

CHEAP FLOUR, DEAR BREAD.

Some Things Watch Puzzle the Average Citizen of St. Louis.

In view of the great reduction of the price of flour within the last year, a great many people have wondered why bread continues to be sold for 5 cents a loaf and the loaf not perceptibly increased. The reduction in the price of flour between Dec. 1, 1862, and Nov. 29, 1863, according to the official quotations was as follows: Patent, last year, \$3.35 and \$3.55; this year, \$2.65 and \$3.10. Extra fancy, last year, \$3.05 and \$3.15; this year, \$2.65 and \$2.75. Fancy, last year, \$2.50 and \$2.65; this year, \$2.50 and \$2.55. Lower grades, last year, from \$2 to \$2.35, and about the same at present.

Now, these are the prices at which bakers and retailers buy flour, and while reasonable people do not expect to derive the whole of an advantage that amounts to almost 25 per cent, they do expect to get some benefit in the increase of price of loaves. Such advantage has not been theirs. On the contrary, while the loaves have not increased in size or the price been reduced, many householders declare that never before have the poor qualities in the common bread been so conspicuous.

The only explanation that the bakers and flour dealers can give is the reduced rates of flour in large lots. The bakers say that since the reduction people have taken to baking their own bread to an extent not hitherto known to the trade since common bread became the fashion. This practice of making bread at home has largely reduced sales to retailers, and while the latter get some reduction in price they say that the decrease in the sales has been so great that they cannot afford to share that advantage with their customers. But this does not explain the almost universal poor quality of the bread at the present time, and the growers are silent when they are questioned upon the subject.—St. Louis Republic.

THE BAR AT LIVERPOOL.

Its Removal, a Gigantic Task, Now Almost an Accomplished Fact.

The brief announcement the other day that the White Star Line steamship Majestic, drawing 21 feet, had passed over the bar at Liverpool with three feet of water under her keel shows that the great work of removing the chief impediment to navigation in the Mersey is nearly accomplished. The engineers of the Liverpool dock board state that under the worst possible conditions there is a depth of 20 feet of water over the bar, the great sandbank having been cut down no less than nine feet, and the docks boldly transported and dumped far from the channel on a site where it can do no possible harm.

During the three years that the work has been going on no less than 3,388,000 tons of sand have been removed. Allowing the removal of a hundredweight of sand to a cubic foot, it appears that no less than 7,528,888 cubic yards of material have been shifted. This is said to be a record in the matter of dredging operations, and many other startling figures are quoted.

During a recent week, for instance, the three dredgers working at the bar removed no less than 155,000 tons of sand, a machine called the Barge alone lifting and dumping 120,000 tons of this enormous total, while in a little over three months—almost 1,000,000 tons of sand were dredged and placed on the dumping site. The arrival of the Brancier changed all calculations, the effect of the continuous working of a vessel capable of filling herself with 3,000 tons of sand in less than an hour being something tremendous.—Chicago Times.

Mourning Stamps Suggested.

Assistant Postmaster James Gayler has many callers daily, among them some persons with queer missions. A man who bore in his hand a letter in an envelope of mourning inquired for Mr. Gayler recently. He wanted to know:

"Isn't there any way that I can get mourning stamps?"

"Mourning stamp? I never heard of any," said Mr. Gayler in some astonishment.

"I should think the government would print some. It is dreadful to put a big, staring Columbian stamp, or even an ordinary one of the garish red color, on a letter of mourning. The stamp simply destroys all the effect of the black border. There ought to be a mourning stamp to harmonize with the envelope."

Mr. Gayler promised to lay the request before the department at Washington.—New York Tribune.

Fisherings to Pay a Bet.

Herrmann's theater has a new attraction—a lady usher. The young lady, who is very good looking and who dances herself in a Titan tinted wig, made her debut in this capacity last night and will continue to usher for the rest of the week.

Manager Hill said that the young lady, whose name he declared he did not know, was paying a bet she had made with one of her friends. A friend of his had arranged the thing and that was all he knew about it.

The young lady performed her duties carefully and courteously, but she declined to give her name or any information to the New York Mirror.

A Legacy of the Fair.

There are thousands of unemployed servant girls, good ones, too, now seeking situations. Every employment office in the city has 50 girls who want employment to one application for their services. The housekeepers in suburban towns and the smaller country places within reaching distance of the city, who had such a hard time of it during the fair, cannot only now get all the servants they want, but can virtually dictate prices to them.—Chicago Tribune.

California's Big Show.

The California Midwinter exposition is at last outlined as it will be when the gates are thrown open on New Year's day. It will cover 160 acres of ground and have 15 buildings, including such structures as kiosks and small restaurants in Francisco Dispatch.

A good diet can be made for chickens by mixing together two pounds of corn, fifteen pounds of oats, ten of barley and ten of wheat bran. Grind all the grain together and make it into bread and cake, mixed up with milk and adding a little salt. Crumble fine and give each chick all that it will eat up clean, but no more, at each feed.

WINS HIS WIFE AT LAST.

Married a Fourteen-year-old Girl In 1861.

After many months of anxious waiting and watching Evan A. Cochran has gained possession of what he considers a treasure—a bright eyed, rosy-cheeked wife of 17 summers. Cochran married Miss Mary Conley, the 14-year-old daughter of Samuel V. Conley, in 1861. Conley has kept vigil over his daughter ever since, guarding her at the point of a shotgun. Conley had Cochran indicted in the Putnam superior court for kidnaping.

The case was carried to the supreme court and the decision reversed, that tribal holding that Cochran could claim his lawful wife with her consent and that Conley could not prevent him from so doing. Nevertheless, Conley had the girl, and Cochran could not get her away from the paternal hold. Cochran was granted a writ of habeas corpus for the possession of his wife, and the case was set for trial before his honor Judge H. W. Baldwin of the county court Saturday morning. A large crowd was in the courtroom. The girl's looking wife sat beside Sheriff Sears. Colonel Emerson George appeared for the plaintiff, and Colonel Q. L. Williford the defendant. Mrs. Williford and Conley and the girl held a consultation. The girl told her father she would go with her husband.

Conley came back into the courtroom, his face flushed and showing suppressed excitement. "Judge," said he, "Alas, the case, I will not dignify her further if she desires to go." Turning to his daughter, "I will not let you go off with him and leave me out of the picture," said Mr. Sheriff, "call Mr. Conley back," said Judge Baldwin. "He was brought into court, and the judge told him he had acted very unbecomingly in court, and that he could either pay a fine of \$10 or apologize to his daughter then and there and restore to her the hat which he had scrubily snatched from her head. Conley said he would not apologize, but would pay the fine. The case was then dismissed.

The bride and groom received the hearty congratulations of a number of friends present. The happy couple walked down to a millinery store, where the groom had the pleasure of buying his wife a new bridal hat. Thus a lover who has but one eye and one leg wins a rather pretty wife after 33 long months of weary waiting, watching and scheming.—Madison (Ga.) Ledger.

A RICE ELEVATOR.

New Orleans Has Just Completed the First One Ever Built.

The National Rice Manufacturing company of New Orleans has just completed the erection of the first rice elevator in the world. The few trials so far given it have proved the success of the experiment, and other elevators will be erected both at New Orleans and other principal rice points in this country. The effect will be to revolutionize the rice trade.

Under the old system the cost of handling and selling the cereal was very great, besides the inconvenience of sending out samples of each shipment and the impossibility of concentrating shipments owing to the difference in grades and contracts for particular grades. In the new elevator system the rice is brought in car lots, dumped into the elevator, is cleaned, weighed and automatically assorted into one of six grades by delicate machinery and is then loaded into sacks, which are delivered on the warehouse floor ready for the market.

Outside of the saving in the handling of the grain, the cost of wages, fuel, etc., will facilitate the establishment of grades will facilitate and systematize the sales, doing away with delay, cost and inconvenience and establishing the rice industry on the same basis as meat and other cereals. The opinion of the rice men herefore has always been that it was impossible to grade rice.

Any and all persons claiming adversely to above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 6th day of June, 1864. Name as witness: Myron Metcalfe, L. Seymour, Christian Pyritz, Fred C. Gardner, Douglas County, Oregon.

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