

Living Expenses

Better Modes of Cooking Needed

By THURDE BAYLE BAUCE

EXPENSES of living are inordinately high, but this is in the case of most of our people a condition that can be easily remedied by themselves.

It is hardly to be expected that congressional investigation on the formation of anti-food monopoly associations will do much to lower the cost of the necessities of life. That the trusts are organized to raise prices may be true, but to touch them in any effective way by law is a different problem. What can be done, though, in a practical way by the heads of households to cut down living expenses, is very considerable and if generally applied will bring about a decided lowering of prices.

Here is an instance: They cook cuts of meats, steaks or fancy lamb chops are bringing an absurd price, say 25 to 30 cents a pound. The average family can't afford them, but many will continue to buy, ignoring the fact that the plebeian roast steak is almost as good, if properly cooked, and quite as nutritious, while its cost is less by 25 to 30 per cent. It is a common saying that Europeans can live on what American ways, and I know there is much truth in the statement. Our people in the days of a more plentiful and cheap food supply acquired wasteful and extravagant habits; really good cuts were in use to less than 25 cents per cent. It is a common saying that Europeans can live on what American ways, and I know there is much truth in the statement. Our people in the days of a more plentiful and cheap food supply acquired wasteful and extravagant habits; really good cuts were in use to less than 25 cents per cent. It is a common saying that Europeans can live on what American ways, and I know there is much truth in the statement. Our people in the days of a more plentiful and cheap food supply acquired wasteful and extravagant habits; really good cuts were in use to less than 25 cents per cent.



Passion for Collecting Old Junk

By W. E. THOMAS

Walt Mason's dissertation upon "The Passion for Junk" recalls to me a memory of an actual character who is possessed of the habit of collecting junk. He is an underling in one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the west. He is a man of high intelligence, it is needless to say that his hobby for collecting old iron is not one of necessity. That whether it is a man's employment or on the highway this man cannot resist the temptation to stop, pick up pocket and carry home stray bits of old iron. A peculiar habit of his is that of collecting it is that he never takes large pieces, confining himself entirely to nuts and bolts, washers and other like trinkets. Several times his employers have asked him why he gathers this vast collection of rubbish, which he regards as a treasure, and he has told them. Not that he would not resist the impulse to pick up the articles. Even a threat of discharge did not cure him of his mania. He is a man of education and breeding and it has been told of him that he has walked through the streets of our city with a bag full of the pockets of his "classmates" with his hands.

Naturally his employers grew dubious to learn what disposition was made of the old iron and a visit was paid to the man's home for that purpose. What they looked was amazing. In the base of his house, in a roomy basement, were piled high, clear to the ceiling, tons of old iron. When again questioned as to what disposition he intended to make of the iron he replied: "I really do not know. But I suppose that I shall go on collecting until I am no more."

Keen Noses as Nails Makers

By GEORGE MCILTON

The city of Washington was recently up against the problem of selecting an inspector of markets and among the other qualifications demanded was a keen sense of smell, this being necessary in order that the inspector might readily locate meats and other produce a little past their prime. As to whether or not there was a competitive examination the authorities are darkly silent, but if there was it must have been interesting.

Keen noses insure a fairly good living in several industries and trades. Scent makers, for example, need some one who is able to aid them in mixing the ingredients of perfume in proper proportions, exact measurements and quantities yielding the same results. The favorite perfume of the queen of England is a violet extract, which costs \$50 per ounce and this will be approved by five professional "smellers" before the makers are willing to forward it to the majesty. Perfume makers pay their "smellers" \$20 a day.

In Great Britain, where gas is much used for street lighting, for illuminating public buildings and pleasure parks, the contractors employ "noses" to locate leaks, those men strolling about after the manner of a bird dog in a likely field. They are usually paid one shilling for each leak reported and some of them make as high as \$15 per week.

Caring for All Dumb Creatures

By ELISE NICHOLS

The superintendent of Chicago public schools has asked for the birds. Why not include in this commendable charity other dumb brutes as well? We see many suffering, half-starved, and mangled streets this cold weather, with their pathetic eyes seeming to beg for human sympathy and food. Also stray cats at your feet find it hard to live in the city. Why not educate the children to take an interest in man's faithful friend, the horse? If they see a poor horse standing unattended on the street, let them require the owner to take care to blanket him. Or let them take the trouble to turn a horse's head away from the street-car tracks. I have seen many horses narrowly escape being struck by street-car tracks through owners' carelessness. Or teach the children to report cases of injury or neglecting. In the country, where we were taught this in the schools there would be a crusade started in Chicago that would soon result in better conditions for those dumb brutes.

Unfit Books

Influence Minds of Young Boys

By P. EVAN JONES



WHETHER the sale of opium but allowed an unrestricted trade in blood-curdling outlaw stories in which the law nearly always is depicted as an oppressive institution to be defied or evaded and where those who break the law are extolled as heroes. In a recent bank robbery the president and cashier were shot down and the youthful robber, unable to escape, committed suicide. His companion of 15 years related how the dead young robber never was without a robber story. "I was a young boy," he said. "The same enthusiasm I derived into a more worthy channel might have made a hero out of him who now fills a felon's grave. Many parents who would be horrified to see their boys associated with all such persons of low character, do not associate with such characters under the cover of books. Parents forget that from the perverted admiration of such heroes to the emulation of their deeds is but a step. Since so many parents neglect the supervision of their children in this respect and the public is to suffer in the end, it devolves upon society as a matter of self-protection to suppress the sale of such pernicious literature. It is more inconceivable to hang a body of men for preaching anarchy to adults, who are supposed to know better, and on the other hand, it is to allow the broadcast dissemination of similar ideas stupefying the normal perception of our youth. It is a noteworthy fact that most of the murderers, highway robbers and other atrocious crimes, the records of which fill our newspapers, are committed by persons of youth and vigor."

Widow Saved Against Her Will

By COL. L. D. LATHAM

One curious thing about the average victim of the fraudulent wiles of pseudo-religious sharpers and fake spiritualists is that he is unwilling to believe that he has been deceived out of his money by rascals and impostors.

I was drawn into a case once where a rich widow had been enticed by a band of clever swindlers. They posed as mediums and their regular stunt was to produce the lady's deceased husband. They caused his figure to appear in a weird phosphorescent light at every seance and topped this off by having the departed wail his relief to turn over from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the perpetrators of the fraud. She did gladly through her veneration of her dead man and when I told her the affair she had put into their glibish hands nearly all of a fortune of \$100,000 that had been left her. It was with the utmost difficulty I could succeed in getting her to believe my advice and refuse any further demands made by the crooks, so thorough had they fallen under their influence.

The last \$10,000 remaining to her she was going to give them to erect a temple in accordance with her husband's wishes. Thereupon I took vigorous steps, and the rascals, being put under arrest, were able to give up a large percentage of their ill-gotten wealth. Almost to the very last the woman I sought to protect resented my action and it was a long time before she got in a friendly and grateful frame of mind.

Exhibits of Industry in Public Schools

By FRANK H. MADISON

Industrial education now has a fixed place in the educational institutions of the United States and even is firmly established in many rural schools, especially those of Illinois. Scarcely a year ago a factory, especially of those recognized food products which it wishes to gain a permanent place in the home, is willing to furnish exhibits free for transportation charges.

Sample cases of cocoa, chocolate, coffee, flour, breakfast foods, with specimens, each with a label, are sent to the transition from the raw to the finished product, are advertised in the educational journals. These cases are made to hang open on the walls of the schoolrooms and are of the nature of advertising matter. They show the stages of food construction, lead pencil manufacturers outline the process through which a perfect pencil must pass and even printing firms send uncompleted and perfected proofs of color work.

Materials from all over the globe are sent to the present year at the University of Illinois is acquiring. As this, it is expected, will be the largest and nearest complete of any industrial chemistry museum in the country, manufacturers of the state as well as students at the school will benefit by it. Many of our industries are steadily making progress, have supplied sides up in the stereopticon.

Much Cotton Produced in Mexico

By J. J. DURAND

Nobody knows what the real population of Mexico is, for no trustworthy census has ever been taken in that country.

But during the present year an accurate and comprehensive census, following closely the system used by the United States government, will be taken, and then we will have a very fair idea of the number of inhabitants in the sister republic.

Cotton production is in its infancy in Mexico. This year about 100,000 bales were grown, but the present year, every one of which was bought for consumption in native factories. The demand was greater than the local supply and the mills imported many thousands of bales from the United States. It pays to export cotton, but our country's cotton commands a higher price than in this country, the average figures of the present season being 35 cents a pound, or 17½ cents in American money.

In times past, before manufacturers were established, the natives were too poor to buy cloth to any extent, but the country is improving so fast that even the poorest people can afford an extra shirt, and hence the good outlook for an enlarged market for cotton fabric.

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