

## BEWARE OF POISON

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
ISSUES INFORMATION.

**Ptomaine Poisoning the Subject of an Interesting Bulletin by Prof. Pernot—Public is Warned of the Causes and Possibilities of the Common Form of Poison Found in Foods.**

Bulletins Nos. 87 and 88, the former on canning fruits and vegetables and preserving fruit juices and the latter on the San Jose scale, have just been issued from the Oregon Agricultural experimental station, at Corvallis, and may be had free for the asking while they last.

No. 87, in addition to giving many valuable points on preserving fruits and vegetables and fruit juices, devotes considerable space to ptomaine poisoning with relation to canned goods. Professor E. F. Pernot, the author of the bulletin, says:

The general acceptance of the term "ptomaine" is erroneously construed as being poisons occurring in canned goods and other foods, but it is a broader term, covering all bacterial excretions, and as all material is more or less acted upon by organisms, it necessarily contains ptomaines. There are certain varieties of micro-organisms which produce poisonous ptomaines, but they are in the minority and produce poisons under certain conditions only.

The poisonous ptomaines are toxins which produce toxic effects when taken into the system with foods; these toxic ptomaines or tox-albumens are elaborated by the activities of certain bacteria, while they are growing and feeding upon plant or animal matter, either raw or cooked, and are designated principally by the material upon which the organisms are acting. After these basic alkaloids are once produced they are not easily destroyed by subsequent cooking, hence the danger of partial decomposition of food material either before it has been canned or after removal from the can.

There are several varieties of putrefactive organisms which produce ptomaine poison in canned meats, head cheese, fresh pork, fish and other animal matter, both raw and cooked. A peculiar feature of ptomaine poisoning is that the material containing a dangerous amount of the poisoning, or germs which produce it, show but little or no indication of its presence. Specimens of porkchops and head cheese received at the laboratory and which were known to have caused severe illness in individuals who partook of them, gave no indications of their containing a dangerous poison nor organisms which produce it, neither by discoloration, odor nor breaking down of tissue, yet the microscopic examinations showed the specimens to be permeated with bacilli.

The cause of ptomaine poisoning may frequently be traced to carelessness through the utilization of products which are not marketable owing to partial decomposition. Ice cream has been known to produce ptomaine poisoning because it has been allowed to melt and after remaining in that condition for some time is mixed with fresh material and again frozen. During the period during which it remains in a melted condition an excellent media is offered for the growth of germs which produce tox-albumens, and the subsequent cooking, or freezing, does not destroy the toxins.

Canners are sometimes unjustly held responsible for goods which cause ptomaine poisoning when in fact it is the consumer's carelessness in allowing germ action to occur in the material after the can has been opened. On the other hand some of the canning establishments should be censured, if not punished, for placing upon the market goods which have been processed a second time. The regular vent in cans is usually a small puncture in the center of the cap, which in the process of canning is closed with a drop of solder. A can having more than one puncture frequently marks it as having been re-processed and therefore dangerous.

### MODERN HOLOCAUSTS.

**Loss of 60,000 Lives in Lisbon by Far the Greatest.**

By far the greatest catastrophe of modern years was the earthquake which totally destroyed the city of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1755. It was estimated that about 60,000 persons were either killed by the earthquake or drowned by the tidal wave which swept over the city following the earthquake. The earth opened up in one place and engulfed thousands of people.

The first shock occurred early in the morning when most of the populace was asleep. It was very violent, and many were killed in their beds by the caving in of the buildings. Every structure in the city was either demolished or badly damaged. Two other shocks followed the first shock. Thousands of the survivors gathered upon an immense stone wharf at the edge of the bay to escape the crumbling buildings.

Without warning the earth opened and the wharf, with all the people who had sought refuge upon it and several large ships in the harbor, were engulfed. The huge gap closed up and the bodies of those who were engulfed were never found. A huge tidal wave swept in from the ocean over the city, destroying all that had withstood the earthquake. Large ships were deposited among the ruins of the city.

The Johnstown flood was the greatest disaster in the history of this country. It is estimated that fully 10,000 persons or more lost their lives. The property loss was placed at \$10,000,000. Heavy rains had been falling in Western Pennsylvania and a large reservoir situated a few miles

above Johnstown was filled to its capacity.

About 3 o'clock in the morning the dam gave way and the flood came thundering down the valley, a mountain of water 50 feet high. The chaos that existed when the flood struck Johnstown is indescribable. The city was devastated and whole buildings were lifted up bodily and carried away with the flood. A great mass of wreckage became lodged against a railroad bridge and caught fire, which added greatly to the horror. Several hundred persons were burned to death.

The entire country was horror-stricken by the Galveston flood in 1900. A great tidal wave, accompanied by a hurricane, overwhelmed Galveston on the night of September 8. A gale of about 100 miles an hour was blowing. Business blocks and residences and other structures were crushed as though they had been constructed of pasteboard. About 5000 people lost their lives.

Only one person out of about 30,000 who lived in St. Pierre, Island of Martinique, survived the eruption of Mount Pelee. The one survivor was an illiterate negro who was confined in jail at the time of the disaster. The eruption was at its worst May 8, 1902. Tons upon tons of rock and masses of molten lava thrown from Mount Pelee were precipitated upon the inhabitants of the city, and practically every structure in town was crushed. The people tried to escape, but were either killed by the falling buildings or the rocks.

The eruption of Mount Krakatoa, in the Strait of Sunda, in the year 1883, destroyed half the Island of Krakatoa. The eruption caused great tidal waves which swept upon neighboring islands, drowning 30,000 people. Half of the island of Krakatoa sand beneath the waves.

In 1863 about 30,000 lives were lost in Peru by an earthquake which extended along the coast from Callao to Iquique. The principal loss of life occurred in the cities, where the inhabitants had been given no warning of the impending disaster.

The earthquake which wrecked Charleston in 1886 caused a property loss of about \$5,000,000. But few lives were lost. Earthquake shocks were felt over a large part of the country, extending from New York as far west as Chicago and as far south as Jacksonville, Fla.

Up to the present time Chicago has held the record for the greatest fires. The fire broke out Sunday night, October 8, 1871, and burned for two days before it could be checked. The burned area covered about three and one-third square miles, and the direct property loss was placed at about \$190,000,000. Boston was visited by a terrible fire in 1872, when property valued at \$80,000,000 was burned. The burned district covered about 65 acres.

### WILL AUTHORIZE TOWNSITES.

**Government Will Lay Out Towns on Irrigation Projects.**

As soon as the president signs the Hepburn-French general townsite bill it is believed the secretary of the interior will fix a day for the sale of lots in the towns of Rupert, Heyburn and Sherrer, on the Minidoka irrigation tract in Idaho.

These lots were to have been offered for sale last fall, but upon request of the people of Idaho the sale was postponed until more favorable weather could be assured, thereby insuring a larger sale and better terms, is the report that comes from Washington city.

There are approximately four thousand people today in the three new towns in the Minidoka country—persons who intended to make a permanent home in this new country. All of them, or rather the heads of these families, will make purchases of lots for homes and for places of business, and there will be a great influx from other parts of the country as soon as the date for the sale is fixed.

There will be lots in abundance, and a neat sum will probably be realized when the sale begins. The lots will all be offered at public auction, after being appraised, and will be sold to the highest bidder in every instance, unless the Dubois bill shall pass, giving preference to those persons who have already established themselves in the towns of Heyburn and Rupert.

### NO PRINTERS IN PRISON.

**Penitentiary Paper May Suspend for Lack of Skilled Labor.**

"Lend a Hand" is the name of a neat little monthly paper published in the state penitentiary at Salem, says the Oregon Daily Journal. But the April number of the publication will be late in coming out because there are no convicts who are printers. The last printer, who was serving a short sentence, was discharged some time ago.

The paper is edited by convict No. 4382, who was sent to the prison several years ago from Grant's Pass. He is a well-educated young man and has charge of the prison library as well as the editorial work. But he is worried on account of the lack of a printer. The April number of Lend a Hand may be delayed until time for the May number to be issued. The editor can "kick the jobber" that prints the paper, but he does not know the cases well enough to stick type.

### Veterinarian Law Sustained.

A decision was yesterday made in the supreme court granting a writ of mandate to compel the state auditor, Robert S. Brugaw, to issue state warrants in payment of State Veterinarian G. E. Noble's salary and certain expenses. The original application for the writ was brought into the supreme court by Richards & Haga, attorneys for Dr. Noble. The opinion was written by Justice Sullivan. Chief Justice Stockslager concurs and Justice Allshie concurs to the extent only that the law of 1905 creating the office of state veterinarian surgeon, is valid and constitutional. — Boise Statesman.

## EXPOSING A GRAFT

AND INCIDENTALLY THE  
APOLOGISTS FOR GRAFT.

**The Government Pays More Money for Carrying Mail Sacks Than for Carrying the Mail Itself—The Postal Deficit Last Year Was \$14,000,000—If the Government Paid Postage There Would Be No Deficit—Only 40 Per Cent of Weight Is Paid Matter.**

Representative J. J. Lloyd, of Missouri, member of the house committee on postoffices and postroads, has riddled the business methods of the postoffice department and the system by which the railroads are paid \$48,000,000 for the transportation of mails.

There has been a definite purpose by members of the house, led by Chairman Overstreet, of the postal committee, to convince the public that the \$14,000,000 deficit in the postoffice department last year was due to the low rate on second-class mail matter—newspapers and magazines.

Lloyd, taking the reports of the postmaster general and his assistants, absolutely demonstrated that this argument was without any basis. He showed that the department is paying more for the transportation of empty mail sacks and office furniture than are shipped by mail when they might go by freight than is paid for transportation of all classes of mails for the whole country.

"The railroads have made a voluntary reduction of freight and passenger rates of 20 per cent since 1880," said Mr. Lloyd. "There is supposed to be an automatic reduction of mail pay in proportion to the increases in tonnage. The government pays more money for carrying mail sacks than is paid for carrying the mails."

Illustrating this subject, Mr. Lloyd read the following figures from the report of the investigation of the rate for mail transportation in 1889—the latest report on the subject:

First-class mail, 9,000,000 pounds; second-class, 38,000,000 pounds; second-class (free), 3,000,000 pounds; third and fourth-class, 14,000,000 pounds; government, free, 9,218,000 pounds; equipment, 76,806,000 pounds.

He then quoted a recent letter from Second Assistant Postmaster General Shallenburg, who explained that "equipment" meant empty sacks, locks and other paraphernalia.

"That year," Mr. Lloyd resumed, "1,545,000,000 pounds of mail was carried and only 40 per cent of it was paid matter—60 per cent was free government matter of equipment.

There would be no deficit if the government paid its own postage. We have been paying for the carrying of safes, desks, trucks and all sorts of equipment at mail rates and under the present system of weighing it would take us four years if we started now, to get rid of that incubus.

"It is absurd to pay more for the carrying of empty sacks than is paid for carrying mail. Reduce the number of sacks, reduce the weight of sacks, and send them and other bulk by freight and the deficit will be wiped out.

"My own conviction is that second-class mail matter does not mean any such expenditure to the United States government because nearly all the first-class mail is caused by second-class literature. I am not in sympathy with that idea of the abuse of second-class mail. My own conviction is that the most important mail carried is second-class matter. It carries intelligence to the people; it carries information to the people; it carries knowledge to the great people of this country. Would you take away the benefits that now come from the country press all over this land and put a tax on the newspaper production which absolutely goes free today?"

Lloyd's remarks were cut short by the expiration of his allotted time. He was requested to continue, but declined to infringe upon the time of others.

The Tacoma Chamber of Commerce appropriated \$10,000 for the San Francisco relief fund.

## Wireless

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ARE YOU TIRED OF PAYING

## "BLUNDER TAXES"

?

Many a business man pays as much money for the luxury of blundering as a steam yacht, or a private touring car would cost. "Blunder Taxes" cannot be evaded—whatever else waits, these must be paid. If a business man gets into the habit of making the same blunders more than once, the taxes will soon amount to confiscation.

"Blunder Taxes" are levied with amazing frequency upon store advertisers. Among the blunders which are assessed at "full value" in advertising are these:

Selection of poor mediums.  
Using too little space in good mediums.  
Devoting less attention to preparing the daily store advertisement than to the storing of some empty boxes in the basement.  
Stopping the ad altogether for one or more days now and then.  
Figuring the advertising appropriation on the basis of what you can "afford" after all other expenses are provided for.

The use of "programs," schemes, circulars, posters, fence-signs, placards and jim-cracks, under the impression that you are securing real publicity, and that somewhere, somehow, sometime someone will be influenced by some of these things to come to your store and buy something.

YOUR "BLUNDER TAX" BILL GROWS SMALLER AND SMALLER AS YOUR USE OF NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY GROWS BIGGER AND BIGGER.



CONTINUOUS PUBLICITY IN THE

**East Oregonian.**

WILL PREVENT PAYING "BLUNDER TAXES."