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NEWS IN GENERAL

FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

FOR PURE FOOD.

Boards of Health can engage in no more commendable action than the examination of our food supply and the instruction of the public as to those articles which are found to be pure and wholesome, and which therefore consumers should use.

Action of this kind with the baking powders is particularly opportune. There are quantities of baking powders in the market to use which is certain detriment to the health of the consumer. They are made from alum, or improperly compounded from other chemicals, so that they have a strong alkaline residuum in the food. Many of these powders, having proved unsalable in the East, have been collected by their manufacturers from the dealers with whom they were left on commission, and shipped to the Pacific Coast. In the effort to gain a foothold in this market unscrupulous manufacturers of these cheaply-made, low-grade baking powders have indulged in extravagant statements both with reference to their own and other brands, claiming the most improbable endorsements for theirs, and defaming the brands best known and longest used upon the Pacific Coast.

The following extracts from the reports of some of our well-known health authorities will be of particular interest:

The Seattle Board of Health says: "Finding in analysis that it is made of the highest grade of cream of tartar and bicarbonate of soda, and is entirely free from any adulteration, we heartily recommend the Royal Baking Powder for its great strength, purity and wholesomeness."

The Tacoma Board of Health says: "In our judgement, the Royal is the best and strongest baking powder before the public. We confidently recommend it because of its purity and care of preparation."

The Spokane City Board of Health report: "There is certainly no baking powder known to us equal to the Royal for strength and uniform quality, and we recommend it for its absolute purity and wholesomeness."

The Board of Health of the City of San Francisco, after extended tests, said of the Royal, that "it is absolutely pure and healthful, composed of the best ingredients, of the highest strength and character," the Health Officer of Los Angeles reported that it was "clearly demonstrated and proven that the Royal Baking Powder is pure and wholesome, and that it stands, as far as strength and purity are concerned, at the head of the baking powders of the United States," while the State Chemist of California, Prof. Rising, found the Royal superior in strength and purity to all other brands.

Gould As a Taxpayer.

In spite of Jay Gould's possession of millions, he was down on the tax lists for very modest amounts. He seems to have had as much ability in keeping down his taxes as in piling up his millions. Despite his immense accumulations he paid taxes on only \$500,000 in personal property. The real estate on which he paid taxes directly was confined to the Grand Opera House of which he was the owner, and to his home on Fifth Avenue. At one time he also paid the taxes on his son's home on East Forty-seventh street, but after that formally passed out of his possession he was, of course, relieved from paying further taxes on that property. Notwithstanding the very conservative estimate placed upon the value of his personal holdings Mr Gould tried a few years ago to escape paying any personal taxes at all in this city. He urged the familiar plea of outside residence, and because he paid personal taxes in Westchester County on his belongings at his country home at Irvington, insisted that he was being unfairly treated in being compelled to pay even on that supposition \$500,000 of personal property in this city. He did not press the matter, however, and continued to place on the tax list at \$500,000.—Republic

A Green in Trouble.

Covington, Ky., Dec. 5.—It has been customary here for years to marry runaway couples from any other State without question. The probate Judge appointed guardians for the couples if under age on the simple request of the minor, even girls as young as 14 being allowed to choose guardians. This process, however, was never followed in the case of Kentucky couples.

Ten days ago, T. G. Sawyer, aged 17, and Jessie Raymond, aged 16, children of two leading families of Galion, O., were married here under the guardian process. The young people returned to their homes. The girl's parents took her away, secured her signature to a petition for divorce and then placed her in a convent. The young husband

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

procured counsel and will fight to recover his bride.

Out of this trouble has come the breaking up of one of the leading churches of the city. Mr. Raymond is here and will file a suit to test the legality of these weddings. He claims that as Kentucky couples are not so married, and guardians are appointed without the knowledge or consent of the parents, they are illegal acts. If Raymond wins thousands of couples will find it desirable to re-marry.

Murder Not a Crime.

The average Kabul does not regard murder as a crime. It is kill or be killed in his own country and he therefore regards the taking off of a friend most philosophically. "There is nothing to worry about; he is dead and I killed him," he will tell you if you should inquire about a companion with whom he was on the best of terms the preceding winter. I have heard an Afghan, while purchasing a weapon speak with evident gusto of the occasion when he would use the gun to murder a friend. It caused him as little concern, this contemplated crime, as if he had said: "Shall kill a chicken, if God so wills it, to-morrow for my pillau."

And yet there is something childish and affectionate about these men. They never seem to forget a favor, and repay it to the best of their ability. Unlike other Mohammedans, they do not observe the Koran with blind obstinacy, but occasionally stretch its precepts to accord with their ideas of religion. They do not drink, for that is directly against the law, nor do they smoke. Palgrave, in his interesting book describing his journey to the sacred city of Mecca, gives an

amusing account of his conversation with a Mollah.

On asking the reverend gentleman which he considered the most deadly of all sins, the holy man replied:

"Smoking the shameful."

"And the next, oh, son of the prophet?"

"Drinking."

"Are these the two greatest sins, father?"

"Verily, my son."

"And murder?"

"Ah, that's nothing, nothing. It's forgivable."

"And stealing?"

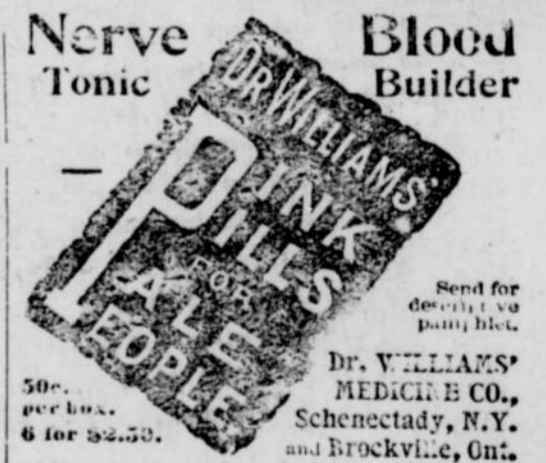
"Ah, that's forgivable, too."

"But smoking?"

"It is the unforgivable crime," replied the Mollah, sternly, and looking keenly at the fictitious Mohammedan.

And this, I think, is the Afghan's creed. Murder and theft are forgivable crimes but for smoking and drinking there is no redemption.—S. F. Chronicle.

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