escaped. When the Marshal took them to the cooler they had five or six bottles of "bitters" in their pockets. When locked up they asked the Marshal for two or three bottles for company.

A Woman Somaambulist.

Ontario Democrat: An interesting feat in somaambulism was recently performed by one of Ontario's citizens. A prominent young lady of this city had

just completed the knitting of a very fine shawl, but on arising the next morning found the shawl missing and unraveled the entire shawl, and carefully rolled up the yarn and placed it away. She had broken the thread once, but found it again and completed the work as carefully as if awake. She is now making it over again, but will probably keep it under lock and key until completed, with the key in another's possession.

Oregon Salt.

W. H. McCall owns a salt marsh near Silver Lake, and he has a veritable bonanza, says an exchange. He has taken about 160,000 pounds of salt from his marsh this year, and expects to harvest another 240,000 pounds before spring opens. There is very little cost attached to getting the salt; the men pile up 100,000 pounds in a week. The salt is delivered to Lakeview for 1 1/4 cents per pound. In an ordinary year 500,000 pounds can be harvested, and in a dry year there is much more. Last year 800,000 pounds were sold.

The McCall salt marsh has been known and used by Silver Lake stockmen for more than a dozen years, and it was only last year that Mr. McCall filed on the marsh. The salt is much better and purer than that usually found in salt marshes, as the little lake is fed by salt springs. Six gallons of the water when boiled will make four gallons of fine pure salt. Mr. Hayes will put in a small evaporating plant next season, and if it works satisfactorily will put up a large plant and furnish this whole section with salt. The stock salt is much better taken out in large chunks as it forms in the bottom of the lake when the water evaporates in the summer.

McCall thinks his salt marsh is worth more to him than his stock ranch, including his 2,000 head of sheep.

WOMEN FAVOR PURE FOOD.

(By E. E. E.)

The women of Portland have joined in the movement for pure foods and have determined to advocate better laws for the protection of health. The shopkeepers have themselves taken an unusual interest in the movement and they claim that they are better able to serve their customers when they themselves are protected from imposition by producers who are not careful.

The School of Domestic Science held a housekeepers' conference yesterday afternoon that promises to bear fruit. All present were intensely interested in the pure food question as presented by Mr. G. M. Hyland, and before the meeting adjourned there was talk of resolutions and pledges.

As a preface to the afternoon's discussion, Mrs. George Stowell of Sitka was asked to read a paper that has aroused much interest since she has been in Portland—"Native Foods of Alaska." In a brief introduction she told of the delicacies enjoyed by the ancients, and quoted Rev. Sidney Smith, canon of St. Paul, in his wittily rhymed receipt for salad: "Mrs. Stowell read the receipt for food, of their manner of preparing and serving it."

Oil was and is used with many things. Fish are the staple article of diet, and fish eggs their greatest dainty. Next in popularity has always been seal, venison, and bear meat.

There are a few vegetables and roots in Alaska and many berries. The inner bark of the hemlock, the wild celery, young shoots of berry bushes and even sea cucumbers are not despised. Mr. G. M. Hyland, when introduced by the president, gave a glimpse into his past experiences along the line of civic reform. He testified that conditions such as exist in Portland today are unnecessary. In other places where it has been tried moist foods have disappeared under glass cases and vegetables have left their place before the stores, where are collecting the germs of consumption, typhoid, diphtheria, scarlet fever and many other deadly diseases thrown in by the dust.

Mr. Hyland felt the reform was a woman's work. As the buyer she is responsible for the health of the family, and not handicapped as a business man must be. Women are powerful, individually, but invincible when banded together.

"If the women of Portland choose to do it," he said earnestly, "they can change market conditions inside of 30 days. The dealer cares more for their opinion than for all the laws ever made."

DISCUSSION AMONG MEMBERS.

Mrs. Rose Hoyt opened the discussion among the members by endorsing Mr. Hyland's words. All favored immediate action. The suggestion that all present pledge themselves to buy only from grocers who do not have a member of the League was not followed out. The members felt it better to adopt other methods at present.

One member said in all seriousness that under such circumstances the housewives would have a difficult time to get provisions—"Then we'll have to do without."

WITH THEIR OWN EYES.

The words of the last speaker at the conference—"Then we'll have to do without"—haunted me as I left the meeting with one who is intensely interested in food reform, and I suggested we make a little detour and examine a few of the representative grocery stores and see with our newly awakened vision just what conditions did exist.

At the first store things were even as described. Tiers of fruit boxes rose straight from the sidewalk; sacks of potatoes and onions were stacked about the

door. Most of the vegetables were simply dropped into low boxes resting on the sidewalk, or were in open crates as they came from California. Even the things raised from the ground were ridiculously low. Apparently no thought of keeping the display from the dirt of the street, or the passing animals, had entered the proprietor's mind.

Conditions were very different at the next stopping place. With the exception of the apples, everything was high above the ground; but in front of the door was a great square of dates entirely unprotected from the passing animals, and some half dozen rolls of butter were "daintily packed in a clean glass jar—without a cover."

"At least it isn't summer time," my companion said. "Now there is little dirt to fly in from the street." While she was speaking we noticed fine particles of soot and ashes drifting in and settling.

And so it was. The only store we found, in our brief examination, where goods were stored away in glass cases, bins and boxes, there were salads, cold and compressed meats uncovered on the counter, and outside, the cabbage and apple boxes.

IS THE GROCER AT FAULT?

Is the grocer the responsible party, or must the odium rest with the consumer? A grocer's wife attended the conference and frankly gave her testimony after the meeting. In his Eastern store her husband had never dreamed of such a thing as exposing his goods in bulk. A row of apples, peaches, plums, in their season, represented the tiers of boxes in the inner store, and vegetables the same. When he came out West, though rather shocked, he accepted existing conditions, since he found the buyer passed his store to reach his neighbor's lavish display.

In talking the matter