

PURE FOOD IN DANGER.

A bill has been introduced in the Oregon legislature for the absolute repeal of the Oregon pure food law. The member who introduced this bill has surely never considered what he is proposing to do. The adulteration of foods and drinks is one of the most persistent crimes with which we have to cope at this time. Every civilized nation has taken up the fight against this form of fraud. We have already checked the evil to a material extent, but even yet the people of the United States are by means of adulteration robbed of more money annually than the whole cost of running our national and state governments. Tardiness in enacting and enforcing laws against adulterations has deprived us of a valuable foreign market for cheese and butter. Oregon has the honor of being among the first of the states of the Union to take up in a vigorous way the fight against food frauds. To repeal our pure food law at this time would bring disgrace upon the state. In this particular it would assign us to a position in the rear of even Spain. The repeal of the pure food law would fill our markets with bogus butter and adulterated cheese. It would compel our creameries to seek a market outside of the state for a large share of their products. It would compel the owners of cheese factories to become swindlers or go out of business. It would most effectively arrest the development of the great dairy industry in this state. It would be a warning to all intending immigrants of intelligence and honesty to keep away from the state. The pure food law of Oregon is not enforced as well as it ought to be, but it has in a very large measure insured the purity of dairy products sold in the state. It has saved the dairymen of the state from the competition of fraudulent products—a form of competition which is inevitably ruinous to the producers of honest products. If the gentleman who introduced the bill to repeal the pure food law will carefully look into the matter of food frauds and pure food legislation, he will withdraw his bill and apologize to the legislature for its introduction.—Oregon Agriculturist.

MISMANAGEMENT HERE, TOO.

It is argued that there must be incompetency and mismanagement in our War Department unless we imitate the nations of Europe in keeping under arms hundreds of thousands of men and commissary, Quartermaster and Medical Departments ready at all times to perform efficient service. This view assumes that all the sufferings of our men are due to our failure to keep a large standing army and that when such armies exist the commissary and the quartermaster and the medical service are all that could be desired. Before traversing these assumptions directly, it may be pointed that the Santiago campaign was fought almost entirely by regulars, and that we ought to have had a commissary and other departments, adequate to the wants of the regular army, before the war began. Hence this line of defence is only available with reference to the volunteer campaign, and this is far too narrow. But the assumption with reference to the readiness of the auxiliary departments of the armies in European countries is not true of some of them. When Napoleon III. declared war against Prussia, he supposed that his army was admirably equipped, but experience showed that it was far otherwise. There was, perhaps, less of ignorance and incompetency than is apt to be found in volunteer armies, but there was far more of unfaithfulness and corruption. It has been supposed that under the republic these evils had been weeded out, but recent developments have raised the suspicion that they are still prevalent, and men high in the army are reported to be trembling at the prospect of an investigation. It might turn out, in the event of war, that the great army of France is as badly appointed as it was in 1870.

Spain is one of the nations that maintain large standing armies, but it is well known that there is a great deal of corruption and mismanagement in the supply departments.

The same is more or less true of some other countries that maintain large armies. It is, therefore, very wide of the mark to assume that a large standing army is a guaranty of competence and fidelity in furnishing it with suitable quarters, food, clothing, arms and ammunition. Unless there are competent and faithful men in command, who will enforce fidelity from their subordinates, the service will be bad, whatever may be the intrinsic merits of the system when properly applied. It is far from true that countries with large standing armies are free from the evils of incompetency and mismanagement.—Courier Journal.

THE REAL ISSUE.

The democrats are pushing war issues to the front in their state and congressional campaigns. Nearly every democratic state convention held up to this date has adopted resolutions antagonistic to the annexation policy of President McKinley's administration. In New Hampshire the democratic convention declared against the acquisition of any territory except for coal and naval stations. The same declaration was made in the Iowa convention. The Missouri convention declared against the annexation of the Philippines or other territory in the eastern hemisphere.

FERTILE PORTO RICO

THE ISLAND IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT IS PRODUCTIVE. It has Thirteen Hundred Streams, a Wealth of Vegetation, Highly Cultivable Soil and Vast Deposits of Minerals—Few Reptiles, but Many Insects. Mr. Frederick A. Ober, late commissioner in Porto Rico of the Columbian exposition, contributes to The Century an article on "The Island of Porto Rico." Mr. Ober says: In the extreme northeast rises the highest peak of the central cordillera in the Luquillo sierra, known as "El Yunque," or "The Anvil," variously estimated at from 3,000 to 4,500 feet in height. The hills are of lesser elevation toward the west and southwest, but the whole north central country is rugged and uneven. Between the spurs from the main range lie innumerable secluded valleys, where the soil is of great fertility. The impressive features of the landscape are the rounded summits of the multitudinous hills, which leave the coast in constantly rising billows that finally break against the cordillera verterbra; yet all are cultivable, and cultivated to their very crests, though the higher mountain peaks are forest clad.

More than 1,500 streams, it is said, of which perhaps 40 or 50 attain to the dignity of rivers, rise in the hills and seek the coast, most of them running northerly, though the best harbors are in the west and south. But notwithstanding the great river flow portions of the island in the southwest are afflicted with drought at times, owing to the precipitation of the northeast "trades" against the northern hills. The higher hills are clothed in the exuberant and diversified vegetation of the tropics. In the lowlands, where ferns flourish, and great grass trees and mountain palms tower aloft. At lower levels are the cedar and mahogany, walnut and laurel, with many others noted for their useful woods. Throughout the island are found these trees and shrubs valuable for their gums, as the manna, gualacum and copal, while the list of medicinal plants includes most of those, invaluable to our pharmacopoeias, which tropical America has given to the world. These are the silvestros, nature's wild children, but of cultivated plants there is no species peculiar to the tropics that does not flourish here. In the littoral levels, between the mountains and the sea, grows the sugar cane, which may be cultivated up to an altitude of 3,000 feet. It was introduced here from Santo Domingo, having been brought to America either from Spain or the Canaries. The annual yield of sugar is estimated at about 70,000 tons.

In these fertile lowlands also tobacco grows exceedingly well, and the annual production is said to be quite 7,000,000 pounds. It may be cultivated on the hills, but the true mountain lover is the coffee, which does not do well below 600 feet and is at its best 1,000 feet above the sea. It was first brought here from Martinique in 1732, and now yields to the extent of 17,000 tons annually. Maize, the true Indian corn, is indigenous, as is the yucca, the aboriginal "staff of life," and both grow everywhere as well as the plantain, which is more reliable and more universal than the peach of our north temperate zone. Cotton and rice are found at nearly all elevations, the latter, which is the chief food of many laborers, being what is known as the mountain variety.

Bananas and plantains are wonderful prolific, bearing fruit in ten months from planting. The plants virtually last 60 years, being equally long lived with the cocoa palm, which produces nuts in six or seven years and then, after during the space of an ordinary life, its yield being reckoned at 100 tons a year. The annual product of bananas is given as 300,000,000 and of coconuts 3,000,000. The entire range of tropical fruits is represented here, such as the guava, lime, orange, aquacate, sapodilla and avocado pear, while all subtropical vegetables may be raised, including those of the south temperate zone, such, for instance, as are grown in Florida. The mineral kingdom has not been so exhaustively explored as the vegetable, but more than traces have been found of copper, coal and iron, as well as vast deposits of salt. The rivers at one time run to the sea over beds of golden sand, and from the streams today (as in the neighboring island of Santo Domingo, where the first American gold was discovered) the natives wash out nuggets by the crude process of that distant day when Agueybanua went prospecting with his false friend, Ponce de Leon.

Three Doctors in Consultation.

(From Benjamin Franklin) "When you are sick, what you like best is to be chosen for a medicine in the first place, what experience tells you is best, to be chosen in the second place; what reason (i. e., Theory) says is best is to be chosen in the last place. But if you can get Dr. Inclination, Dr. Experience and Dr. Reason to hold a consultation together, they will give you the best advice that can be taken."

When you have a bad cold Dr. Inclination would recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy because it is pleasant and safe to take. Dr. Experience would recommend it because it never fails to effect a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Reason would recommend it because it is prepared on scientific principles, and acts on nature's plan in relieving the lungs, opening the secretions and restoring the system to a natural and healthy condition. For sale by Delta Drug Store.

How to Prevent Croup.

We have two children who are subject to attacks of croup. Whenever an attack is coming on my wife gives them Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and it always prevents the attack. It is a household necessity in this county and no matter what else we run out of, it would not do to be without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. More of it is sold here than of all other cough medicines combined.—J. M. NICKLE, of Nickle Bros., merchants, Nickleville, Pa. For sale by Delta Drug Store.

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